

Lord of the harvest

Luke 5:1-11, part two – Leader's version

Check in – with the group sitting in a semi-circle go round and ask everyone, including leaders, how they are and how they're feeling about studying the Bible today.

What does the passage say and mean?

30 minutes

Read Luke 5:1-11

1. Simon is an experienced fisherman who has been up all night and knows there are no fish out there at the moment. What does he call Jesus when Jesus tells him to get back out on the lake with his nets?

He calls him Master. This tells us that Simon already has some experience of Jesus' authority. See Luke 4:31-32, Jesus has taught in Simon's town before and 4:38-39, Jesus has healed Simon's mother-in-law of a fever.

2. Why does Simon do something so crazy as go back out on the lake in the heat of the day, when all the fish will be in the cool deep water meaning it's a bad time for fishing? (v5)

He goes because Jesus tells him to. Simon knows the fish and Lake Galilee (Gennesaret) well. But Jesus created the fish and Lake Galilee – Simon may not yet understand that Jesus is the creator of the world, but he knows enough to know that when Jesus says to do something, he does it.

3. Read v6-7. Simon's trust in Jesus leads him to obey Jesus. What is the result?

So many fish that the nets are breaking and the boats are sinking! Simon knows this is a miracle.

4. Simon has just experienced a miracle. How do you think he feels?

Try not to look past v7 yet! It would be reasonable to say that Simon is amazed, awestruck, excited, exhausted from hauling the nets in etc.

5. Read Luke 5:8-10. How does Simon feel?

He falls at Jesus knees – he feels unworthy of being in Jesus presence, and recognises that it's Jesus' power that has created this awesome catch of fish. He knows he's not worthy to be in Jesus presence and that he is a sinner. And Jesus has to tell him not to be afraid, so he must have been very frightened too.

6. Spending time with Jesus leads Simon to see that he is a sinful man and Jesus is Lord (v8). What is sin and why is it a problem?

Sin is rebellion against God – living as if I am in charge and not recognising God's authority over my life. God is holy, meaning that he is separate from all that is sinful – He cannot stand sin, so He separates Himself from it. This means that sin separates people from God, breaking the relationship with God that we were made to enjoy and thrive upon.

7. What does Jesus' reply in v10 tell us?

Jesus tells Simon not to be afraid and that he will fish for people. The unspoken words are that Simon is safe with Jesus and that Jesus has a plan for him. Jesus has shown Simon and the other fishermen that he is Lord of the harvest of fish. Now Jesus tells Simon that there is another harvest that Jesus is Lord of and Simon will be involved in – human hearts.

8. How does this harvest of people work? What does Jesus mean?

Jesus is talking about people believing in him and his dying to save them from their sins. He's talking about Simon sharing the gospel and Jesus changing hearts and lives. If anyone in your group doesn't know the gospel fully, take time to explain it to them now.

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Simon and his friends left everything and followed Jesus. Have you left your old life behind to follow Jesus? If you have, how have you changed since then? If you haven't, now you've heard the gospel in Q8, what's stopping you?

Let people think about what's stopping them and take the question away to think it over some more. Maybe you could revisit this question next time you meet, to see if they're now ready to respond.

Check out – with the group sitting in a semi-circle go round and ask everyone, including leaders, how they found the study and if they are safe to go back to the cell.

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3. Read v6-7. Simon's trust in Jesus leads him to obey Jesus. What is the result?
4. Simon has just experienced a miracle. How do you think he feels?
5. Read Luke 5:8-10. How does Simon feel?
6. Spending time with Jesus leads Simon to see that he is a sinful man and Jesus is Lord (v8). What is sin and why is it a problem?
7. What does Jesus' reply in v10 tell us?

8. How does this harvest of people work? What does Jesus mean?

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