

Read

Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8

Psalm 138:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5, 7-8

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11

Luke 5:1-11



REFLECTION

Simon, James, and John were going about their daily lives as fishermen when Jesus got into their boat and changed their lives forever. It wasn't a particularly special day. It was more like a mediocre one, where they had toiled for hours with nothing to show for it. But they were willing to listen to Jesus and take a risk, opening themselves to where God would lead them.

This is where Jesus meets us. He shows up in our daily grind, in the unspectacular events of our day. He walks into our failures and offers us a new way. He invites us to take a risk, to hear his voice, and listen to something that we may not want to hear. And if we listen, we will hear an invitation into a mission beyond compare.

Peter, James, and John did not plan on being called that day. They were unprepared, but they were willing to be inconvenienced. They put their faith in Jesus and found him to be worthy of that trust.

We too are invited to take a risk for the Lord, to be open, to listen to his Word, and to trust in him. He calls us in our ordinary life to be part of his extraordinary mission. Will we take the risk?



QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ What fears do you have in following Jesus more faithfully?
- ❖ How can you share in God's mission more fully in your life today?

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 9, 2025



ACTION

What are you willing to risk to allow Jesus to work in your life? Are you willing to follow him? To go with his plan instead of yours? As you spend time in prayer this week, reflect on the places in your life that you hold back from following the Lord. Trusting in his love for you, give them over to God. Then think about how you can fill those spaces with the work of discipleship. Commit to doing something concrete this week to show someone they are loved by you and by God. As you surrender and serve, you become like the disciples, leaving everything behind to follow Christ.



Check out how today's Gospel reading was depicted in this scene from *The Chosen*.

[https://youtu.be](https://youtu.be/hWGCKovAUWM)

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February 9, 2025

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LECTIONARY #75C

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1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11

Luke 5:1-11

Prepare for the Word

The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.

Leader's Context

The reading today from Luke tells us of the miraculous catch of fish and the call of Simon Peter. It takes place on the Lake of Gennesaret, or the Sea of Galilee. The fishing industry flourished in Jesus' day, as fish was a major food source for those in the area. The fishermen worked hard and put in long hours. Jesus meets these hardworking and dedicated men in their daily labor and calls them to be his disciples. Despite their initial hesitation, they left everything that was familiar to them and followed him. As Jesus' disciples, we too are called to drop everything we know and follow him wherever he may lead us.

Q FOCUS: *Jesus invites us to cast off our fear and follow him.*

Liturgical Calendar Connection

On February 11, the Catholic Church observes the World Day of the Sick. It was instituted in 1992 by Pope John Paul II. On this day of awareness, we pray for those suffering from illness, for the healthcare workers that treat and care for the sick, and for the caretakers who minister daily to the sick in our homes and communities. Healthcare workers are called to the highest standard of love and care, in imitation of Jesus. This day falls on the same day the Church celebrates the memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes. In 1858, Mary appeared to Bernadette Soubirous, a teenage peasant girl in France. Over the course of several months, Mary

appeared and instructed Bernadette to dig in the ground to unearth a spring. Miraculous healings occurred in many of those who drank from this spring. It is still a pilgrimage site for many who are sick and suffering.

Church Teaching Connection

"It is precisely that empty boat, the symbol of our incapacity, that becomes Jesus' 'cathedra,' the pulpit from which he proclaims the Word. And this is what the Lord loves to do—the Lord is the Lord of surprises, of miracles in surprises—to climb into the boat of our lives when we have nothing to offer him; to enter our voids and fill them with his presence; to make use of our poverty to proclaim his richness, our miseries to proclaim his mercy. Let us remember this: God does not want a cruise ship: a poor 'ramshackle' boat is enough for him, as long as we welcome him" (Pope Francis, Angelus Message, February 6, 2022).

Hear the Word

Use this resource, a Lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 5:1-11

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

All make the sign of the cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.

While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there

alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that the boats were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Everyone may be seated.

