



WEEK 1: Luke 5:1-11, Encountering God in Following

Creative Entry:

- What do you want to do “when you grow up”? Create a business card or draw a picture of what you want to do when you grow up.
- Take a free online career quiz (this one is good and only takes 3 min.) <http://www.yourfreecareertest.com/>

Questions:

- V. 3 Why was it significant that Jesus stepped into their boat?
- V. 4 What do you think these fishermen would have been thinking when Jesus told them to go back out to fish? (*Jesus intrudes into these men’s vocations. These were experienced fishermen and would have known that there was little likelihood of a catch since the best fishing was done by night in deep water*)
- Why does Simon Peter’s title of Jesus change from “Master” (v. 5) to “Lord” (v. 8)? (*When Jesus reveals His power, He is now not just a rabbi (“Master” would have been used as a sign of respect) He is “Lord” who has authority over nature. Simon Peter now recognizes he is in the presence of the divine*)
- V. 8: Why does Simon Peter respond like this?
- V. 11: What would it have meant for them to “leave everything” to follow Jesus? What would they be leaving behind?

Main Points:

- Often when we encounter Jesus, He asks us to do things that don’t make sense to us, but when we take the risk to follow His lead, we will see Him do some amazing things.
- Jesus often has bigger and better plans for our lives than what we could have imagined, but we have to let him into our boats.
- Jesus transforms these men’s vocations when he calls them to follow Him. He also invites us to join Him on the adventure of following Him, but it often means leaving things behind.

Application:

- How have you experienced Jesus intruding into your life to reveal himself? How have you responded?
- In what ways do you feel unworthy or unqualified to join Jesus in His mission? What might Jesus say to you about your fears?
- What current realities and future dreams might you need to release in order to follow Jesus into His mission?

Call to Faith:

If you aren’t a follower of Jesus, what would it take for you to be able to make that decision tonight?

This is what Jesus did for you...(share the Gospel). Do you want to say yes to this life right now?



WEEK 2: Mark 2:1-12, Encountering God in Healing

Creative Entry options:

- Have you ever been so desperate for something you've taken drastic measures to get it? What did you want and what did you do to try to get it?
- Watch video from Urbana 12: <https://vimeo.com/56505529>

Questions:

- V. 3 If you were one of the friends, how would you feel when you couldn't get inside the house?
- V. 4 Why dig a hole in the roof? (*Houses in these days had flat roofs, accessible by a stairway. The roof would have been layered with timber, branches, clay tiles, and clay. Rain and age would have made it water proof. It was possible but still hard to dig an opening*)
- V. 5 How does Jesus respond to the hole in the roof? What does this tell us about His attitude toward the men and the man on the mat? (*Jesus saw their faith: meaning, the way they treated their friend on the mat illustrated their faith in Jesus*)
- These 4 friends had just carried their friend some distance and then dug through the roof to get him to Jesus. They had expected Jesus would heal him and instead, Jesus speaks of sin and forgiveness. Why? (*Not only did their friend get healed due to their persistence, he was transformed spiritually. This man had more than just physical needs. He needed Jesus and a restored relationship with God*)
- V. 8 The teachers of the Law were known to be righteous and religious people. How does Jesus respond to them?
- Vs. 9-10: Which is easier? Why does He say this - what does it reveal about Jesus? (*It would be easier to say "your sins are forgiven" because no one would be able to tell the difference, whereas if you said "get up and walk" you would be able to see proof one way or another. Jesus does both. He heals the unseen (sins) and the seen (paralysis), therefore affirming his ability to heal in both ways. He is showing His divinity by forgiving sins*)
- If you were one of the 4 friends, how would you respond to Jesus?

Main Points:

- Jesus has authority to heal us in many ways – in both the more obvious (ex: physically) and in the hidden (through offering forgiveness of sins).
- Sometimes we are the ones brought to Jesus for healing. We also can help bring others to God to experience healing.

Application:

- We can experience God's healing in both the seen and the unseen. Where do you need Jesus' healing in the seen (physically, emotionally, psychologically)? In the unseen (through forgiveness)?
- We want to be the kind of community that brings each other to Jesus to experience healing. Sometimes you will be the weak and struggling one who needs others to help you come to Jesus. Sometimes you will do the carrying. But we have to be honest with each other about our struggles in order to live this out. Are you willing to do that?
- Some of your friends don't know Jesus. Think of two friends here at school whom you could pray for this week, and carry them to Jesus in prayer.

