# Following Jesus: The Call to Discipleship



Explore the calling of the first disciples in Luke 5:1—11 and learn to respond by leaving all behind to follow Jesus wholeheartedly.





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#### Introduction

Welcome to this 7-day journey through the calling of the first disciples, based on Luke 5:1—11. In the Gospels, Jesus' invitation to follow Him was radical and transformational. It wasn't just about a change in career or lifestyle but a deep, wholehearted commitment to His mission. This study will guide you through what it means to leave behind your old life—your comfort zone, security, and familiar routines—to wholeheartedly pursue Jesus.

In Luke 5:1—11, Jesus calls fishermen Simon Peter, James, and John to follow Him and become "fishers of men." Their immediate response, leaving everything behind, challenges us to consider the sacrifices and trust it takes to follow Christ. What does it truly mean for us today to respond to Jesus' call? Throughout this week, we will unpack the heart of discipleship, learning from Scripture and reflecting on how to apply these lessons in our own lives.

Each day includes a key Scripture, supporting verses to deepen your understanding, an encouraging devotional, reflection questions to ponder, journaling prompts, and a prayer to align your heart with God's call. Whether you are new to following Jesus or seeking renewal in your walk with Him, these studies will inspire and equip you to leave behind anything that hinders your faith journey.

As you engage, consider how Jesus sees and calls you personally. His invitation remains the same: "Follow me." Are you ready to say yes, as the first







disciples did, and step into a life transformed by God's grace and purpose? Let's begin this exciting journey together!

















#### Your Verse

Luke 5:1-11 NIV - "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Matthew 4:19 "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."
- John 15:16 "You did not choose me, but I chose you... to go and bear fruit."







#### Devotional: Responding to Jesus' Invitation

In Luke 5, Jesus challenges Simon Peter and his partners to cast their nets where they wouldn't normally fish—into deep waters. Despite their initial doubts, their obedience leads to a miraculous catch of fish. This moment changes everything for them.

Jesus' call to the first disciples is an invitation to a new purpose beyond their familiar job. It asks them to trust Him even when the outcome seems uncertain. They leave their nets and their livelihood behind to follow Him.

What is Jesus calling you to let go of today to follow Him more closely? Often, following Jesus means stepping into the unknown with faith. It's a personal invitation to trust God's leading, even when we don't see the full picture. Like Peter, we find freedom and fulfillment on God's path, not our own.







# Reflect and Apply

1.	What are some 'nets' in your life that you need to let go to follow Jesus more fully?
2.	How do you respond when God's call challenges your comfort or security?
	In what ways has following Jesus reshaped your understanding of purpose?







# **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about a time you felt called by God to do something unfamiliar or challenging.
2.	List areas where you struggle to trust Jesus completely.
3.	Reflect on what 'casting your net into deep water' might look like in your current life.







#### Prayer for Today

Lord, thank You for calling me to a purpose greater than I could imagine. Help me to trust You as I step beyond my comfort zones. Teach me to hear Your voice clearly and respond with faith. Give me courage to leave behind what holds me back and to follow You wholeheartedly. May my life bring glory to You as I trust Your plan every day. *In Jesus' name, Amen.*

















#### Your Verse

Luke 5:4 NIV – "When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.""

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Hebrews 11:1 "Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."
- Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."







#### Devotional: Obedience When It's Hard to Believe

Simon Peter had just spent all night fishing without success. His experience told him to stay shallow or stop completely. Yet when Jesus asked him to put out into deep water, Peter obeyed—a profound act of trust despite doubt.

Often, God's call requires stepping beyond what we can see or understand. We face uncertainty but are invited to trust God's wisdom instead of leaning on our own limited perspective.

Like Peter, what would it look like for you to obey God's leading even when it seems counterintuitive? Trust deepens through practice and surrender. When we obey Jesus, we position ourselves to experience His power and provision in ways we never imagined.







# Reflect and Apply

1.	What doubts or fears hold you back from obeying God's call fully?
2.	How can you cultivate trust when God's direction seems unclear?
	Recall a time when trusting God resulted in unexpected blessing—how did it shape your faith?







