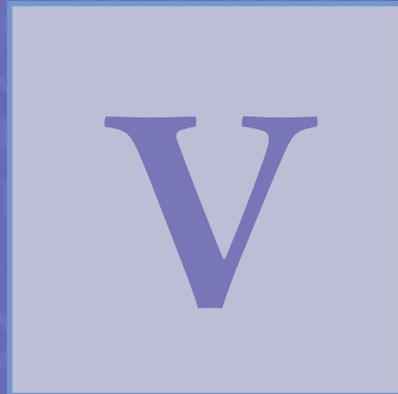
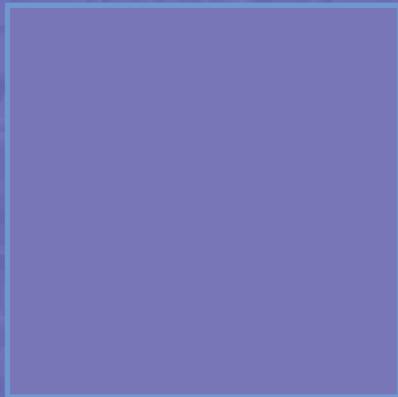


C H A P T E R



1. Read the chapter at least twice before starting to answer the questions. I enjoy listening to the chapter, read aloud on the YouVersion Bible app. (If you don't have the app, you can download it for free at the app store.)
2. What body of water is mentioned in Luke 5:1?
3. If you have a study Bible, look at the notes for verse 1. If your notes do not give the other names, do a Google search.
By what other names is this body of water called?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
4. Jesus had been rejected in His hometown of Nazareth, Luke 4:29.
In chapter 5, we see he has come down to the area near Gennesaret. Nazareth was approximately 1140 ft. in elevation. Lake of Gennesaret is approximately 700 ft. below sea level. This makes much of the area around this body of water good for teaching, Jesus' voice could be easily heard. Every where Jesus went, a crowd gathered to see for themselves all Jesus would say and do. The crowd pressed in closer and closer around Jesus. What did Jesus do?
5. Jesus had a twofold plan for Simon's boat that day. The first was to bring a bit of space between he and the crowd so they could hear. The second was to bless Simon. Jesus was allowing Simon to be a part of ministering to and blessing the crowd. Jesus had a blessing all prepared for Simon as well. Have you ever experienced anything like this? Have you ever been a part of ministering to others and received a blessing custom made for you?
6. This is one of my favorite stories in the Bible. We see no reluctance from Simon when Jesus asked him to back the boat away from the shore a little bit, so he could have a bit of separation from the crowd. Simon was, obviously, in the boat with Jesus as he taught that day. When Jesus finished teaching, what did he ask Simon to do?
7. According to Luke 5:2, what fishing task had Simon just completed?
8. Simon is an experienced fisherman; Jesus was raised a carpenter's son. What reason did Simon give for doing something many would have had little faith in?

This request of Jesus to put down the nets doesn't make any sense; it will only cause more work for Simon. Yet look what Simon says. How did Simon address Jesus in verse 5?
9. What a beautiful example of obedience!!! Is this our attitude when asked by God to do things of eternal value?
10. Simon had not neglected his work, he had fished all night, but caught nothing. However, if Jesus is ready to bless a person, they better get a big net. The Lord is the master of all creation.
Read Luke 5:6
In your own words, what did God do that showed his power and authority over nature?

11. Simon used what he had that day. I do not see any hesitation in his words or action. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-7
What is to be the attitude of our heart when giving?

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

12. Had Simon not loved Jesus like he did, what excuses could he have possibly offered?
13. We must be careful not to distort God's promise of provision into the false gospel of health and wealth. God does not promise believers a big house and an expensive car. He does assure us, if we show compassion to the needs of others, he will meet our needs also. Can anyone ever out give God?

Romans 11:34-36

“Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?” 35 “Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?” 36 For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

14. I love seeing the obedience and character of Simon in this event. Simon said he'd been fishing all night. He chose to venture out into the deep once more, dropping his clean nets into the water, simply because Jesus asked him to do it. What are we willing to do one more time, simply because Jesus asked us to do it?

Highlight one you believe the Lord is speaking to you about or add one or two to the list.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| a. Forgive someone (again) | d. Overlook an offense (again) |
| b. Show grace to a co-worker (again) | e. Lend to someone in need (again) |
| c. Speak a word of encouragement to a gruff neighbor (again) | f. Apologize (without the word “but”) |
| | g. |

15. When Simon began to pull in the nets, the scripture tells us the boat began to sink. Simon signaled his partners, and they came over to help.

This paints a beautiful picture of ministry. Many years ago, God spoke to Deziray and I about leading a women's Bible study. Very quickly it out-grew the home where we met. We needed leaders to help. God has brought some amazing leaders to our Within the Word leadership team through the years. It has become so much more than either of us hoped or imagined.

God's blessing allows us to influence others and invite them to minister with us.

How would you fill in this blank?

When the Lord blesses, it is not just adequate for the need, but it is _____.

16. Next, Jesus invites these men to join him, fishing for men. Simon, Andrew, James and John did not just agree to go with Jesus for the week-end; verse 11 says:

“they pulled their boats on shore, _____ and _____.”

17. Have you done this? _____

Have you heard God's call and left everything to follow him?

18. When we began looking at this event, we noticed Simon addressed Jesus as Master. That is the Greek word Epistates, any sort of superintendent or overseer. It carries the ideas “commander,” “leader,” or perhaps even “boss.” With this title, Peter showed he was ready and willing to take orders from Jesus.

