

## QUICK GUIDE – CLASSIC MANUSCRIPT BIBLE STUDY (90 minutes)

### Scripture Passage: Luke 5:1-11 NIV

5 min **Community and Vision** – *Lead an activity that helps your group get to know one another. Then tell the group **your vision** for why you are meeting and what you want to see God do.*

Why did you say 'yes' to joining us for a Bible study today?

Vision: to grow in love for Jesus through Scripture and to grow in witness to Jesus through Scripture

2 min **Pray** – *Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your study.*

5 min **Read** – *Read the text out loud together. Allow 2 minutes to re-read the text individually.*

3 min **Context** – *“What comes immediately before and after this passage? What parts of this passage might be influenced by history or culture, and what might require explanation?” **Identify the context together.***

Luke was a man who lived around the time of Jesus. He was a doctor, so he cared a lot about the details of things that really matter. He did not meet Jesus personally, but he heard what everyone was saying about Jesus and decided to carefully investigate everything, starting back at the beginning. Luke had access to letters, speeches, song lyrics, travel accounts, trial transcripts, and stories from trusted friends. He put that investigation into writing so that people could read about Jesus and “know the certainty of the things [they] have been taught” (Luke 1:4).

Luke also wrote the book of Acts, and these two books together tell the story of how God brought salvation to the entire community of creation through his people Israel. This work of salvation began way, way back at the beginning, and we can read in the Hebrew Bible (which we usually call the Old Testament) how God has been rescuing his people and the land for thousands of years. Yet throughout all that time, God also was telling his people that one day there would be a rescuer or savior who would save completely everyone who follows him. We can be on the lookout throughout the book of Luke for what salvation means for people and all of creation.

Up to this point in Luke, Jesus has been ministering in many towns – casting out demons, healing people (including Simon’s mother-in-law), and teaching in the synagogues. But now he’s going public. He shows up at the lake. The Lake of Gennesaret (Lake of Galilee) is huge (8x13 miles) and the home to a thriving fishing industry (“[Sea of Galilee Boat](#)” discovered in 1986). Imagine a vibrant business (not grandpa in a rowboat), and Jesus shows up.

Jeremiah 16:12-17; Ezekiel 47:8-10

10 min **See (Observe)** – *“Look closely at the passage in front of you and gather the facts by marking what you see. Be like a **curious investigator**. Note characters, relationships, locations, time, actions, repeated words, comparisons, contrasts, cause and effect. Make sections and label them.”*

20 min **Share** – *“Let’s share our observations out loud. If you see something, say something. Be careful not to draw conclusions yet.” **Start in pairs, if the group is >10 or if they need a warmup.***

30 min **Discover (Interpret)** – *“Let’s get curious and ask questions that will help us discuss what we think the author wanted the original readers to understand. Good questions come from our best observations.”*

*Collect their questions and then arrange them in the order of the text.*

*Add 1-2 key questions you prepared ahead of time, if necessary.*

*Decide which 4-5 are most significant and use the passage to answer those together.*

“While answering, let’s listen and make **space for one another** as we share. We will keep the **text at the center** and avoid using any resource the original readers would not have had. Let’s keep each other on track by saying: **Please help us see that in the text.**” *First 5 min answering in pairs if >10 participants.*

I’m going to read verses 1-3 out loud, and I want you to imagine that you are there and that you are a little kid. Imagine what it would have been like, what you would see, hear, smell... [read v. 1-3] What did you notice and experience?

What does Simon risk in putting out the nets again? Why does he do it anyway?

**\*\*More and more fish are coming in... and then Simon falls and confesses. Why does Simon have this spiritual reaction to the physical catch of fish?**

How might these men have imagined what Jesus means by inviting them to fish for people?

**\*\*Why does Jesus lead Simon into and through this experience, and how does it affect Simon?**  
*easy command (put out from shore), hard command (fish in deep water), gut-wrenching encounter (miracle and confession), purpose (fish for people)*

3 min **Summarize** – “If you could communicate the main point of this passage in just one sentence, what would it be? What core message do you think the **author is communicating to the original audience?**” *After some group discussion, retell the passage in your own words and share the core message you prepared.*

Simon and his colleagues had just had a terrible night of work, and Jesus interrupts their cleanup. They thought they were headed home soon, but instead they find themselves caught up in a teaching session and then another trip out to fish. But this time they go in daylight, to the deep, after a night of no fish. And they catch more fish than they have ever seen before! Simon is so deeply moved that he falls before Jesus and confesses. Simon experiences a deep realization of who Jesus is and who he is. Jesus says that Simon will now fish for people. Simon and a few friends leave the catch behind and begin following Jesus.

**Going deeper with Jesus will change everything.**

Let’s pause for a minute to sit with that and let it sink in.

*Read our core message again and allow 1-2 minutes of silence before moving on.*

10 min **Respond (Apply)** – “Let’s apply our core message to our own lives by answering this question.” *Prepare an application question beforehand. Use these examples to help you get started.*

In what area of your life are you experiencing Jesus intruding in order to reveal more of himself? How are you responding?

*Tell my story of seeking counseling for the first time, hearing God inviting me, becoming willing to take initiative in getting closer to my dad.*

What scares you about a “falling in the fish” encounter with Jesus? How can you pursue Jesus into this experience anyway?

How is Jesus inviting you to go deeper with him?

*Allow a quiet moment and then share all together or just in pairs. Model vulnerability.*

2 min **Pray** – *Close in prayer together or in pairs.*