#### **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Describe an area where you find it difficult to trust God completely.
2.	Write about a past experience where God showed up after you stepped out in faith.
3.	List practical ways you can nurture trust in God this week.







#### **Prayer for Today**

Father, teach me to trust You with all my heart, especially when I cannot see the way ahead. Help me to obey Your voice without hesitation. Replace my doubts with faith and my fears with peace. Strengthen me to step out into the 'deep water' of Your calling. Thank You for being my guide and provider. *In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.* 💥 🙏 😭















#### Your Verse

Luke 5:8 NIV – "When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Isaiah 6:5 "Woe to me!... I am a man of unclean lips."
- Psalm 51:10 "Create in me a pure heart, O God."







#### Devotional: Humbled in Jesus' Presence

After witnessing the miraculous catch, Peter immediately senses his unworthiness and falls at Jesus' feet in humility. Encountering Jesus' holiness exposes our sinfulness, leading us to repentance.

This moment reminds us that coming near to Jesus brings conviction but also restoration. Peter's honest acknowledgment of his sin opens the door for grace.

Are you willing to come before Jesus with humility, confessing your faults and receiving His forgiveness? True discipleship starts with recognizing our need for a Savior and responding in faith.







# Reflect and Apply

1.	How does recognizing Jesus' holiness affect your view of yourself?
2.	What areas of your life need confession and surrender before God today?
	How does God's grace encourage you to follow Him despite your imperfections?







# **Journaling Prompts**

	Write a personal confession to God, expressing what you feel convicted about.
2.	Reflect on how Jesus has shown you grace in your life.
3.	Describe what humility means to you in your relationship with God.







#### Prayer for Today

Lord Jesus, I come before You acknowledging my sinfulness and unworthiness. Please forgive me and cleanse my heart. Help me to stay humble and open to Your correction. Thank You for Your grace that restores and empowers me to follow You faithfully. May I always recognize Your holiness and respond with a repentant heart. In Your mercy, I pray, Amen. 💸



















#### Your Verse

Luke 5:11 NIV – "So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Romans 12:1 "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God."
- Philippians 3:8 "I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."







#### Devotional: All In: The Cost and Joy of Discipleship

The first disciples' immediate response to Jesus' call—to leave everything and follow Him—shows the depth of their faith and commitment. Discipleship demands more than interest or curiosity; it calls for a complete surrender of our hearts and lives.

What does it mean for you to leave 'everything' behind in following Jesus? It may involve giving up control, changing relationships, or reevaluating priorities. The reward is knowing Christ intimately and participating in His kingdom work.

God desires our whole hearts, not half-measures. By offering ourselves fully, we become vessels for His power and love.







# Reflect and Apply

1.	What might you need to 'leave behind' to follow Jesus more fully?
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	How does committing to Jesus impact your daily choices and long-term goals?
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	In what ways can wholehearted faith transform your relationships and ministry?
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# **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about something you struggle to surrender to Jesus.
2.	Reflect on the blessings that come from fully committing your life to God.
3.	List ways you can demonstrate your faith through action this week.







#### **Prayer for Today**

**Father God, I want to follow You with my whole heart.** Help me recognize areas of my life I need to surrender. Give me courage to step away from old habits, fears, and distractions. Teach me to trust You fully and live for Your glory alone. Thank You for inviting me into a life of purpose and joy. *In Jesus's name, Amen.*

















Day 5: 6 Empowered by the Holy Spirit

#### Your Verse

Acts 1:8 NIV - "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- John 14:26 "The Advocate, the Holy Spirit... will teach you all things."
- Romans 8:11 "The Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you."







Day 5: 6 Empowered by the Holy Spirit

#### Devotional: Living by the Spirit's Power

After following Jesus, the disciples were empowered by the coming Holy Spirit to boldly proclaim the Gospel. Our journey of discipleship isn't meant to be walked alone but fueled by God's Spirit living within us.

