

Time Audit Chronicles: Calling the First Disciples (Luke 5:1-11)

Prologue: The Beginning of the Discipleship Journey

The Presswood family gathered around the kitchen table, the warmth of the evening settling in as they prepared for another adventure through the Bible. Ariel had just finished reading Luke 5:1-11, the story of Jesus calling His first disciples, and was reflecting on the significance of the moment. Alice, still holding Mr. Fluffernutter, was pretending to fish in a small bowl of water, mimicking the miraculous catch of fish she had just read about.

“Daddy,” Ariel began thoughtfully, “Why did Jesus choose these fishermen—Peter, James, and John—to be His disciples? I mean, they were just ordinary people, right?”

Ryan smiled, appreciating Ariel’s curiosity. “That’s a great question, Ariel. Jesus didn’t choose the disciples based on their status or education—He chose them because of their hearts. They were willing to follow Him, and they had a willingness to trust in Him, even when they didn’t fully understand what He was asking. But what’s really significant about this story is that Jesus performed a **miracle**—the **catch of fish**—to show them who He was and to call them into His mission. Jesus knew that they had potential to become powerful leaders in His Kingdom, and He was inviting them to take part in something much bigger than they could have imagined.”

Ariel nodded, intrigued. “So, it wasn’t about them being special, it was about Jesus seeing something in them that they couldn’t even see in themselves.”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “Jesus saw their potential and invited them to follow Him, to become **fishers of men**—to be part of His mission to reach the world with the good news of God’s Kingdom. Let’s use the Time Audit Machine to go back and witness this incredible moment when Jesus called His first disciples and demonstrated His power through a miraculous catch of fish.”

The Journey Begins: Jesus Teaches by the Lake (Luke 5:1-3)

The Time Audit Machine hummed, and with a flash of light, the family found themselves standing on the shore of **Lake Gennesaret** (also known as the Sea of Galilee). The sun was rising, casting a golden glow over the water. Several boats were anchored near the shore, and the sound of fishermen washing their nets filled the air. It was early in the morning, and the day was just beginning to stir with activity.

“This is where Jesus was teaching,” Ryan said, pointing to the boats and the people gathered around Him. “Jesus had begun His ministry, and as He traveled from town to town, He often taught the crowds by the lakeside. People came from all over to hear Him, eager to learn from His wisdom.”

Ariel looked around at the fishermen working. “It must have been so crowded—people everywhere, wanting to hear what Jesus had to say.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “This particular day, Jesus was teaching the people by the shore when He saw two boats docked, and He decided to use one of them to continue teaching. This was where He would meet **Simon Peter**, his brother **Andrew**, and the sons of Zebedee, **James** and **John**.”

Jesus Calls Peter to Put Out Into Deep Water (*Luke 5:4-7*)

Jesus finished teaching the crowd and then turned to **Simon Peter**, asking him to put out into deeper water and let down the nets for a catch:

“Now when He had left speaking, He said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.” (Luke 5:4)

Ariel listened closely as she thought about the situation. “Peter had been fishing all night and hadn’t caught anything. Why would Jesus ask him to try again?”

Ryan smiled. “That’s a great question. Peter, a seasoned fisherman, knew that fishing in the deep water at that time of day would normally be fruitless. But Jesus asked him to trust Him, even when it didn’t make sense. This was the beginning of a relationship built on trust and obedience. Jesus wasn’t just asking Peter to try fishing again; He was calling Peter to **trust** Him with his whole life.”

Peter, reluctant but trusting, responded:

“And Simon answering said unto Him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at Thy word I will let down the net.” (Luke 5:5)

Ariel smiled. “Even though Peter didn’t think it would work, he obeyed Jesus and tried again.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Peter’s response shows a heart of obedience, even when he didn’t understand why Jesus was asking him to do this. And that obedience opened the door for the miracle to happen.”

The Miraculous Catch of Fish (*Luke 5:6-7*)

When Peter cast the net into the deep water, the catch was so large that the nets began to break. He called for help from his partners in the other boat, and together, they filled both boats with so many fish that they began to sink:

“And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.” (Luke 5:6-7)

Ariel’s eyes widened in amazement. “That’s incredible! They had tried all night and caught nothing, but with just one cast of the net, there were so many fish that the boats started to sink!”

