GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

* **What is the sickest you have ever been? Did someone help you get better? Who?**
* **How did you feel about yourself when you were well again? How had your perspective on life changed? How did you feel toward the person who helped you?**

**Main Point**

Jesus showed His followers what it meant to follow Him both through spoken words and action.

Have a volunteer read Luke 5:1-11.

* **What was the difference or differences between how Jesus saw the situation and how the fishermen viewed it? What situation in your life might you be seeing as a more hopeless that Jesus sees it?**

The fishermen immediately recognized the miraculous nature of this experience. Simon Peter fell at Jesus’ feet—a sign of submission and pleading. He addressed Jesus as Lord. Here, the Greek word indicates Simon was acknowledging Jesus’ authority. The presence of the Lord in His holiness brings recognition and conviction of personal sin. Simon asked Jesus to depart, not because he was afraid of Jesus’ power, but because Simon was aware he was a sinful man. Confronted with His holiness, many sinners want to avoid God. Simon’s acknowledgement of Jesus’ lordship was the result of the demonstration of Jesus’ power.

* **Is there anything you would regret leaving behind should following Jesus require it? Why or why not? What have you already left behind?**
* **What hesitations might you have in obeying Christ’s call to you—not only to follow Him with your own life, but to invite all those around you to do the same?**

In each of the stories from the beginning of Jesus’ earthly ministry, Luke emphasized Jesus’ authority and the powerful effect of His words. The prophecy from Isaiah 61:1-2 (quoted in Luke 4:18-19) was fulfilled in Jesus, and His actions and speech authenticated that He is the Messiah, and that He calls each of us to lay down our lives and follow Him as true fishers of men.

Have a volunteer read Luke 6:20-26.

* **How does a Christian worldview equip us to face suffering differently from the world?**
* **When times of hardship arise, what encouragement can we draw from Jesus’ words in this passage?**

The gospel turns our gaze away from the present and reminds us that Christ is our eternal treasure. Jesus has made us able to know God personally and spend eternity with Him. The suffering we face now is not pointless but is designed by God to strengthen our faith and deepen our affections for Christ (1 Pet. 1:3-9).

**Application**

A life radically devoted to Jesus doesn’t go after small stuff, such as the house we live in or the car we drive. It goes after people. The most important thing we can do with our lives, from sunup to sundown, is to impact people for God’s kingdom. As we do so, we have the ability to recalibrate our church, helping us focus on the mission. We can set a trajectory for our church’s future that is about the Father’s business, which is always centered on reaching people.

* **What does it take to become a contagious Christian? What might happen if you stepped out of your comfort zone in order to change someone’s life on earth and ultimate destination?**
* **What worldly anxieties, desires or indulgences are you tempted to spend your time, effort and life on? How can you take one step this week to surrender those things in order to focus on others?**
* **How can we as a group carry out the mission of God in our families, schools, communities and workplace this week?**
* **Who do you have a burden for this week? What can you do to live and speak the gospel of truth to them in order to point them to Jesus?**

**Pray**

Close in prayer, asking God for a biblical worldview and the courage to live as His disciples in both word and deed.