



VINCENT CHURCH

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



EPISODE 4: "THE ROCK ON WHICH IT IS BUILT"

Set the Stage:

Simon is guiding the Romans in a boat at night, looking for fishermen who are working on the Sabbath to avoid paying their taxes. The Romans suspect that Simon has double-crossed them and recruit Matthew to record happenings. Simon decides to go fishing at night, hoping to catch enough fish to cover his debts.

Meanwhile, the Pharisees debate what to do about John the Baptist. John is thrown into prison by the Romans, and Nicodemus, who is still looking for the person who cast the demons out of Mary Magdalene, pays John a visit and says he has a question about the miracles.

Read John 1: 35-51 for corresponding scripture before watching the episode.



Scripture Study:

John 1:40-42 (ESV)

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). 42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).

Session 4 Discussion Questions:

- Share a moment in your life where the miracle of the fish has metaphorically happened for you. When you've thought there was absolutely no way that something would work, but God made it happen.
- Sometimes we forget how intense the teachings of Jesus were. His parables and teachings were not sanitized, feel-good messages. What do you think the impact of this miracle would have meant in the context of Jesus' time?
- Jesus provided for Simon's physical need- but the miracle was more than that. He changed Simon's mindset, called him to something more! Not to riches, but to spread the good news for the sake of others' souls. What "soul work" have we been called to?
- To whom do I turn for help or relief during my losing battles—or to what? Which is more real to me: the sources of my anxieties, or the fruits that come from my times with God? Why?

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Blessed are you...



Bible Exploration:

- John 1: 35-51 (Andrew hears John & finds Simon)
- Luke 5 (The Call of Simon)
- Matthew 13:47-53 (The Parable of the Net)
- Mark 1:16-20 (The First Disciples)

