

Week 1: All In

Peter had already finished a long night of fishing—and it had been fruitless. The nets were empty, his arms were tired, and honestly, he was probably frustrated. Then Jesus shows up. And not only does Jesus borrow his boat as a makeshift pulpit, but He tells Peter to do the very thing Peter had just failed at: “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch” (v. 4).

Peter’s response is so human: “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything...” (v. 5). Translation: This doesn’t make sense. I’ve already tried. I’m exhausted. I don’t see the point.

But then Peter adds a phrase that changes everything: “But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

That’s the hinge moment. Not the miraculous catch. Not even the moment the disciples left their boats behind. The real turning point was Peter’s choice to trust Jesus’ word over his own experience.

And here’s the thing: the miracle that followed wasn’t about fish. It’s about purpose.. Jesus wasn’t just filling nets; He filled their lives with purpose. By the end of the story, Peter, James, and John had left the greatest catch of their lives behind -not to chase success, but to follow Jesus into something greater. Because of his miracle they believe that He had more for them than what they were pursuing in the moment.

Reflection

Where are you standing at the shore with an empty net right now?

- A prayer you’ve prayed a hundred times with no answer?
- A dream you’ve pursued only to feel disappointed?
- A place in your life where you’re bone-tired of trying?

Jesus’ invitation is the same: “Put out into the deep.” Trust His word even when your experience screams otherwise. The miracle may not look like full nets of fish—it may look like deeper intimacy, renewed faith, or a completely new direction. Where might He be calling you into purpose?

Action Step

This week, identify one area where you’ve been holding back in “shallow waters” because of past discouragement. Write down Peter’s words: “*Because you say so, I will.*” Pray them over that very place, and then take one small step of obedience that feels uncomfortable but faithful.

Day 1: Why Purpose Matters

Read: Scripture: Luke 5:1–11

When Peter pulled in the greatest catch of his career, you'd think that would be the high point of his story. Yet the miracle wasn't the fish—it was the call. Jesus redirected Peter's whole life: "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people"

Here's the key: Jesus didn't just save Peter *from* something (fear, failure, sin). He saved him *for* something purpose.

That's why purpose matters to the Christian. It's not optional. It's not about chasing a passion project or finding your dream job. (Despite what culture might say) Purpose is in its very essence, the expression of discipleship. To follow Jesus is to step into His mission - it's what we say the moment we agree to follow Jesus. That our biggest step is stepping into HIS mission for our lives.

Without that purpose, faith can shrink into maintenance mode attending services, reading devotionals, but never seeing the ripple effect of our lives. With purpose, ordinary things (our workplace, our parenting, our conversations) become Kingdom assignments. Purpose is the difference between catching fish to survive and fishing for people to bring life.

Reflection

1. How do you usually define "purpose" -through career, passion, or calling?
2. What would it look like if your purpose was defined not by what you *achieve* but by who you follow?
3. Where might Jesus be redirecting you from comfort into calling?

Day 2:

From the very beginning, humanity was made for purpose. Genesis 1:28 says: "*God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'*"

Work was never actually punishment - there was meant to be joy, fulfillment, and harmony in how we filled our days and time (I know, seems like a very distant thought). Rather than toil - work gave us the fulfillment of our day. Adam and Eve weren't simply surviving in Eden—they were cultivating it, stewarding it, reflecting the Creator's image by creating, tending, and bringing order.

But then came the lies and sin with it. Hear me - sin didn't erase our purpose, but it did distort it. Work became toil. Desire became disordered. The calling to steward creation gave way to the craving to *control* creation. That's why the Teacher in Ecclesiastes laments: "*I have seen all*

the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind” (Ecclesiastes 1:14).

Isn't that exactly how empty nets feel?

You plan. You push. You pour out. And then you look down at your hands empty. The sting isn't just in the failure. It's in the haunting sense that you were made for more. That something inside you is still aching for the Eden you lost.

And so we chase. We chase money, reputation, romance, applause, security, even ministry success. But so often, those nets come up hollow. Because purpose apart from God is always a vapor - here for the moment and gone the next. That's why Peter's empty nets are such a powerful metaphor for us.

Here's the good news: Jesus steps into boats like that. He doesn't wait until your nets are full—He climbs into the mess of futility, the ache of disappointment, the sting of emptiness. Because only in Him is fractured purpose restored.

Reflection:

- Where in your life do you feel like you're "chasing the wind"?
- What nets have you been hauling—hoping they'll satisfy—that are still coming up empty?

Day 3: More Than You Can Carry

Scripture: Luke 5:6–7

Despite what you may believe - your purpose isn't about you. Or rather it's not JUST about you. Contrary to what popular opinion might be - true purpose isn't about worrying about you (do you have enough, do you need more, are you happy")

Here's the secret of Peter's fish: the miracle wasn't about fish at all. It was about showing Peter what his new purpose would look like—abundance that couldn't be contained in one life, one boat, or one person's strength. He had to call over more people to share in it - to rejoice with it.

