

Deeper Still [God's Power] Discussion Guide

Summary

This sermon explores the miraculous catch of fish in Luke 5:1-9, focusing on Simon Peter's faith-filled obedience to Jesus despite having worked all night without success. Jonathan emphasizes that God desires to partner with believers and work through them, just as Jesus chose to involve Simon in the miracle rather than simply providing fish himself. The message highlights that experiencing God's power requires faith ('but if you say so' kind of faith), proper prayer aligned with God's will for His glory, and reliance on the Holy Spirit. The sermon concludes with the paradox that God's power is best displayed through our weaknesses, making us fragile clay jars containing His great treasure.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You with grateful hearts, ready to learn and grow in our relationship with You. As we gather together today, we ask that You open our hearts and minds to receive what You want to teach us. Help us to set aside any distractions or preconceived notions, and give us ears to hear Your voice speaking to us through Your Word. Lord, we invite Your Holy Spirit to guide our discussion and reveal new insights about walking in faith and experiencing Your power. May this time together draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one time you had to do something that didn't make logical sense to you, but you did it anyway because someone you trusted asked you to?

Key Verses

- Luke 5:1-5
- 2 Timothy 1:7
- John 14:12-14
- 2 Corinthians 12:9-11
- 2 Corinthians 4:5-7

Questions

- Simon had worked all night and caught nothing, yet he obeyed Jesus' instruction to try again. What does this 'but if you say so' kind of faith look like in your daily life?
- Jesus could have provided the fish miracle without involving Simon, but He chose to partner with him. How does it feel to know that God wants to partner with you and work through you?
- The sermon mentioned that prayer isn't just about getting what we want, but about bringing glory to the Father. How might this perspective change the way you pray?
- Jesus promised that believers would do 'even greater works' than He did. What do you think this means, and how does it challenge your understanding of what God can do through you?
- Jonathan shared examples of Jesus healing people 'because of their faith.' What areas of your life need this kind of faith-filled trust in God's power?

- Paul wrote that God's power works best in our weakness. How is this different from the world's view of strength and power?
- We are described as 'fragile clay jars containing great treasure.' What does this metaphor teach us about how God chooses to work through imperfect people?
- The Holy Spirit empowers believers to carry out Christ's mission. How can you be more intentional about walking in partnership with the Holy Spirit this week?

Life Application

This week, identify one area where you've been trying to accomplish something in your own strength without success. Bring this situation to God in prayer with a 'but if you say so, Lord' attitude. Ask Him to show you how He wants to work through you in this situation, and be willing to step out in faith even when it doesn't make logical sense. Remember that His power works best through our weaknesses, so don't try to have it all figured out first.

Key Takeaways

- God desires to partner with us and work through us, not just for us
- Faith ('but if you say so' kind of faith) is the gateway to experiencing God's miraculous power
- True prayer aligns our hearts with God's will and seeks to bring Him glory, not just fulfill our desires
- The Holy Spirit empowers believers to do the same works Jesus did and even greater works
- God's power is best displayed through our weaknesses, making us fragile clay jars containing His great treasure

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for this time of fellowship and learning together. We are amazed that You choose to work through weak and imperfect vessels like us. Help us to leave here with a deeper faith... the kind of 'but if you say so' faith that Simon demonstrated. Give us the courage to step out in obedience even when Your instructions don't make sense to our human understanding. May we be willing partners with You, allowing Your Holy Spirit to work through us to bring glory to the Father. Transform our weaknesses into displays of Your strength, and help us to trust You completely. We love You, Lord, and we commit to walking in Your power this week. In Your precious and holy name, Jesus, we pray. Amen.