

Participant Journal

Defining Discipleship

Text: Luke 5:1–11

Main Idea

Discipleship is helping someone take the next step with Jesus.

Opening Reflection

People often use important words without clearly defining them. When we misunderstand the meaning of something important, it can lead to confusion and wrong expectations.

Take a moment to reflect:

What is something common that people struggle to define?

Write your thoughts below.

Why do you think having the wrong definition of something important can cause problems?

Now consider this question:

How would you define discipleship?

Read the Passage

Read **Luke 5:1–11**.

As you read, pay attention to the progression in Peter's interaction with Jesus.

Write down anything that stands out to you in the passage.

When I Am Unsure About Jesus

(Luke 5:4–5)

Peter had fished all night and caught nothing. When Jesus told him to try again, the instruction likely seemed unreasonable.

Yet Peter responded:

“But at your word I will let down the nets.”

Even though Peter had doubts, he chose to trust Jesus enough to obey.

Reflect

Why do you think Peter hesitated to follow Jesus' instruction?

What are some reasons people today feel unsure about Jesus?

Have you ever experienced a moment when you were unsure about following Jesus but chose to trust Him anyway? Describe that experience.

When I Am Unsure About Repentance

(Luke 5:8–10)

After the miraculous catch of fish, Peter became aware of his sinfulness in the presence of Jesus and said:

“Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.”

Moments of spiritual clarity often reveal both **God’s holiness** and **our need for grace**.

Reflect

Why do you think people often avoid dealing with their sin?

What are some common ways people try to deal with guilt or shame?

How does the gospel offer a different response to sin?

What role do other believers play in helping us grow through repentance and grace?

When I Am Unsure About the Mission

(Luke 5:10)

Jesus tells Peter:

“From now on you will be catching men.”

Peter likely assumed that following God meant becoming more religious or morally improved. Instead, Jesus invited him into a mission.

Following Jesus is not only about personal transformation. It is also about participating in God's work in the lives of others.

Reflect

What do many people think the Christian life is primarily about?

Why do you think believers sometimes focus only on personal growth instead of God's mission?

How does helping others follow Jesus change the way we think about our own faith?

When I Am Unsure of the Next Step

(Luke 5:11)

The passage concludes with Peter and the others leaving everything to follow Jesus.

This moment illustrates an important principle of discipleship:

Discipleship is helping someone take the next step with Jesus.

Spiritual growth usually happens one step at a time.

Reflect

Why do you think Jesus often leads people step by step instead of revealing everything at once?

What are some examples of "next steps" someone might take in their spiritual journey?

Examples might include:

- Beginning a habit of reading Scripture
- Repenting of a particular sin
- Trusting Jesus as Savior
- Being baptized
- Serving in the church
- Sharing your faith
- Investing in someone else's spiritual growth

Personal Reflection

Take time to prayerfully consider these questions.

What is the next step Jesus may be calling you to take right now?

Who is one person you could help take a next step with Jesus?

Prayer

Use this space to write a prayer asking God to guide your next step.

Key Reminder

Discipleship is not simply learning information or attending church activities.

Discipleship happens when we help one another take the next step with Jesus.