

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Making It Real

September 3 & 4, 2022

Want your faith to get real? Here's one word to live into: "follow."

SCRIPTURE TEXT: LUKE 5:1-11

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Thirteen times in the Gospels, Jesus calls people to follow him. Those words had a very specific meaning in Jesus' day. It's what a Rabbi would say to an aspiring student, and it was an invitation to conform one's life to the life of the Rabbi. Any student who answered the call to "follow me" would literally spend their day following in the footsteps of their Rabbi, learning what the Rabbi knew and doing what the Rabbi did.

And that is just what Peter, James and John did in today's Scripture reading. In the same way, the Spirit of God is constantly calling US into a life of following Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

"When we commit ourselves to following Jesus, two things happen: We come face to face with our sinful nature and we'll realize the depth of our need for God."

- Re-read Luke 5:8. Share about a time when you came face to face with your sinful nature – your self-centeredness, judgmental attitudes, or sense of entitlement – and were humbled.
- Read the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12. *The Message* translation of verse 3 reads "You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and [God's] rule." When we seek to actually follow Jesus in daily life, we quickly come to the end of our own resources. Share about a time that you reached "the end of your rope" and experienced living in dependence of God's love, grace, forgiveness and power. Are you currently facing such a time? What blessings are you anticipating?
- Re-read Luke 5:11. Each time we answer the Spirit's call to follow Jesus, we'll need to leave things behind. How has that been true in your life? What "more" did you gain in the process? (For example: More meaning. More purpose. More growth. More adventure. More aliveness.)

APPLICATION: Each day this week, pray with an openness to hearing where Jesus is calling you to follow.