

"Fishing"
July 8, 2018



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Luke 5:1-11, Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:7-13,
Acts 2:42-47; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17;
Matthew 9:9-13, 16:24-25

DAY 1 - Washing, Mending, Tending

Read [Luke 5:1-11](#)

When Jesus first came upon the fishermen - Simon (Peter), James and John - they were washing their nets. The nets were not being used to catch anything, and the men were content to spend their time caring for the tools they used to catch fish. Although Jesus calls us to "fish for people," we are often content to care for our buildings, account for the weekly offering, plan a meeting where we tend to personnel, finance, or church administration; or attend a fellowship event where we enjoy the company of other church members. We can get so caught up in our administrative tasks and the activities taking place inside the church that we forget to go fishing! Our administrative and internal tasks are important but they should occur primarily to support our efforts to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

- **How do you spend most of your "church" time? Are you tending the nets or fishing for people? Can you find a balance between the two types of activities?**
- **Reflect on our ministries at St. Paul. Which ones involve fishing for people? What gifts could you**

bring to one of our "fishing" ministries if you are not currently involved in making new disciples?

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you share the Gospel with others and make a commitment to take part in a disciple finding and disciple making ministry.

DAY 2

Re-read [Luke 5:4-5](#) and read [Matthew 14:22-33](#)

Imagine what Peter was thinking when Jesus told him to take the boat out to deep water and try again after a long night of unsuccessful fishing. You can almost hear the resignation in Peter's voice, "if you say so (sigh)." On another occasion, when Jesus called Peter to walk toward him on the water during a storm, Peter started out but quickly lost confidence or faith, as Jesus called it, and began to sink. Let's not lose sight of the fact that it took a lot of courage just to step out of the safety and security of the boat!

- **Has God ever called you to get out of your comfort zone? Did you resist doing new things that challenged you to grow, trust, and obey? I know I have!**
- **What is your first response when you realize that you do not want to do some "new thing" for God? Do you get busy doing comfortable things or do you ask God to empower you to step out of the boat?**

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal where God wants you to go fishing. As a church, we will soon be casting our nets into the neighborhoods around the Druid Campus. Pray for God's blessing and guidance as we step out of the boat together!

DAY 3 - Partner

Re-read [Luke 5:6-7](#); read [Mark 6:7-13](#), [Acts 2:42-47](#)

When catching fish proved to be too much for Simon Peter to accomplish on his own, he called his friends to help him. Later Jesus sent the disciples out in pairs - not individually, to preach, anoint the sick, and cast out demons. These were tasks that transformed them into men who made disciples for Jesus. Later, in our reading from Acts 2, we learn that the early Christ-followers shared what they had, ate their meals and worshipped together and that they grew in number. They were catching fish, but none of them did this alone. They worked and lived together in community and through their teaching and example their numbers increased.

- **Does personal evangelism make you uncomfortable? Would it be easier for you to share your testimony and offer Christ if you were accompanied by a Christian brother or sister?**
- **Do you tend to practice your faith outside of Sunday worship alone or with other people?**
- **Do you have brothers or sisters in Christ who you can rely on for help when you are unable to handle some temptation or obstacle alone?**

If you are a loner, ask God to open your heart to experience your faith with others. If you are not a loner, invite someone who is a loner to become part of your circle of Christian friends.

DAY 4

Re-read [Luke 5:7-10](#); read [2 Thessalonians 2:13-17](#)

Peter doubted he would catch fish when Jesus sent him back out to deeper water based on his failure to catch fish earlier in the day. When he saw the huge catch, he realized he was in the presence of the Lord and confessed that he was a sinner. God often blesses us during our times of greatest doubt. God blesses sinners like you and me every

single day! Like Peter, we sometimes fail to understand that we can accomplish far more in God's power than in our own strength and that the Holy Spirit will equip us for the work we are called to do.

- **Do you ever find yourself floundering and unable to complete tasks you think are important and pleasing to God? What prevents you from completing your work?**
- **When we pray the Lord's Prayer we ask for God to give us our daily bread. Does this petition refer only to physical food or might it refer to the equipping we need for our day's work?**
- **How often do you ask God to give you the strength, power and courage you need for your tasks each day?**

Reflect on the work you do each day. Ask God to empower you to do your best to reflect Christ's image in all you do, and give you the determination, courage and strength you need to accomplish God's will for you.

DAY 5 - Follow and Catch

Re-read Luke 5:9-11 and read Matthew 9:9-13, 16:24-25

Jesus called on a diverse group of ordinary people to follow him and to become disciples who would share the Good News and draw others to Jesus. What kinds of people did Jesus seem to be "fishing" for?

- **What lessons can we learn from the people Jesus called as disciples?**
- **What does Jesus's response to the Pharisees in Matthew 9:12-13 teach us about our ministry today?**

Reflect on St. Paul's plan to relocate Open Arms and the Carpenter's Shop to the Druid Road campus and to

cultivate a new Latino congregation there. Do you see how God is doing something new and transformational on the site of a former church? Ask God to help you understand how this plan fulfills Jesus command to fish in deeper water? Then, let's go fishing!

If you're having trouble viewing this email you can download a PDF of the Growth Guide by [clicking here](#).



St. Paul United Methodist Church
1199 Highland Ave. | Largo, FL 33770
727-584-8165 | church@stpaulumc.org

www.stpaulumc.org



St. Paul United Methodist Church, 1199 Highland Avenue, Largo, FL 33770

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by church@stpaulumc.org in collaboration with



Try it free today