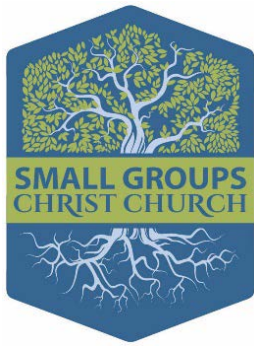


## CHRIST CHURCH SMALL GROUPS

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany – The Week beginning February 9, 2025



### Read Luke 5:1-11:

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

### Background:

The gospel passage teaches us about holiness and discipleship through Simon Peter’s encounter with Jesus. Peter, a fisherman, listens to Jesus and experiences a miraculous catch of fish. Despite feeling unworthy, Peter follows Jesus, leaving everything behind. This Gospel shows that growing in holiness requires saying yes to Jesus, working hard, and trusting God despite our imperfections. God calls us to follow Him and grow in our relationship with Him.

### Talking Points:

- Why did Simon Peter at first ask Jesus to “go away”? What was Jesus’ response? Do you sometimes feel like Peter?
- What do the fishermen learn about the large catch of fish?
- How can you be more ready to answer God’s call like Peter?
- What sacrifices might God be calling you to make in order to follow Jesus more closely?

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.