



## A New Calling

**WEEK 1**

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### **Look Back** (10 minutes)

January 7 begins a five-week sermon series, *All Things New*. Pastor Curtis will help us consider the new season of salvation history ushered in by Jesus when He said in Mark 1:15, "The time has come, The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news." This new season offers a new calling, a new creation, a new commandment, a new community, and a new heaven and earth to those who believe.

As we begin this study, reflect briefly on the just concluded Advent study, *Let Heaven and Nature Sing* where we studied fulfilled prophecies, Mary's reaction to the Annunciation, Mary and Elizabeth's relationship, shepherds rejoicing at the birth of Jesus, and the journey of the Magi.

- What new insights did you gain from the Advent study?
- What is something you had forgotten about the birth narrative?
- In what ways has God stirred you to action as a result of the Advent study?

### **Read Aloud**

Passage for this week: **Luke 5:1-11**.

### **Head** (15-20 minutes)

**OBSERVE THE TEXT AND THE AUTHOR'S MAIN POINTS**

- Discuss verses 1-3 in detail. What is the setting? Who is with Jesus? What is everyone doing? What is Jesus doing as verse 3 concludes?
- In verse 5a, what was Simon's state of mind and mood? Why?
- Consider the responses to the miracle in verses 8-11. How do you think you would respond?

## **Heart** (15–20 minutes)

### **ENVISION HOW THE TEXT—WHEN APPLIED—MIGHT TRANSFORM YOUR INNER LIFE IN TERMS OF YOUR THOUGHTS, ATTITUDES, AND BEHAVIORS**

- In verse 5 Simon expresses doubt about Jesus' plan but then follows His directions. When have you responded like Simon in v. 5? How do you think God feels about that kind of response?
- Jesus asked Peter to go to the deep water. Where is He asking you to trust Him in the deep water in this season of your life?
- In the passage, Simon receives a new calling to follow Jesus as a lifelong disciple. How are you responding to your call to be a lifelong disciple of Jesus? What is your next step on the discipleship journey?

## **Hands** (10 minutes)

### **APPLY THE TEXT BY MOVING FROM INWARD REFLECTION TO OUTWARD ACTION LOOKING FOR WAYS TO LIVE THE TEXT OUT IN OUR LIVES TO SERVE OTHERS**

#### **Reaching Upwards: Growing in Your Relationship with God**

- In verse 10, Jesus tells Simon, "Do not be afraid." Where have you heard this phrase before? What fear do you need to set aside? How can you be more confident in God's leading in your life in 2024?
- How is God inviting you into a deeper relationship with Him and with others to know Him better? What actions will you take as you consider that invitation?

#### **Reaching Outward: Investing in Your Neighbors**

- What opportunities do you have to be a "fisher of people" (v. 10) right where you are? What steps are you taking to respond to this call with family, friends, and co-workers?
- Fall Alpha concluded in December, and there are follow-up activities planned. Pray that the seeds planted in Fall Alpha will continue to grow in the planned post-Alpha activities.
- To learn more about FPC local mission partners, plan to join the lunchtime visit (12–1:30 PM) on January 25 to Prestige Learning Institute (PLI). Also, consider attending a Cullen Middle School Teacher/Staff Appreciation Breakfast at 8 AM on January 10.

For more information about both of these, contact Madie Weir, Missions Coordinator, at [mweir@fpchouston.org](mailto:mweir@fpchouston.org).

## Reaching Beyond

- Jesus called Simon into a deeper engagement with the world for whom Christ died. How is He calling you to reach out to the world beyond your regular community?
- For those interested in Medical Missions, there is an M3 Conference (Mobilizing Medical Missions) in Houston February 16–17. Contact Madie Weir, Missions Coordinator, at [mweir@fpchouston.org](mailto:mweir@fpchouston.org) for details.
- Join the monthly virtual Engaging the Muslim World Prayer Time on January 18 from 12–1 PM. For the link to this virtual prayer time, contact Madie Weir, Missions Coordinator, at [mweir@fpchouston.org](mailto:mweir@fpchouston.org).