

Connect Group Discussion Guide – 6/4/2023

Luke 5:1-11 The Life and Letters of Peter; Jesus calls Peter

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

Audio Only: On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

Opening discussion: Do you have “multiple” names that you are known by. Where did they come from?

Highlights

- Peter was a real person and his life was really changed by Jesus.
 - He liked to be in control, and Peter desired to surrender to Jesus – at the same time.
 - **Do you relate to Peter? If it’s not control, how do you relate?**
- **Luke 5:1-2**, they fished at night: cooler and fish couldn’t see nets in the clear water.
 - Jesus is teaching in the morning, so the fisherman would’ve been out of their boats cleaning/repairing their nets. They just want to finish so they can go home and sleep.
 - Lake Genessaret (Greek) = Lake Chinereth (Hebrew/OT) = Sea of Galilee = See of Tiberias
- **Luke 5:3** Simon stopped washing his nets and let Jesus in his boat, and pushed out
 - By pushing out, Jesus got distance from the people and also got Peter’s full attention
 - Peter is one of Jesus’s students as He teaches and has a front row seat
 - **Tell about how you did something out of the ordinary when God asked you to.**
- **Luke 5:4-5** Peter is allowing Jesus to teach him....about fishing?
 - “...because you say so...” Peter heard teaching that was beginning to speak to him
 - I can’t explain it, but something is telling me I should listen to you; this guy Jesus is different.
 - **What about you? When has Jesus spoken to you and something was different – you just knew it, so you listened to Him and obeyed Him.**
- **Luke 5:7-8** Peter wouldn’t make a net so large that it would catch enough fish to sink two boats. It doesn’t make sense.
 - Maybe he would make a net large enough to catch enough to sink one boat, figuring he would only ever fill it half full; but two boats – no way. It’s illogical.
 - There was more fish in the boats than could ever fit in the net. God has the ability to multiply fish!!
 - **When God wants to move, He is not bound by what YOU have to offer.**
 - You in Christ can produce more than is humanly possible
 - You are enough!
 - **How God has produced through you more than you could do by yourself? Do you believe it’s possible? What would it look like in your life?**
- **Luke 5:8-10a** In the presence of the power of God on display, I see myself for what I really am: a sinful man or woman. **When did you realize that? How did it happen?**
 - In the presence of Jesus, Peter’s sin was convicting
 - When you present yourself to God and say, “I know my life is a mess,” it’s right where God wants you.
- **Luke 5:10b-11** Jesus’s response: “do not be afraid.” Jesus sees you and loves you. **Can you trust in that truth right now? Why or why not?**
 - Jesus is saying, hey, I’m going to redeem or use the one thing you’re really good at and use it for my purpose and mission.
 - **What are you good at that Jesus can use. Has He ever asked you to?**

- Peter and the other 3 left everything: career, family, possessions, themselves(!)
- **Are there seasons where you've chosen to follow Jesus, but you weren't willing to leave everything?**

- Jesus sees Peter in ways Peter cannot see himself.
- Jesus knows Peter. Jesus knows you.
- Jesus sees YOU in ways you cannot see yourself. His response to you, "Don't be afraid."
 - **What do you think Jesus sees in you? What does this mean for you?**

- Jesus is telling Peter and telling YOU, **FOLLOW ME.**
 - **What is your answer?**
 - **You know you have to leave something to follow him EVERYDAY.**
 - **Are you willing to confess to the group what that is?**

Like Peter, we must acknowledge our sin while accepting His grace.

What are you willing to put down to follow Jesus? What are you willing to SURRENDER?
 Addiction? Control? Material things? Status? Selfishness?

Whatever God wants to do in you starts with surrender.