

Made for Ministry Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What is a good way for someone to communicate love to you? (e.g. words of encouragement, gifts, etc.)
2. What is one of your most meaningful possessions?

Read the following passage: Luke 5:1-11.

Peter spent his entire life learning to fish. Much to his surprise, that was the means God used to prepare him for ministry. Regardless of the career path we may choose, God is preparing us to minister to the people around us. God gives his Holy Spirit to each of his sons and daughters so that we can help others experience the life of Jesus.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Do you find Peter's response, "Go away from me, Lord," surprising? Why or why not?
2. Explain why Peter, Andrew, James, and John might have seemed like unexpected candidates to be Jesus's disciples. How might Jesus's selection of disciples shape our own ideas about the kind of people through whom God will minister to others?
3. Peter's career as a fisherman was one of the means God used to prepare Peter to minister to others. What are some things you have learned (or could learn) from your schooling or career that might be relevant to your relationship with God or ministering to people?
4. Read Hebrews 5:1-2. God told the people of Israel that they were to be a "kingdom of priests" (Exodus 19:5-6). The author of Hebrews describes the work of priests under the old covenant. Peter told followers of Jesus that they were a "royal priesthood" (1 Peter 2:9). What might it mean for us, as followers of Jesus, to be "priests" to the world around us?
5. One of the central messages of Jesus (and John the Baptist before him) was that our sins can be forgiven. How can we communicate this message to the people around us, including non-religious people, in a way that will be relevant and meaningful for them? Do you see a connection between this message and our own sense of identity?

6. Describe some ways you would like to see the Holy Spirit work in and through your life.
7. Jesus surprised Peter with a miraculous catch of fish — something, as far as we know, Peter had not even asked for. What are some ways we can meaningfully surprise the people around us with grace? Is this something that comes naturally for you, or do you have to be more intentional to surprise people with grace?
8. What are a few ways you think you could minister to the people around you?

Pray