

**ENTER** God's presence

**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations.
The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises
and faithful in all he does**

Psalm 145:13

Gracious Lord, you call us to follow you. Come into our lives and cast out our fear and reluctance that we may venture into deeper waters. Help us trust your leading and let down your nets of grace to draw people into your life of healing, wholeness and purpose. Bless our time as we gather together in your name and take us beyond the limits we place on ourselves that your name may be glorified. Amen.

**SHARE** life together

- 1. Where have you seen God moving in your life in the last week?**
- 2. Share how you went with your living purposefully from last time?**
- 3. If you could explore anywhere in the world, where would you like to explore and why?**
- 4. At the present time, would you say spiritually that you a) have given up and are packing up the nets? b) in the boat but wonder if there is really a point, or c) ready to explore new horizons? Share reasons.**

Most of the breakthrough discoveries and remarkable inventions throughout history are the result of curiosity. They come from a willingness to have a go, to risk failure, to do something differently & explore novel possibilities. Curiosity seems natural to a child, but with age and our experience of mistakes and embarrassment, too many people get stuck between curiosity and a desire for security and predictability. "Risk" is not a word that appears in our vocabulary or is nurtured in our character. Jesus places no limit on what his Church can do, but instead points to the greater challenge, the higher risk, the deeper water of the unknown to discover his grace, power & abundance that transforms the world and our lives in the process.

**VERSE** for the week

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

Luke 5:4

**REMEMBER** this week

Jesus is calling us deeper and further, where the catch is guaranteed.



LISTEN attentively

Read Luke 5:1-11

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. ² He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ So they signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." ¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

5. **What words or phrases capture your attention?**
6. **What questions do you have? What makes you curious?**
7. **What do you learn about God in this text?**
8. **Where might God's Spirit be nudging you?**



GROW deeper

There is so much about this story that is "Beyond Limits" – it is the wrong time of day to go fishing (they normally went at night, when the fish swam closer to shore). The nets they used were designed for fishing in the shallows, they weren't designed for deeper waters. It was crazy to row into deeper waters in the hope of catching fish that were out of reach.

9. **Where in your life do you feel like have "been fishing all night and caught nothing"?**
Consider the people that you have been praying for? What might God be telling you about that?
10. **How do you respond when you think God is asking you to do something that doesn't make sense or seems impossible?**
11. **Where is the deeper, unknown, not right water, not right time that maybe Jesus is calling you to row out to today?**
12. **How would you explain Peter's response (v8) to Jesus after catching so many fish?**

Discipleship, following Jesus, is meant to be transforming, it disrupts our lives, it takes us in a new direction, it costs us something. Many people have met Jesus by the lake, but are not willing to leave behind those things that matter to them so that they can embrace what matters to Jesus.

13. **What is the "everything" in verse 11 for you at this moment and what would it look like for you to act in obedience to Jesus' call?**