Reflect on the Word

When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:

In the chapter preceding the one we hear from today, Jesus performs many healings and other miracles. His actions gained the attention of many people as word quickly spread, and he developed quite a following. At the beginning of today's reading, we hear that the crowd at the sea of Galilee (also known as the lake of Gennesaret) was so large that Jesus needed some space, so he got onto a boat—Simon Peter's boat. We know from the previous chapter (Luke 4:38–39) that Jesus had cured Peter's mother-in-law, so there was some familiarity between them.

When Jesus instructs Peter to row away from the shore, he obeys. And when Jesus asks him to lay down his nets in the water after he had spent a night not catching anything, Peter obeys again, though he does not understand.

► **Have you ever been told to do something by a parent, teacher, or coach that you just didn't understand the reasoning for? What did you do? How did your relationship with that person inform your response?**

When Peter and the other fishermen did what Jesus asked them to, they were rewarded with a miraculous catch of fish. Peter and his fellow fishermen were astonished at this wondrous manifestation of Jesus' power. Jesus created an abundance where there was none. Peter, now recognizing Jesus as "Lord," was overwhelmed with emotion and tells Jesus to go away, for he was not worthy. Sometimes we, too, may feel we are not worthy of Jesus, or that we are too sinful to be loved by him. But as Peter found out, Jesus' love for us is unconditional and not based on our personal performance. Jesus loves us and wants us to follow him regardless of our worthiness.

► **What are some things that might hold someone your age back from following Jesus?**

Peter overcame his initial feelings of fear and unworthiness and became a follower of Jesus immediately. The others with him also dropped everything they had and followed Jesus.

Jesus addresses Peter when he tells him to not be afraid and tells him that "from now on you will be catching men." In this reading, we see the beginnings of the close relationship between Peter and Jesus and how Peter is depicted as starting to have a leadership role within the community of disciples (for example, he is the primary person who interacts with Jesus). We know that Jesus will ultimately choose Peter to lead the church and call him its "rock." We continue to recognize the legacy of Peter's leadership in the Church today when we call the pope the "successor of Peter."

We are also called to drop everything and follow Jesus as his disciples. Jesus met his disciples where they worked every day, near the sea, a place where they were comfortable. Jesus is ready to meet us

where we are as well, in the quiet of our hearts, in our schools, at our jobs. When we put our trust in him, we can overcome our fears, knowing that Jesus is always present, waiting for us to follow him.

Wrapping It Up

Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the "Church Teaching Connection" on page 136.

Though he was afraid, Peter chose to follow Jesus.

Jesus loves us and wants us to follow him.

Jesus calls us to be disciples and enter into a deep relationship with him.

Act on the Word

Fear Transformed

For this activity, you will need news articles or computers and phones, a whiteboard, Bibles, construction paper, writing utensils, and markers.

Lead the teens in a discussion about the fears we face. Begin by reminding them that we live in a broken, sinful world that sometimes causes us fear. We face uncertain futures, both in the larger world (war, famine, ecological disasters, etc.) and in our personal world (college, career, school, etc.). We experience danger and difficulties at times in our schools, homes, or among our friends. We all deal with a lot of unknowns and uncertainties that sometimes cause us to be afraid.

Jesus hears the fear in our hearts and is always with us. He doesn't want our fear to prevent us from turning to him. We are encouraged to pray to ask for comfort and strength and to give our fears to God. We can also talk with one another about what scares us and be transparent and vulnerable with those close

to us in the hope that by sharing our fears, we can gather strength as a community to overcome them.

As a large group, brainstorm some of the fears the teens might have or that others their age might experience. They can use newspapers, computers, or their phones to help in their brainstorming. As they comment on them, write them on the whiteboard.

Once the board is full, invite the teens to now turn their attention to finding words of encouragement that can help them when they are struggling. Give them Bibles and construction paper and markers and ask them to write or draw encouraging words and images that they find in the Bible that can help them overcome their fear. If there is time when they are finished, ask for volunteers to share their words with the group. Have them take home their papers and put them somewhere in their rooms where they can see them every day.

Closing Prayer

*Lord God,
as we see your glory in our midst,
may we renew our efforts
to share your love
in our words and actions.
Help us to never waver in our faith
and to trust in your goodness and care for us.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

For Next Sunday

To help teens prepare for next Sunday's Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at www.ltp.org/lwgr. Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.