

Epiphany 5

For Group Meetings Between January 31 and February 6

Prayer of the Day: Good Lord, you have called us to leave everything and catch people for Jesus. Remind us regularly that we don't have to be perfect in order to do your work, and give us the courage to reach out to others with conviction and without pretense. Amen.

BIBLICAL EQUIPPING TOGETHER:

Share: How did last week's scripture (Luke 4:21-30) work in your life this week?

Mission: What was most satisfying about your ministry last week? Where do you see God at work? How did you participate in God's missional activity? **How did welcoming go last Sunday?**

Hear: Luke 5:1-11 (Silence before and after reading.)

Explore Questions: (Use these or develop your own.)

1. What did the crowd want from Jesus? What did he do in response?
2. How did Simon respond to Jesus' request? What happened?
3. What did Simon tell Jesus to do? Why do you suppose he was afraid?

Connect Questions: (Use these or develop your own.)

1. Where can people in our day expect to hear the word of God? Where do you hear it? What word have you received from God recently?
2. Why did Simon say, "It won't work." What did he then do? When you think something won't work, what do you do? How do church people often respond to new ideas?
3. When are you most likely to feel like a sinner? How does God use sinners? How is God using you? Have you ever caught any people?

Prepare: Let's take some time to think about what we've learned. In what way do you hear God calling on you to obey, something you might work on in the coming week? Is there a portion of scripture you feel called to meditate on? Jot down whatever you decide to work on.

BIBLICAL EQUIPPING APART:

Obey: During this week follow through on your intentions.

Meditate: Read Isaiah 6:1-8. What is the Spirit saying to you? **Reflect:** What have I learned in my week of living with this text? What can I share with my group when we next meet?

OUR MISSION TOGETHER: We celebrate Christ's presence, invite people into a growing relationship with Jesus, and equip them to serve in a broken world.

BIBLICAL EQUIPPING NOTES FOR CHRISTCARE LEADERS

Luke 5:1-11

In order for his ministry to continue Jesus would have to have disciples. After a particularly grueling morning of teaching he reaches out to some possible candidates. At first we might not think them to be likely candidates. He doesn't choose learned folks from the rabbinical schools who might be in the crowd. Instead he picks the working men who have been lounging around listening as he talked. The fishermen are impressed by their catch of fish and immediately want Jesus to go away...he's too holy for them. They're ordinary and profane...they're sinners. Amazingly Jesus chooses them to be his followers...and they leave everything and follow him. And the rest, as they say, is history!

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those
Who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours,
Now and forever. Amen.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified died and was buried;
He descended to the dead,
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen