



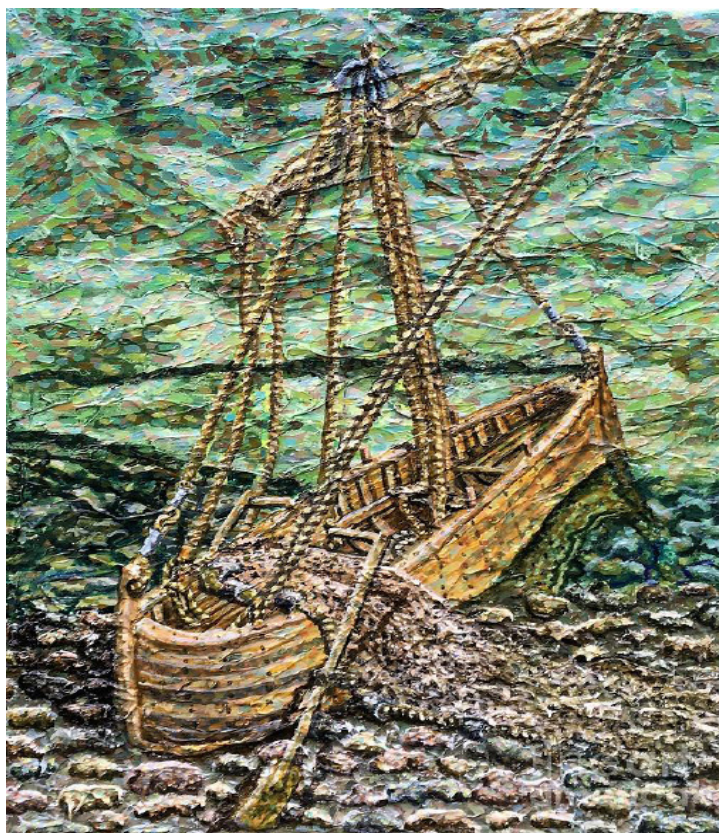
Smith Rock  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

# Community Group study guide

# LUKE

J E S U S F O R E V E R Y O N E

**For the week of  
16th of February 2020**



What would cause you to leave everything you had worked hard for all your life?

What would make you pick up and take off to another part of the state, country or even the world? Better financial prospects, to be closer to relatives, nicer weather and greater amenities?

This week we look at a man (and some of his friends) who take off after Jesus leaving behind their businesses, families and way of life. What were they expecting to find by following Jesus, and what did they understand Jesus was calling them to?



5 On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, 2 and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. 3 Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. 4 And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." 5 And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." 6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. 7 They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. 8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." 9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon,

*“Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” 11 And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.*

Luke 5:1–11 (ESV)

### **Commentary**

In the previous section we saw Jesus casting a demon out of a man in the synagogue in Capernaum, and the people being amazed that His words carried such authority and power. Then Jesus goes to Simon’s house and heal his mother in law, before healing a crowd of people suffering from various ailments. The people of Capernaum would have loved to had Jesus stay with them, but Jesus told them He had been sent for the purpose of preaching the Good News to others, and went off to other synagogues around the region. But apparently Jesus had not gone too far yet, because in this story He is back in Capernaum because Simon features in this story. This raises the question where and when did Simon meet Jesus and how did his call come about? If we read Matthew and Mark’s Gospels it is easy to get the idea that the first disciples dropped everything to follow a more or less a complete stranger.

*16 Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” 18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him.*

# ISRAEL AT THE TIME OF JESUS

1ST CENTURY AD



*19 And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. 20 And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.*

Mark 1:19–20 (ESV)

But this is not the first occurrence of Jesus meeting Andrew and Simon, and we need to turn to the Gospel of John:

*35 The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” 37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38 Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” 39 He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. 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).*

John 1:35–42 (ESV)

Clearly Andrew and Peter weren’t just “ordinary” fishermen, Andrew was one of John’s disciples and some scholars think the other unnamed disciple in this passage is John the “beloved





### **A fishing boat on Lake Gennesarat**

disciple.” It is Andrew then who makes the first introduction between Jesus and Peter. After this first meeting, Jesus moves to Capernaum and the local area where He begins His teaching and healing ministry, and although He tries to go back to Nazareth He is rejected there. It is likely then that Peter, Andrew (who is not mentioned in Luke’s account), James and John both followed Jesus during these early days and continued to fish. We also see in this account that Peter has a business, which enabled him to leave and follow Jesus while still providing for his family.

