

# Wandering Heart

Small Group Study & Video Devotional

## Week One - Jesus Sought Me

### *Luke 5:1-11*

5 Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God,<sup>2</sup> he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. <sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." <sup>5</sup> Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." <sup>6</sup> When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. <sup>7</sup> So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup> But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" <sup>9</sup> For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken,<sup>10</sup> and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." <sup>11</sup> When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

### *Wandering in the Text*

What do you imagine Peter's backstory to be? What was his faith story? What are his hopes and dreams? What are his daily challenges? What are his impressions of Jesus?

Right before this story, Jesus heals Simon Peter's mother-in-law. If he has already witnessed Jesus performing a miracle, why does his initially question Jesus' command to drop his nets? Is witnessing this second miracle why Peter becomes willing to drop everything and follow Jesus?

Notice all of the action and spatial details in Luke's account. Can you picture the scene? How big is the crowd pressing in on Jesus? How far from land is Jesus when he teaches the crowd from Simon's boat? How far out is the "deep water" where Simon casts his nets? Does the crowd witness Peter's passionate confession? What happens to all of the caught fish?

Why does Peter resist the abundant catch of fish? Does he fill unworthy? Is he afraid? Does he consider himself unfaithful and therefore resists being in Jesus' presence?

This is a dramatic turning point for Peter. He will leave his home, his business, and his way of life to follow Jesus into a new calling. Have you ever pivoted your life in order to follow a new calling? What did you leave behind? How did that new path unfold? Where was God along the way?

## *Consider*

What is the beginning of your faith story?

What are the first things you were taught about God?

When was the first time you felt God's presence?

What habits do you have that might dull your senses and make it difficult to sense the holy?

How does the Holy get your attention?

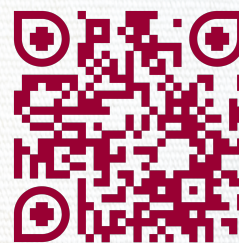
Have you ever experienced God chasing you? What is that like?

Diane's story of a spiritual renewal is a different kind of call story. What does her story make you remember in your own life?

When have you experienced something that changed the trajectory of your life?

When that happens, how do you know that it is God seeking you?

## *Watch Week One Video*



[www.whpc.org/allevnts/2024/2/18/wandering-heart](http://www.whpc.org/allevnts/2024/2/18/wandering-heart)

## *All this time*

*I put my headphones in.  
I walk quickly.  
I look toward the ground.  
I create one million barriers  
of independence,  
but still God seeks after me.  
God leans a rainbow over the sky.  
God sends sun after the rain.  
God blankets the earth with wildflowers.  
God allows music to carry,  
and laughter to rise,  
all so that I might notice.  
And when I do notice,  
the unfurling that begins in my soul is slow  
and holy and burning.  
I am not alone.  
God has been chasing after me  
all this time.*

by Rev. Sarah Speed

## *Let us Pray*

*God, you chase after us, seek us, and call us all the time, in so many ways.  
Open our hearts and souls to hear your call.  
Help us to discern your spirit.  
Allow us the joy of being found in you.*