Call to Faith:



BUCKET LIST: Small Group Series. *Katie Mentzer, Troy Tisthammer, and Beth Roselius*

Jesus wants to bring you healing to all the places that are broken in your life. Here's how we experience brokenness personally and in our world...(share the Gospel).

He is inviting you to say yes to a relationship with him and begin the healing process with Jesus so you can also bring that good news to others. Would you like to do that right now?



WEEK 3: John 20:24-29, Encountering God's Love and Forgiveness

Creative Entry:

- What do you think about these quotes, which one do you agree with? Why?

“Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we oft might win, by fearing to attempt.”

– William Shakespeare, Measure for Measure

“Doubt everything. Find your own light.”

– Gautama Buddha

“If you would be a real seeker after truth, it is necessary that at least once in your life you doubt, as far as possible, all things.”

– René Descartes

Questions:

- Why do you think Thomas gets a bad rap?
- V. 25: How does Thomas respond to the other disciples?
 - What do you think about what he says?
- V. 27: How does Jesus respond to Thomas' doubts?
 - What kind of tone do you think He used?
- What is the result of this whole interaction?

Main Points:

- Thomas doesn't ask for anything more than what his friends got!
- Jesus wants to reveal himself – he wants to speak peace into our lives and invite us to experience Him personally (fingers in side)
- When Jesus responds to our doubts, it increases our faith
 - Doubts aren't bad – they are an opportunity for growth if we bring them to Jesus, they can only drive us away if we let them stoke our fears

Application:

- Where do you find yourself doubting God? How can you bring that doubt to Jesus?
- What do you believe is God's invitation to you in that doubt?
- Think of a friend who has doubts about God. What step can you take this week to help him or her experience Jesus in the midst of that doubt?

Call to Faith:

Jesus is inviting you to bring your doubts and your questions to him. But we can be sure of a few things...(share the Gospel). We don't have to doubt God's love for us and the world, we don't have to doubt what he did for us on the cross. And we don't have to doubt what he is calling us to. Are you ready to say yes to God and begin following him right now?



WEEK 4: Matthew 14:22-33, Encountering God in Lordship

Creative Entry:

- What's the craziest thing you have ever done? (If you have a photo on your phone, show it.) What's the craziest thing on your Bucket List?

Questions:

- *(This story takes place right after the feeding of the 5,000. They are tired after a long day of serving people)*
- V. 23: Why do you think Jesus prayed?
- V. 24: How would you be feeling if you were one of the guys in the boat?
- V. 31: What do you think was Jesus' tone here?
- Didn't Peter have a ton of faith to jump out of the boat? What did Peter do right? Wrong? *(He stepped out in faith and had a chance to experience more of Jesus, but when he took his eyes off Jesus and looked at the intimidating situation around him, he lost focus)*
- What do you think Peter's friends were thinking as he was stepping out of the boat?
- Where do you see faith in this passage? How would someone go about growing their faith?
- What do they all learn about Jesus through this interaction?

Main Points:

- When we choose to follow Jesus, He actually asks us to take risks. It's not about sitting in the boat and obeying rules, it's about following Him into something exciting and purposeful.
- When we focus on Jesus, we understand and experience who He is and what He wants for our lives. When we focus on ourselves and our fears, we can't see beyond the crisis right in front of us.
- Jesus invites us into some exciting risks, because He wants us, and the communities we're part of, to see more of who He is and trust Him. He wants to build our faith as we take steps to respond to Him.

Application:

- What are some fears that you are focusing on instead of Jesus? Risk with honesty. Tell us your real story.
- What is one active step of faith you can trust Jesus with this week?
- Take a risk:
 - Pray for God to reveal Himself
 - Pray for a specific situation in your life
 - Offer to pray for a classmate, roommate, or friend this coming week

Call to Faith:

If you have never chosen to follow Jesus, he is giving you that opportunity right now. (Share the Gospel) Jesus is inviting you to focus on him. Are you ready to do that by letting go of your fears and trusting Jesus with your life?