Jesus’ fame has spread and the large crowd is pressing in on Him, forcing Him into the lake, so He gets on Peter’s boat and uses it as a floating platform to address the crowd. When He finishes speaking the crowd drifts away, and Jesus tells Peter to put out into the deep to let down his net for a catch. Although James

and John and others are mentioned in this passage the focus is on Jesus and Peter. Peter tells Jesus they had been fishing all night (the optimum time to catch fish, the nets were thick and easily seen by fish in the daylight) and they have been skunked but nevertheless at Jesus' word they will do as He says. No sooner had the net touched the water they have so many fish the nets start to break and they have to call over their partners to help and even then the boats are in danger of sinking so big is the catch.

While his partners struggle with the catch Simon Peter's thoughts are occupied by the who made it possible and what that says about his standing, and so he asks Jesus to leave. Jesus tells him not to worry, but from now on he will catching men. When they arrive back on land they make the step of faith and and leave to follow Jesus full time.

### **Group Study**

Open the group with prayer and discuss how you have used your application from last week's study in your life, and what you have learned from it.

Share a time in your life when someone told you how to do your job when you were the expert. What was your reaction?

Jesus tells Peter to fish at completely the wrong time of day, how would you have reacted?

When Peter sees the catch what is his response?

Share about when you first met Jesus. What did you know about



Him before you became a follower or His?

Where did you think He was going to lead you?

What did you give up to follow Him?

Read the following passage:

*13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” 20 Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.*  
Matthew 16:13–20 (ESV)

The disciples had been following Jesus for approximately two years before Peter makes this profession of faith.

Discuss what it means for someone to be a disciple of Jesus and when does that start. Can someone be a disciple before

they make a profession of faith?

As your group looks to make disciples should you be looking for people who have professed faith or those who might not have done so but are interested in following.

While Jesus calls some to leave their homes and careers He does not call everyone to do so, but He does call all His disciples into a life of ministry to share the Good News wherever we are at. Discuss what this looks like for you and your family, and your group.

### **Personal study time**

Read the passage below and reflect on the questions afterwards.

*18 Now when Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. 19 And a scribe came up and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." 20 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." 21 Another of the disciples said to him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 22 And Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead."*

Matthew 8:18–22 (ESV)

The scribe hadn't noticed Jesus' immediate needs, and the disciple's request seems reasonable except it is unlikely that his

father was anywhere near dead.

What does Jesus want you to see and do for Him right now?

Is there anything holding you back from following Jesus, even though it might seem like a “good thing.”

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*24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.*

Matthew 16:24–27 (ESV)

As you read these verses, how do they make you feel?

What do you think your cross is?

What would you have to “deny” yourself to pick up the cross?

Why is worldly gain heavenly loss?

NAME OF THE BOOK

## Reflection

## **REAP Method of studying Scripture**

### **READ**

Find the passages for today's reading in the Bible Reading Plan. Read the passages with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction, and correction (2 Timothy 3:16). Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

### **EXAMINE**

Spend some time reflecting and writing about what you've read. Write down one or two of the key verses that stuck out to you. Ask yourself these questions and write down your thoughts:

- \* What is going on in the passage?
- \* Who is writing and whom is he writing to?
- \* When was the author writing?
- \* What are the circumstances that the author is addressing?
- \* Does the writer mention anything that might indicate his purpose or intent?
- \* How do you think the author wants his audience to respond?

### **APPLY**

After examining the passage, apply the text to your own life. Ask yourself these questions:

- \* What is God's word for me from this passage?
- \* How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?