

GOD & VOCATION BIBLE STUDY

PURPOSE

Remember that we are meeting together to discover and discuss any connections we see between spirituality and vocation. Although our study will flow from a Christian worldview, we welcome perspectives from other faith and non-faith traditions. What we do with our bodies and our lives, our *vocation*, matters deeply. We will explore how our vocation can be a participation in God's work of renewing all things and how vocation is related to the career we are pursuing.

GATHERING (10 MINUTES)

Watch this video together: [College and Your Future Career](#)

- What would be your dream job?
- How might your faith inform what job you choose, or how you do your job?

SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION (30 MINUTES)

Today we will read an encounter between Jesus and some of his very first followers. This comes from the account written by Luke, who tells the story of how God first invited the people of ancient Israel, and then all nations, to follow Jesus and experience salvation.

LUKE 5:1–11 (NLT)

One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. ² He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. ³ Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.

⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish."

⁵ "Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again." ⁶ And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! ⁷ A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.

⁸ When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, "Oh, Lord, please leave me—I'm such a sinful man." ⁹ For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. ¹⁰ His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed.

Jesus replied to Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!"

¹¹ And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.

- What do you appreciate about this content?
- What makes you wonder? What do you disagree with?
- Jesus interrupted Simon and the other fishermen in order to reveal his identity and invite them to follow him. How do you see Jesus using Simon's work as part of his invitation? Why do you think Jesus uses the fishing framework to invite followers?
- This moment was the beginning of Simon, James, and John following Jesus, and there were many other moments of saying 'yes' that came later during their journey. What do you think it might have been like to be in their shoes, deciding how to respond to Jesus as he repurposed their career? (Consider their thoughts and feelings, what they gained, what they left behind, etc.)

NEXT STEPS (5 MINUTES)

Which next step will you take this week based on our discussion today? Choose one.

Perspective: Consider that vocation includes a journey of saying 'yes' to God moment by moment as the journey winds through life. Ponder how this aspect of a Christian worldview seems true or untrue from your perspective.

Engagement: When have you already sensed an invitation to something deeper through your work or field of study? How have you responded? What do you sense might be an upcoming invitation? Pay attention to that this week.

Investment: Draw a timeline that tells the story of your education and career journey. Mark highs and lows and anything else you think is noteworthy. Meet with someone else from this group and share your story with them.