



Sermon Growth Guide

September 19, 2021

Belong – Break Into Belonging

Luke 5:1-11

Key Verse: Luke 5:8 “When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, ‘Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!’”

Big Idea: Jesus comes into your life so that you will never be lost or alone again.

Foundations

Pastor Tim describes how Jesus barges into Peter’s life. Peter is exhausted and frustrated by his work. No fish, no money, no food on the table. And to make matters worse, Peter and his friends are tending those nets that had failed them – the reminders of their failure. Jesus is in the background teaching, but the fishermen don’t seem to be paying attention.

Peter’s apparent, early disinterest doesn’t deter Jesus. Jesus asks Peter to support His ministry by using Peter’s boat as a sound system. It’s easy to think that Peter wanted to be left alone so he could get some sleep and try again for a profitable catch. But Jesus intrudes and creates a relationship. Since the Bible doesn’t have emojis, we don’t know if Peter’s obedience to Jesus’ command to go fishing again was genuine or sarcastic. It doesn’t matter – they are together and Peter is no longer alone with his thoughts.

The boatload of fish makes Peter realize that he is with someone who is not an ordinary man. As Pastor Tim said, Peter is now open to God when he refers to Jesus as Lord and confesses his own sinful human nature. Peter has moved from cynicism to honesty, from discouraging work to purposeful mission. He now knows he belongs to God and will soon belong to other disciples. How would you describe your own journey to belonging in the family of God?

Understanding God’s Word

This event is often called “The Miraculous Catch of Fish.” In our wonder at this successful fishing expedition, we often forget that this miracle also put Peter and his partners in jeopardy. Verse 7 says, “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.” Those partners were James and John. All of these men left everything to follow Jesus. What does this episode say to you about how what happens in your life affects others as Jesus moves you into belonging to Him and His people?

Applying God’s Word

Jesus asked Peter to do something that he had already done—to no effect. Peter had evidence that there were no fish to be had. Even so, he obeyed Jesus. Describe a time when, in the face of contradictory evidence, you did what God was asking you to do. What happened? In what ways did that impact your sense of belonging? Also, in the aftermath, Jesus tells Peter not to be afraid. What do you think Peter would fear?

Witnessing God’s Word

The martyred missionary Jim Elliot said, “He is no fool to give up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” Peter and his friends did that. How do you think that plays out in your life?

ALONE IS NO GOOD. JESUS INVITES YOU TO BELONG.