

## PREPARING AT HOME

February 4-10, 2019

*Focus reading:* Luke 5:1–11 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=414579048>)

*Other lectionary readings:* Isaiah 6:1–8–13; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1–11

*Theme:* Being Surprised

Simon Peter was a fisherman by trade. It was not an easy job. Experience taught him which waters had the most fish at what time of day. How frustrating it must have been to come up empty after spending an entire night fishing! It would have been frustrating, though not surprising, since it was an area of the lake where fish were not known to be plentiful. Unlike Simon, Jesus was not a fisherman. He was a teacher and healer. Yet, when he directs Peter to put his net down into the deep water, Simon Peter follows his instructions. As a result, Simon Peter and the other fishers fill two boats with so many fish that their nets are beginning to break and the boats are starting to sink! One would think Simon Peter would have been overjoyed, but instead he tells Jesus to go away and declares his own sinfulness. In so doing Simon Peter responds to a miracle of abundance with fear and embarrassment focused on his own shortcomings. Jesus, however, does not criticize Simon Peter's fishing abilities or chastise him for his inadequacies. Instead, Jesus affirms him as a fisher and a person of worth, inviting him to use his gifts in a new and surprising way - catching people! Jesus invites those who believe in him to believe in themselves and what Jesus can accomplish through their lives. When we stop focusing on what we cannot do, when we obey Christ's call and "go deep," we may be amazed at how full our lives will be!

### SURPRISE!

When was the last time you were surprised? Does God ever surprise you? How?

### USING OUR GIFTS

Jesus wants the fishers to use their gifts in a new way. What gifts do you have? What do you do well? What skills are required? How could you use those gifts to share your faith and God's love with others? Draw pictures of the way(s) that you use your gift now and the new and perhaps surprising way(s) you could use your gift.

### PRAYER

Loving God,  
your miracles are all around us.  
Forgive us when don't see them,  
or when we are so used to seeing them  
that they no longer surprise us or cause us to give thanks.  
Help us to see all of the surprising things  
you are doing in our world and in our lives,  
and help us to be  
all that you have created us to be!  
Amen.

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