Because when purpose is only about you, it always caves in on itself. Solomon learned this the hard way. In Ecclesiastes, he looked back on a life full of achievements—palaces built, vineyards planted, wealth amassed—and confessed: *"I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind"* (Ecclesiastes 1:14). Later he lamented, *"I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me"* (Ecclesiastes 2:18).

In other words, when purpose ends with self, it ends in emptiness. Work turns to weariness. Wealth never satisfies. Even legacy feels fragile. Self-centered nets will always come up hollow.

God's design has always been outward. When He blessed Abram, He said, *"I will bless you... and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you"* (Genesis 12:2–3). Jesus echoed the same in His commission: *"Go and make disciples of all nations"* (Matthew 28:19). In other words, the blessing in your boat was never meant to stay there. Purpose is not about self-fulfillment but about multiplication.

Think about it, if Peter had tried to hoard the catch for himself? He'd have lost everything. The weight of it would have sunk his boat. And isn't that true for us, too? When we clutch tightly to God's gifts whether it's because of pride that we think we know the 'right' way to be a disciple, or worry that we ourselves won't have enough- we end up distorting.

Purpose is not measured by how full your nets are, but by how many people get to share in the catch.

Reflection:

- Where are you tempted to define purpose in terms of self - success, comfort, reputation?
- Who is one person this week you can intentionally "share the catch" with, whether that's encouragement, your testimony, or simply presence?
- What would it look like for your job, family, or community to become your "fishing waters" for people?

Day 4: His Power in Our Weakness

One of the most startling parts of this retelling in Luke is when Peter didn't puff up with pride at his catch - rather he saw Jesus and immediately cried "Go away from me, Lord, I am sinful".

Instead, he noticed that his cracks of imperfection couldn't line up with Jesus' holiness. How much is the same for us! It's easy to compare and think that our faults, inadequacies, and failures push us out of God's plan.

Isn't it funny though if you read through scripture - using people's flaws has always been apart of Gods plans?

- Moses stuttered, yet God chose him to confront Pharaoh.
- Gideon was paralyzed by fear, yet God called him "mighty warrior."

- David was overlooked, the last-born shepherd boy, yet God anointed him king.
- Paul persecuted Christians, yet God used him to spread the gospel to the nations.

Paul put it plainly: *“But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong... so that no one may boast before him”* (1 Corinthians 1:27–29).

And again in 2 Corinthians 12:9–10: *“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me... For when I am weak, then I am strong.”*

Meaning that to truly walk as a disciple of Christ means to delight in where we don’t quite have the skills, talent, time, or equipment - indeed, to even be excited with it. Because these are the moments and the time that we know God is going to provide what is needed. What He asks for in those moments is our humility and need.

Reflection:

- Where do you feel unworthy or too broken for God to use?
- How might that very weakness become the stage for His strength?
- Instead of hiding your cracks, what would it mean to boast in them—to let others see how God works through them?

Day 5: Leaving It All Behind

Scripture: Luke 5:11

“So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.”

It’s staggering when you stop and think about it. Peter, James, and John had just hauled in the catch of their lives. Their nets were bursting, their boats overloaded. For a fisherman, this was the jackpot, enough money and food to secure their families for months.

It would be like you and I suddenly landing THE job that we had worked the last decade to achieve - and you. Are. SET. The salary, the benefits, the retirement plan, the title...and immediately walking away.

This is the final turn of the story: purpose requires surrender. Not partial surrender, not a Sunday-morning version, but a walking away kind of surrender. The call of Jesus will always cost you something—comfort, reputation, possessions, control. But what you gain is immeasurably greater.

Jesus would later put it this way: *“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me”* (Luke 9:23). Paul echoed it when he said, *“Whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ... I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord”* (Philippians 3:7–8).

Can you see the pattern?

Purpose is not just about stepping into the new -it’s about stepping away from what once defined you. For Peter, it was nets. For Paul, it was credentials.

For us, it might be a fat savings account, public image, the bigger house, even just someone’s opinion of us.

That’s a miracle, though.

Not the full nets. It’s that the men walked away empty-handed - and yet more full than ever before

It’s what knowing Jesus does. He beckons us to go all in - to leave all behind and follow Him. v

For each person it looks a little different but the invitation remains the same.

Reflection:

- What “nets” are you still clinging to—habits, fears, possessions, or identities—that keep you from fully following Jesus?
- What would it practically look like to pull your boat to shore and leave that behind?
- Do you believe that what you gain in Christ outweighs what you leave behind?