



Small Group Guide: The Journey of Peter - From Fish to Fisherman

### **Opening Prayer (5 minutes)**

Thank God for gathering you together and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and reveal truth to each person present.

### **Icebreaker Question (10 minutes)**

If you could describe your spiritual journey in terms of a job or profession transformation (like fisherman to fisher of men), what would it be and why?

### **Key Takeaways from the Sermon**

The Six Stages of Peter's Transformation:

Called to Follow - Discipleship begins with obedience, not achievement

Stretched to Trust - God stretches what He intends to use

Trained to Surrender - Kingdom advancement requires laying down our weapons

Restored Through Love - Jesus heals our hearts before entrusting us with His work

Filled to Proclaim - The Holy Spirit empowers what Jesus restores

Sent to the World - Disciples are called, formed, and filled so they can be sent

## Central Truth:

"In the kingdom of men, fish are caught to die. But in the kingdom of God, fish are caught so they can truly live."

## Discussion Questions

### Section 1: Called to Follow (15 minutes)

1. Peter wasn't qualified when Jesus called him—he was called because of what Jesus saw he would become. How does this change your perspective on God's call on your life?
2. What "familiar shores" has Jesus asked you to leave behind to follow Him? What made (or makes) that difficult?
3. Read Matthew 4:19-20. The disciples left their nets "immediately." What does immediate obedience look like in your life right now?

### Section 2: Stretched to Trust & Trained to Surrender (15 minutes)

4. The sermon said, "God stretches what He intends to use." Share a time when God stretched your faith beyond your comfort zone. What did you learn?
5. Peter tried to defend Jesus with a sword, but had to learn to surrender. What "weapons" do you rely on instead of trusting God? (Examples: control, self-reliance, force, manipulation)
6. Why is surrender often harder than action? What does biblical surrender look like practically?

### Section 3: Restored Through Love (15 minutes)

7. After Peter's denial, Jesus restored him by asking "Do you love me?" three times. Why was love the foundation of Peter's restoration rather than performance or promises?

8. Have you experienced a season where you felt you failed God? How did (or could) Jesus' restoration change that narrative?

9. The sermon states: "Jesus heals Peter's heart before he entrusts him with his flock." Why is heart healing necessary before ministry or service?

## Section 4: Filled to Proclaim & Sent to the World (15 minutes)

10. Peter went from denying Jesus before a servant girl to proclaiming Him before thousands. What made the difference? How does the Holy Spirit's power differ from human effort?

11. Read Acts 2:41. Peter's first sermon resulted in 3,000 salvations—his biggest "catch" ever. What does this teach us about God's redemptive purposes in our failures?

12. The sermon says, "Disciples are called, formed, and filled so that they can be sent." Which stage are you in right now? What's your next step?

## Personal Reflection (10 minutes)

Take 2-3 minutes of silence for personal reflection, then share briefly:

Simon vs. Peter: There's a "Simon" in us that messes up and a "Peter" that Jesus is forming. Which one is more dominant in your life right now?

The Tug of the Net: Have you felt the "tug" of Jesus' net on your soul lately? What is He calling you toward?

## Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE action step to complete before your next group meeting:

Option 1: OBEDIENCE Identify one area where Jesus is asking you to "launch out into the deep" (something beyond your logic or comfort). Take one concrete step of obedience this week.

Option 2: SURRENDER Write down the "weapons" you tend to rely on instead of God. Pray through each one, asking God to help you surrender them. Share your list with one trusted person for accountability.

Option 3: RESTORATION If you're carrying shame or failure, spend time this week meditating on Jesus' restoration of Peter (John 21:15-19). Journal about how Jesus wants to restore you.

Option 4: PROCLAMATION Share your testimony with at least one person this week—either how you came to faith or how God is currently working in your life. Be a "fisher of men."

Option 5: COMMUNITY If you're not already in a discipleship relationship, invite someone to walk alongside you in following Jesus. Ask them to help stretch, challenge, and encourage you.

## Prayer Focus (10 minutes)

Break into groups of 2-3 and pray for:

Courage to obey God's call, even when we don't feel qualified

Grace to surrender our self-reliance and trust God's ways

Healing and restoration from past failures and shame

Holy Spirit empowerment to boldly proclaim Jesus

Opportunities to be sent as fishers of men in our everyday lives

## Closing Thought

"Jesus is the only fisherman who catches fish in order to set them free. In the kingdom of God, fish are caught so they can truly live."

Final Question: How will you live differently this week knowing that Jesus caught you not to consume you, but to transform you and send you?

## For Next Week

Memorize: John 10:10 - "I have come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly."

Reflect: Journal about which of the six stages resonates most with your current journey

Prepare: Be ready to share how you completed your practical application challenge

## Additional Resources

## Scripture Reading Plan:

Day 1: Matthew 4:18-22 (The Call)

Day 2: Luke 5:1-11 (Stretched to Trust)

Day 3: Matthew 26:47-56 (Learning Surrender)

Day 4: John 21:15-19 (Restoration)

Day 5: Acts 2:1-41 (Filled and Sent)

Day 6: John 10:1-18 (The Good Shepherd)

Day 7: Review and journal your insights