



## *What's The Catch?*

**1 Peter 2:23-24:** When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”

### **LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:**

As we begin our new series, Fishing 101, we delve into the miraculous catch of fish that Jesus provides and how it changed Simon Peter’s life forever as he became a steadfast follower of Jesus and encourager of persecuted Christians. Jesus often chose people with ordinary skillsets to do extraordinarily mighty things, and Jesus continues to do this today. Jesus did not perform miracles as a publicity stunt. He wanted people to believe and to follow him. God won’t call you to do anything that won’t come with countless blessings. Let’s throw out those nets and see what we catch.

1A) What do you learn from the following verses about God’s providence?

Psalm 103:19

Acts 17:28

Matthew 5:45

Genesis 28:15

Philippians 2:13

1 Samuel 2:9

1B) PERSONAL: What areas of your life do you need to relinquish control of, allowing God to work His plan for your good and His Glory?

### **Read John 1:29-31**

2A) How does John introduce Jesus to the crowd?

2B) PERSONAL: What is your understanding of the sacrifices that were done to atone for the sins of the Jewish people? (consider digging deeper in Exodus 29:38-42)

2C) PERSONAL: The sins of the world were removed when Jesus died as the perfect sacrifice. How do you respond to this kind of selfless, immense love?

**Read Luke 5:1-7:**

3) PERSONAL: Simon Peter's response (v5) showed his faith in Jesus and a willingness to do what he was asked. Consider the following translation responses as you think of a circumstance or a calling that you feel is a request from God. Will this be your answer to Jesus?

"but if you say so..." (NLT)

"nevertheless at Your word..." (NKJV)  
"but I will do as you say..." (NASB)

"but because you say so..." (NIV)

**Read Luke 5:8-11:**

4A) How did Simon Peter react to this miracle of abundance?

4B) PERSONAL: Recall a time when prayers were answered, or good fortune came your way. What was your reaction? Was humbly thanking God part of your rejoicing?

5) PERSONAL: What does "following Jesus" look like in your life?

**Read 1 Peter 2:21-25:**

6) List the incredible qualities of Jesus as described in these verses.

7) PERSONAL: Think about what Jesus suffered and how he trusted in God the Father. In what ways can you put your trust in God during difficult times, following Jesus' example.

**ACT:** Jesus was a friend to the sick and to sinners. He taught his disciples to be "fishers of men" so as to reach those who needed saving. We should never underestimate what following Jesus can do in our lives and in the lives of those we touch. What's your next step? Do you need to accept Christ as your savior? Do you need to come back to Jesus after having fallen away? Do you need to embrace an area of ministry that will bring Jesus to those who don't know him? Throw out your fishing net, take a chance and see the blessings that come from following Jesus.

**Daily Devotional:** It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- This week let's explore passages that focus on being a follower of Jesus.

## **Monday:**

### **Acts 2:38-39 ESV**

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

## **Tuesday:**

### **John 8:12 NIV**

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

## **Wednesday:**

### **John 15:16-17 NIV**

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.

## **Thursday:**

### **Ephesians 5:1-2 NLT**

Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

## **Friday:**

### **Mark 10:28-31 ESV**

Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

## **Saturday:**

### **Matthew 5:15-16 NLT**

No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

## **Sunday:**

### **1 Peter 2:21 ESV**

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

