

## "Serve"

- Opening Announcements
- Opening Prayer
- God Sightings?

Q: Why is it "better to give than receive"?

Q: How can "receiving" help us "give"?

### **Table Time....**

**READ:** Luke 5:4-11 "And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." 5 And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." 6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. 7 They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. 8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." 9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." 11 And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him."

Q: What was amazing about this event?

Q: Why is obedience to Jesus the "key" to "blessedness"? How does this event teach us that?

Q: When Jesus "blessed" them, what was Peter's response? What is Jesus' response to Peter's response (v. 10)!

**READ: John 3:22-30** "After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. 23 John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized 24 (for John had not yet been put in prison). 25 Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. 26 And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." 27 John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given

him from heaven. 28 You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' 29 The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease."

Q: What was the attitude of John towards Jesus when his disciples saw that John was losing all this followers to Jesus?

Q: Why is this important for us in terms of "why" we're here/purpose?

Q: How was John "blessed" by this?

### **Big Group Debrief:**

Q: How is obedience important to being "more blessed"?

Q: How is humility important to being "more blessed"?

Q: Do you think God "needs" us to "give or serve"?

Q: What WHY does He lead us into giving and serving?

**READ: Luke 14:12-14** "12 He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. 13 But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

Q: Why is there MORE blessing in NOT being "repaid"?

Q: How does the attitude of blessing or giving or serving to NOT get repaid "reveal" Jesus to the ones who receive?

Q: How does that attitude of the giver reflect the attitude of Jesus?

Q: How can that show others Jesus, God, the Kingdom, etc?

Q: What's ONE way YOU will serve others this week?