

Worthy of a Big Calling

LESSON

6

Jesus said to Simon, “Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” (Luke 5:10b)



Background Scripture:
Luke 5:1-11
Print Passage:
Luke 5:1-11



Ezra is the senior class president for Smithhale High School. One major responsibility of the president is to collect ideas from the students for a special project or gift that the class donates to the school. Moving through the last semester of his senior year, Ezra thought about what the senior class could do to leave their mark on the school. Ezra knew that he did not want to buy a statue or a fixture such as stadium bleachers, like many other senior classes had done in the past. Whatever project or gift the senior class chose, Ezra wanted it to be something significant that would leave a positive legacy of service for many years to come. Ezra asked his parents and Sunday school teacher for ideas for a school project. He also talked to as many seniors as he could to find out their thoughts and ideas. Many of the students wanted to buy trees or other greenery for beautification projects. That was a good idea, but Ezra wanted to do something that was more service-oriented.

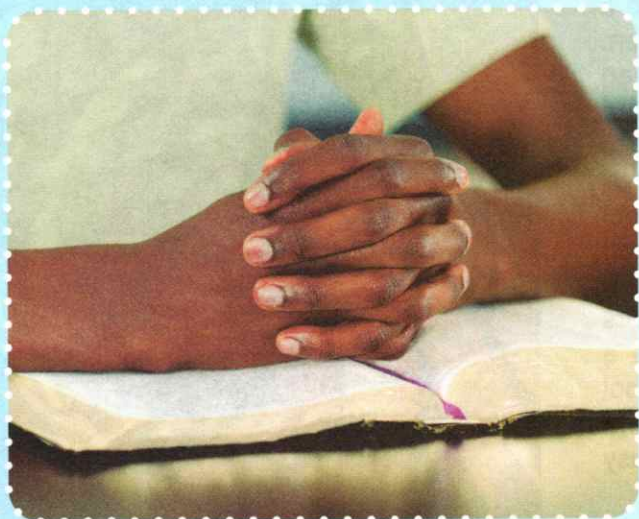
As Ezra was driving home from school one day, he noticed a long line of people standing outside of the community garden. “That’s it,” Ezra thought. Ezra envisioned a partnership between the seniors and the community garden workers. Ezra arranged his schedule to meet with the community garden supervisor to share his idea. The supervisor met with Ezra willingly and offered several different ways that students from Smithhale High School could offer service throughout the school year. Ezra was pleased that the community garden supervisor thought the partnership was a perfect idea. For as long as the school wanted, seniors and other students from Smithhale High School would have a place and way in which to serve the community. Once the school principal approved the partnership between the senior class and the community garden, Ezra and his senior class team got busy working out the details of the agreement.





Luke 5:1-11

1 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. **2** He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. **3** He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. **4** When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." **5** Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." **6** When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. **7** So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. **8** When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" **9** For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, **10** and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." **11** So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.



Intersect

Today's lesson records a miraculous catch that awed the men who would become the first disciples to follow Jesus. Still in Galilee, Jesus' reputation had grown. When Jesus spoke, crowds of people came to listen. On this particular day, the crowd was pressing in on Jesus so much that He decided to put some distance between the crowd and Himself. Jesus climbed into a boat that was near the shore and asked its owner, Simon (whom Jesus would later rename "Peter"), to put it out a little into the water. Jesus continued to teach the crowds from the boat.

After Jesus finished speaking, He told Simon to take the boat farther out to fish. Simon was not excited about Jesus' command because Simon and his friends had spent the entire night fishing, but with no success. Nevertheless, Simon did as Jesus said. This time, they caught so many fish that the nets were tearing from the weight. He called his partners to come with the other boat to help him, and the same thing happened to them. There were so many fish that the boats almost sank!

Simon and the others with him realized that Jesus was the one who made the difference in their situation. Simon knew he was a sinner and did not feel worthy to be in Jesus' presence. Jesus assured Simon and the others that He would make them great fishers of men. From that time on, Simon, James, and John left everything behind and followed Jesus.

• Inside Out

After Jesus finished teaching, He shifted His focus to Simon and the other fishermen. The night before, Simon and his crew were unsuccessful in catching fish; and now Jesus wanted them to fish in the same lake where they had previously failed. Simon obeyed Jesus and received a miraculous blessing. The bounty of fish they caught was so great that they were barely able to handle it. Simon and the others recognized Jesus' power and authority and followed Him. In every challenging situation, Jesus makes the difference. Trust Jesus and follow Him.