



Discussion Guide

Date: 8/10/2025

Sermon Title: Where do I belong?

Scripture: Luke 5:1-11

This discussion guide is a layout to be used with a group or class. We have included opening and closing prayers to start and end your group. The guide may be used for personal or family reflection as well.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, we thank You for drawing us together in this space and time. As we open Your Word, open also our hearts to hear Your voice. Help us recognize the places where we belong—not just in this group or church, but in Your mission and grace. Call us again, and give us the courage to follow, not just with words, but with our lives. Amen.

Opening Question:

1. Where do you belong in life? Do you feel at home at church? In your work? A community organization or other group in your life? Why do you think you belong in these places or groups?

Digging into the Word:

1. Read Luke 5:1-11, what stands out to you in this passage?
2. How do you imagine Simon Peter felt when Jesus got into his boat—and later, when he was called to follow?
3. Jesus doesn't start with a sermon—he starts by stepping into Peter's boat. What might this say about how Jesus meets us where we are?
4. In verse 8, Peter says, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" Why do you think Peter reacts this way? How does Jesus respond?
5. The disciples left everything and followed him (v.11). What might that look like in our lives today? How have you or haven't you left everything to follow Christ?

Additional scripture:

If you have more time, consider reading these additional scripture passages:

6. James 1:22–25 - "Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers"- after reading and reflecting on this passage what does this text teach or instruct us on belonging in the church?
7. Romans 12:1–2 – In this text we are called to offer our lives as a living sacrifice, what does it mean to live a sacrificial life?

Wesleyan insight:

John Wesley often preached that *God's grace is active in our lives before we are aware of it*. He called this prevenient grace—from the Latin *praevenire* ("to come before").

8. Where do you see God's initiative in this story—moments when God acts before the disciples are ready?

9. Looking back on your life, can you identify times you now see God was preparing you for a step of faith?
10. How might recognizing prevenient grace shape the way we invite others into the life of the church?
11. What would it mean for us, as a congregation, to be more aware of God already at work in people before they “join” or “believe”?

Sermon Questions:

12. The pastor Clayton shared his personal story of wrestling with his calling. Have you ever experienced a time when you felt unsure about God's direction for your life? How did you navigate that uncertainty?
13. In the scripture story of Simon Peter, Jesus meets him in his workplace. Where in your daily life do you feel God might be trying to get your attention?
14. “Put out in the deep” is what Jesus asked of Peter with his nets. What does it mean to you to “put out into the deep” in your faith journey? What areas of your spiritual life could use more depth?
15. The sermon mentions that Simon Peter felt unworthy when Jesus called him. Have you ever felt unqualified for something God was calling you to do? How did you respond?
16. Pastor Clayton quotes“Faith is what makes life bearable”. Where has this truth shown up in your own life? Where
17. Pastor Clayton and our theme of this worship series is the message of the church should be “we love you and we need you.” How can we better convey this message to those around us?

Applying it:

18. How can we cultivate a deeper trust in Jesus that goes beyond just knowing facts about Him?
19. How does the concept that ‘all of life is holy’ change the way we approach our daily activities and interactions?
20. How can we better embody the message ‘we love you and we need you’ as a church community?

CLOSING PRAYER

Loving God, Thank You for calling us—not because we are perfect, but because You see our potential. Thank You for the church, a place where we find love, purpose, and a place to belong. As we leave this time, strengthen our commitment to follow You, to serve others, and to live out our faith with courage. Help us take one step deeper. In Christ’s name, Amen.

WAYS TO RESPOND (or challenges for you this week)

1. This week, pay attention to your daily routines. Look for moments where God might be trying to speak to you or use you in unexpected ways.
2. Identify one area of your faith where you'd like to “go deeper.” Make a plan to take a step in that direction (e.g., start a new devotional practice, join a Bible study, or commit to regular prayer). fumcr.com/learn for upcoming opportunities.
3. Reflect on your unique gifts and talents. How might God be calling you to use these to serve others or contribute to your church community? fumcr.com/serve for opportunities to get involved.