“Yes,” Ryan said, “this was a **miracle**. Jesus demonstrated His authority over nature, showing that He had the power to provide in abundance when we trust Him. Peter and his partners had been working hard all night and had nothing to show for it. But in a moment, Jesus provided far more than they could have ever imagined.”

Ariel thought about the meaning of the miracle. “It wasn’t just about the fish—it was about Jesus showing Peter and the others that **God’s provision is abundant** and that trusting Him brings results that go beyond what we can expect.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Jesus was showing them that **God’s Kingdom** operates on a different level. It’s not about human effort alone; it’s about trusting God’s timing and His provision. This miracle was the first step in calling Peter, James, and John to follow Him on a mission that would change the world.”

Peter’s Response: Humility and Obedience (*Luke 5:8*)

When Peter saw the miraculous catch of fish, he fell to his knees in awe, recognizing that Jesus was no ordinary man. He felt unworthy in the presence of such divine power:

“When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” (Luke 5:8)

Ariel was touched by Peter’s response. “Peter realized that Jesus wasn’t just a teacher or a prophet—He was someone who had the power of God. And Peter felt unworthy to be in His presence.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Peter’s response shows us something important. When we encounter God’s power, we are often confronted with our own weakness and sinfulness. Peter was aware of his own limitations and felt unworthy to be in the presence of someone so holy. But Jesus didn’t reject him; instead, He invited him to follow Him.”

Jesus’ Call to Peter, James, and John (*Luke 5:9-11*)

Jesus responded to Peter’s humble confession, telling him not to be afraid. He was calling Peter to leave his old life behind and follow Him into a new mission:

“And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed Him.” (Luke 5:10-11)

Ariel smiled. “Jesus told Peter, ‘From now on, you will be fishing for people, not fish.’ That’s such a beautiful way of saying, ‘You’re going to be part of something bigger now.’”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Jesus was inviting Peter, James, and John to leave their old lives of fishing and step into a new calling: to be **fishers of men**—to bring people into God’s Kingdom. Their lives would no longer be about catching fish; they would now be about spreading the message of salvation to the world. And the incredible thing is that they **left everything** behind to follow Jesus. Their trust in Him was so complete that they were willing to leave their homes, their families, and their livelihoods to follow Him.”

Ariel thought for a moment. “Jesus didn’t just perform a miracle for them—He gave them a purpose, a mission. He showed them that following Him was more important than anything else.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “And this is a key moment in the story of the disciples. Jesus didn’t just call them to believe in Him—He called them to be part of His **mission**, to bring His message of hope and salvation to others.”

Reflection: Trusting Jesus and Following His Call

Back in the garage, the Time Audit Machine powered down, and the family sat quietly, reflecting on the powerful moment they had just witnessed. Ariel turned to her father, still deep in thought. Alice, still with Mr. Fluff

ernutter, was pretending to cast her fishing line.

“Peter, James, and John didn’t know everything about Jesus when they first followed Him,” Ariel said softly. “But they trusted Him enough to leave everything behind. And that trust led them to a life of purpose.”

“Yes,” Ryan said, “and that’s what Jesus calls us to do as well. He calls us to follow Him and trust in His plan for our lives, even when we don’t fully understand it. It’s not always about knowing exactly where the journey will take us; it’s about taking that first step of obedience and trust, just like the disciples did.”

Ariel smiled. “Jesus showed them that following Him would be more meaningful than anything they had done before. It wasn’t just about catching fish—it was about catching people and bringing them into God’s Kingdom.”

“That’s right,” Ryan said. “And just like the disciples, we are called to follow Jesus and be part of His mission. We may not always know where it will lead, but we can trust that it will be more fulfilling than anything else we can do.”

Takeaway: The Call to Follow Jesus

In Luke 5:1-11, Jesus calls His first disciples—Peter, James, and John—into a new mission. Through a miraculous catch of fish, He demonstrated His authority and invited them to leave their old lives behind and follow Him. Jesus’ call to be **fishers of men** wasn’t just about physical labor—it was about a new purpose: to bring people into God’s Kingdom. The disciples’ response to Jesus’ call shows us the power of **obedience** and **trust**. Jesus doesn’t just ask us to believe in Him; He calls us to follow Him and be part of His work in the world, trusting that the journey will lead to something far greater than we can imagine.