

# Caught Off Guard

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March 2, 2025 ▪ Nat Porter

A \_\_\_\_\_ Shore, a \_\_\_\_\_ Boat, and a \_\_\_\_\_ Appointment

An \_\_\_\_\_ Command and an \_\_\_\_\_ Catch

An \_\_\_\_\_ Response and an \_\_\_\_\_ Plea

A Word \_\_\_\_\_ and a Call \_\_\_\_\_

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## ***Luke 5:1-11***

<sup>1</sup> 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, <sup>2</sup> and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." <sup>5</sup> And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." <sup>6</sup> And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. <sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." <sup>9</sup> For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, <sup>10</sup> 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." <sup>11</sup> And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him. (ESV)

## ***Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions***

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**Open:** Can you think of a time when you felt like you were in over your head with something? How did you respond? What did you learn about yourself in that situation?

**Read & Discuss:** Luke 5:1-3

1. According to Luke 5:1, "the crowd was pressing in on [Jesus] to hear the word of God." What does this tell us about the nature of Jesus' ministry and the people's expectations of Him?
2. Imagine you are Peter, tired from fishing all night. How would you feel about Jesus stepping into your boat and using it as a platform from which to teach (v. 3)? What are some areas of your life where Jesus has stepped in and asked you to do things you might not have had the desire to do?

**Read & Discuss:** Luke 5:4-7

3. Jesus now tells Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch" (v. 4). If you were an experienced fisherman like Peter, how would you have responded to Jesus telling you to do this after you had just been out all night and caught nothing?
4. Imagine you were in Peter's boat when the nets started breaking from the weight of the fish (vv. 6-7). What might you be thinking and feeling at this point? Can you recall a time when you experienced an unexpected blessing or miracle as a result of taking a step of faith with Jesus, as Peter did here?

**Read & Discuss:** Luke 5:8-11

5. Why is the way Peter responds to Jesus in verse 8 surprising for the context? What does this tell us Peter realized in that moment? How does Peter's reaction compare to other biblical figures who encountered God's holiness, such as Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1-7) or Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:8-10)?
6. Jesus tells Peter, "Do not be afraid" (v. 10). Why do you think Peter needed to hear these words? Have you ever felt exposed or unworthy and experienced fear in drawing close to God? How does Peter's encounter with Jesus here speak to those fears? When discipling others, how should we present a proper explanation of what the Bible teaches regarding a fear of Jesus? (*See also Proverbs 9:20; Matthew 10:28; John 15:15*)
7. We're told Peter, James, and John left everything to follow Jesus (v. 11). What considerations might have made this difficult for them? Why do you think they chose to follow Jesus anyway?

**Apply:** Looking back at your own life, how has an encounter with Jesus changed you? What might Jesus be calling you to change, leave behind, or surrender in order to follow Him more fully?

**Pray:** Pray that we would have hearts that are eager to know Jesus and to follow Him in all things, even when it may go against our personal inclinations and preferences or may require a step of great faith.