Are you open to the Holy Spirit's power to guide, teach, and equip you? This divine empowerment enables us to live out our faith courageously and effectively.

The Holy Spirit renews our hearts and equips us for the mission of making disciples. Without Him, following Jesus remains a human effort; with Him, it becomes a supernatural adventure.







Day 5: 🖰 Empowered by the Holy Spirit

# Reflect and Apply

1.	How do you experience the Holy Spirit's guidance in your life?
2.	What fears or doubts might God want to replace with His Spirit's power?
3.	In what ways can you rely more on the Holy Spirit in daily decisions?







Day 5: 🖰 Empowered by the Holy Spirit

# **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about your understanding or experience of the Holy Spirit.
2.	List moments when you felt empowered by God beyond your natural ability.
3.	Reflect on areas where you desire greater spiritual boldness.







Day 5: 6 Empowered by the Holy Spirit

#### Prayer for Today

Holy Spirit, come and fill me anew. Guide my thoughts, strengthen my faith, and empower my witness. Help me live a life that reflects Jesus' love and truth. Teach me to depend on Your strength rather than my own. Use me for Your glory and kingdom purposes. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 🐧 🙏 🌬









# Day 6: Following Jesus Daily









Day 6: S Following Jesus Daily

#### Your Verse

Matthew 16:24 NIV – "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Galatians 2:20 "I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."
- Colossians 2:6 "Continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him."







Day 6: S Following Jesus Daily

#### Devotional: Commitment that Transforms Every Day

Discipleship is not a one-time decision but a daily, ongoing commitment. Jesus calls us to deny ourselves and take up our cross every day, symbolizing surrender and willingness to follow despite challenges.

How can you embody this daily surrender in practical ways? It means choosing God's will over our desires, embracing sacrifice, and persevering in faith.

Rooted in Christ, we find strength to face trials and joy in our relationship with Him. Growing as a disciple involves continual learning, obedience, and dependence on Jesus for each moment.







Day 6: O Following Jesus Daily

# Reflect and Apply

1.	What does 'taking up your cross daily' look like in your life right now?
	Where do you find it most challenging to deny your own desires for God's purposes?
3.	How can you stay rooted in Christ amid daily pressures and distractions?







Day 6: O Following Jesus Daily

# **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about daily habits that help deepen your walk with Jesus.
	Reflect on a recent situation where you had to choose obedience over comfort.
3.	List ways to remind yourself each day to follow Jesus faithfully.







Day 6: S Following Jesus Daily

#### Prayer for Today

**Jesus, help me to follow You daily with a surrendered heart.** Give me strength to deny myself and embrace Your will above my own. Teach me to persevere even when the path is difficult. Root me deeply in Your love and truth so I may reflect Your light in the world. *In Your name I pray, Amen.*  $\bigcirc$   $\bigcirc$ 

















#### Your Verse

Matthew 28:19 NIV - "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Mark 16:15 "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."
- 2 Timothy 4:5 "Do the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry."







#### Devotional: Embracing the Great Commission

**Following Jesus inevitably leads us to share His message with others.** The first disciples became fishers of men, spreading the good news to transform lives and communities.

How is God calling you to participate in His mission? Whether through words, deeds, or prayer, every follower of Christ has a role in making disciples.

As you conclude this study, consider your unique gifts and opportunities to impact others for Jesus. The call to follow involves going beyond ourselves to love and serve the world.







# Reflect and Apply

1.	What barriers keep you from actively sharing your faith?
2.	How can you use your gifts to fulfill God's mission in your community?
3.	What steps will you take to be more intentional about making disciples?







# **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Describe your personal mission as a follower of Jesus.
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2.	Write about someone you might invite to learn about Christ.
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3.	Plan practical ways to engage in ministry or outreach this month.
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#### **Prayer for Today**

Lord, send me out as Your witness to share Your love and truth. Open my eyes to those around me who need You. Equip me to speak boldly and live authentically. Help me to fish for men with grace and compassion. Use my life to glorify Your name and expand Your kingdom. *In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.* 









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