Do you think of Jesus this way?

I’ve heard it said, “If he is not Lord of all, he is not Lord at all.” Is Jesus Lord of your heart and life?

19. If you are not sure how to answer that last question, think back to the last time the Lord prompted you to do something or give something out of your comfort zone, what did you do?

20. Because this was such an amazing miracle, Simon’s perception of himself quickly went from experienced fisherman to wretched sinner. He realized he was in the presence of holiness. Isn’t humility a beautiful character quality?

Matthew 5:3

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

The poor in spirit are ones who first, realize their destitute state as a sinner, and second, experience their great appreciation for Jesus their Savior.

The great preacher of the Protestant Reformation, Martin Luther said, *“True humility does not know that it is humble.”*

Define humility.

Could you be described as humble?

Find a way to practice humility today.

Humility produces authentic thanksgiving.

What are you thankful for today?

21. Luke 5:12-14 is an interesting story of a man with leprosy. He found Jesus. How does he respond to being in Jesus’ presence? What strange thing did this man say to Jesus?

22. Would you classify this as a divine appointment?

23. Once again, we see a beautiful example of Matthew 5:3 “...the poor in spirit.” Judging by what he said, what did this man know about Jesus?

24. Luke says that Jesus reached out and touched the man. Do you think this would have been the last thing the man might have expected? Why?

25. Do you believe it was necessary for Jesus to touch him, to heal him?

If not, why in the world would he do it?

Were there other less visible needs this man may have had?

26. Jesus instructed the man to keep silent. “Don’t tell anyone, just go and show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing.” Then he could go home and be reunited with family and friends. Looking at the next few verses will help us understand why Jesus did not want him to make a display of his healing. Jesus was not trying to gather a following or start a movement. What was Jesus trying to do?

Even though the man did what Jesus told him to do, what happened?

27. Notice where Jesus is in Luke 5:16. If it was important for Jesus to carve out time alone to pray, how important is it for us as well?

Do you find time alone to pray each day?

Day Four

28. The next event we see in Luke 5 is a story of four friends, who cared very deeply for their crippled friend. We are not told how this man got hurt but we do see the dedication of all four of his friends. Look at verse 18. What was the plan as they came to the house where Jesus was that day?

What was the first obstacle they faced?

How did they choose to remedy this problem?

29. These are the kind of friends I want, when I have a need. They were dedicated, think outside the box, ready to do what it takes friends!!! It has been said, “*If you want friends, you must show yourself friendly.*” To what length will you go to have good friends?

What constitutes a good friend?

30. Have you ever had an opportunity to help a friend find Jesus? Did you encounter any obstacles?

31. Jesus was moved to help this crippled man. What did the scripture say moved Jesus’ heart to help?

32. Jesus does not waste this opportunity to help as many people as possible, using this miraculous healing. He could have easily said, “*Take up your bed and walk.*” But knowing the Pharisees were in the room he said, “*Friend, your sins are forgiven.*” The Pharisees thought he was being blasphemous, after all no one could forgive sins but God. They were right about that, but what did the man do?

What did it prove?

Read Luke 5:16. What did Jesus want them to see?

33. Luke 5:26
 “Everyone was _____ and gave _____ to God. They were _____
 with awe and said, “We have _____ remarkable _____ today.”

34. Next, we see Jesus passing by a tax collector’s booth. He saw a Jewish man named _____
 collecting taxes for the Roman government from his Jewish brothers and sisters.
 Jesus told him to “_____.”
 Oh, my friend, don’t you see it is God who calls, and it is he who equips?

What are some of your gifts and talents God is calling you to use for kingdom purposes?

35. Matthew was so happy, he decided to host a dinner in honor of Jesus, at his home.
 Who did Matthew invite?

36. The Pharisees and teachers of the law were a group of religious and dedicated men, bogged down in
 rules and pretenses. They were much more concerned as to how they looked to others, rather than
 what was actually going on in their hearts. They began to question Jesus’ intentions. Why did Jesus
 say he had come?

37. We must be very careful not to judge others’ intentions. Have you ever spoken too quickly and
 criticized someone only to find out later they had a very legitimate reason for what they were doing?

38. Take just a minute to look back at Luke 5:17
 The last part of this verse says, “**And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick.**”
 Is this only a power to heal physical infirmities?

Or does he power extend to healing a hard heart as well?

39. There was no pleasing the Pharisees. They did not like John the Baptist, who fasted and prayed, and
 now they didn’t like Jesus, because he eats and drinks. Jesus gives them a few examples to help them
 understand but it did not help.

- a. Who did Jesus compare himself to in this passage, verse 35?
- b. What comparison did he make in verse 36?
- c. What comparison did he make verse 37?

40. Did you understand why he chose these three things to compare himself to?
 a. Why did he compare himself to a bridegroom?
 b. Why did he compare himself to a patch for a garment?
 c. Why did he compare himself to wine being poured into wineskins?

41. What might have been some of the reasons Matthew chose to host a large party and invite his old
 friends?

42. Jesus said he had come as a physician for the sick. Who do you believe the sick were that Jesus was referring to here? (Be as specific as possible.)
43. Have you ever known someone who refused help that was offered to them?
Why would anyone not want to visit a physician, if they are sick?
44. When you read Luke 5:35, what future event do you believe Jesus is alluding to?
45. Go back and read or listen to the chapter one more time.
Is there a key thought that caught your attention?
46. Does it require an action or a change on your part?
If so, what will you do to implement the change?

