

**Luke: The Mission**  
Week 4 – “Building the Team”

**Summary:**

C. S. Lewis (1898 – 1963) once told the story of his conversion and described himself in the moment as “the most reluctant convert in all of England.” This week, as we continue to make our way through Luke’s gospel, we the reluctance with which Peter became a “disciple.”

As you read Luke 5, you’ll notice three stages in Peter’s journey to following Jesus:

1. Compliance (“because you say so”)
2. Conviction / Confession (“I am a sinful man”)
3. Commission (“I will make you fishers of men”)

The story we’re reading this week from Luke invites us to think about the different paths that lead people to faith in Jesus and to a commitment to follow him. For some there’s a dramatic moment of conversion such as Paul experienced on the Damascus road (Acts 9). For others the path to Jesus is long and arduous, marked by twists and turns and setbacks. Luke 5 features two “call” stories. The first, as we’ve noted, is the call to Peter. Later in the chapter Jesus extends the same invitation (“follow me”) to Levi – best known to us as Matthew.

**Scripture text:**

Read Luke 5:1-11, 27-31; 6:12-16

**For Discussion / reflection:**

1. How did you come to be a follower of Jesus? Was it a gradual, growing sense of knowing you belonged to him? Or was there an identifiable moment of “decision”? Or was there a gradual process that led to a decision? Share your story of how this happened.
2. How does the call story of Luke 5:1-11 compare with what we read in Mark 1:16-20?
3. Every text has a subtext. The words we read or hear often have an underlying message. As you read Peter’s words to Jesus in Luke 5:5, what do you hear as an underlying message?

4. Peter does what Jesus says and takes the boat to deep water to let the nets down for a catch. In this moment would you describe Peter as merely compliant, or is he obedient? What is the difference?
5. In Sunday's message, Marnie observed that Peter uses two different words of address in speaking to Jesus. At 5:5 he calls Jesus "Master." At 5:8 he calls Jesus "Lord." As you compare those two words and the moment in which they are used, how are they different?
6. Why does the event of 5:7 cause Peter to respond in 5:8 by confessing his sinfulness? How do you think of the connection between God's grace and our confession of sin? Is grace the result of our confession, or is it what leads to make our confession?
7. In both the call of Peter and Levi we are told that they both "left everything" in response to Jesus' call to follow. As you look especially at Peter's story, what had happened to lead him from his response in 5:5 to the "left everything" moment in 5:11?
8. In Luke 5:31 Jesus made an important statement to his critics follow the call of Levi and the party with all Levi's friends. What does this statement tell us about joining Jesus in his mission? What implications does it have for Grace Church?