

Feb 4 –Leaders’ Guide - Luke 5:1-11 - “The Turning Point”

1. Read Luke 5:1-11. Do you think it would have been hard for Simon Peter to do what Jesus tells him to do in going back out into deep water to fish? Why do you think he does it?

This may have been a frustrating request for Simon Peter to hear. They had been fishing all night, when fishing was better, and had caught nothing, so Jesus’ command would have seemed silly. But Simon has seen Jesus do some miracles, and has heard some of his teaching, and what he has seen gives him enough faith to obey even when it doesn’t make sense.

2. Have you had the experience of exercising a little bit of faith, only to have the results far exceed what you expected? How did it feel?

If you have a story like this, be prepared to share it. You can also encourage people to think of other places in the bible where this happens.

3. Peter’s reaction upon seeing the huge catch of fish is to fall at Jesus’ knees and beg him to leave him. Why do you think that is?

Peter has come face to face with something that is bigger than he can understand, and he recognises that God is at work through Jesus. It gives him an awareness of his own sinfulness in the face of a holy God, and the shame that accompanies that.

4. Have you ever had the feeling of coming into the presence of God? What was your reaction?

Allow space for conversation – there are no wrong answers!

5. Jesus’ response to Peter is “do not be afraid”, and to tell him that he is giving him a new identity as a catcher of people. Why do you think the result of this response, for Peter, is to drop everything to follow Jesus?

Peter experiences the grace of God in Jesus’ response, and the awareness that his skills can be put to greater purpose.

6. Have you experienced a similar “turning point” in your own life? What did it look like?

Some group members – possibly you – have dramatic conversion stories, but more often there are many small ‘turning points’ in a person’s life of faith. Be prepared to share one or two, and make space for people to share little turning points.