

## APPLICATION

- What is one area of your life that needs God's miraculous provision? Knowing that God recognizes your needs, be in faith and trust that He has already provided for you.
- How do you respond whenever you receive God's provision? What does His abundant provision tell you about His purpose for you?
- Think of one person who you know is in need today. Pray that God would reveal Himself to this person as the abundant provider through His miraculous provision and people.

## PRAYER

- Ask God to remove any fear or doubt in your life, especially in times of lack.
- As God provides for your needs, pray that He would be magnified in your life more than the miraculous provision itself.
- Pray that as you receive God's provision, you would be encouraged to live out His purpose: to make Him known to others.

## WARM-UP

- When you were a kid, what was a birthday gift or toy that you asked for from your parents?
- Recall a time when you had a hard time solving a game (e.g., puzzle, mystery game, crossword). How was the experience?
- How do you budget or allocate your resources to make sure you have enough for your basic needs?

**WORD** *<sup>5</sup>And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets."<sup>6</sup>And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. **LUKE 5:5-6***

(Read also **LUKE 5:1-4, 7-11.**)

To a fisherman, fish is the source of his livelihood—he needs it to survive. Simon and the other fishermen had been struggling with catching fish *all night and took nothing*. However, at Jesus' word, He defied the laws of nature and instantaneously provided a large catch of fish for Simon and the other fishermen. In this story, we will see how Jesus met the fishermen's needs in the midst of their lack and led them to walk into His purpose for their lives.



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## 1 | Jesus met the needs of Simon and provided for him and the fishermen.

*<sup>4</sup>And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."<sup>5</sup>And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets."<sup>6</sup>And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking.*

**LUKE 5:4-6**

When Simon was struggling to catch fish, he did not directly ask Jesus for fish or for any kind of help. Jesus was the one who *saw* his need. Jesus instructed Simon to *put out into the deep and let down nets for a catch*, and as Simon followed His instructions, the fishermen immediately caught *a large number of fish*. There were so many fish that their nets were breaking and Simon had to ask help from other boats. God provided even in their great need and impossible situation. How have you experienced God's provision in your own life?

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## 2 | The meeting of their needs pointed to who Jesus is.

*<sup>8</sup>But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."<sup>9</sup>For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken . . .* **LUKE 5:8-9**

Jesus had demonstrated His ability and willingness to provide for their needs. Simon and the other fishermen toiled all night, yet caught nothing. But at Jesus' word, the fishermen's boats were filled with an abundance of fish. But more than celebrating this, Simon *fell down at Jesus' knees*. This miracle astonished Simon and those who were with him. From a

position of lack and fear, Simon saw Jesus as Lord. The miraculous provision drew the fishermen closer to Him. If you were one of the fishermen, how do you think you would have responded to Jesus' provision?

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## 3 | The recognition of who Jesus is led to their purpose.

*. . . <sup>10</sup>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."<sup>11</sup>And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.*

**LUKE 5:10-11**

Jesus provided for what the fishermen needed at the moment, but He also led them to something far greater. The miracle drew them closer to Jesus; His calling also revealed His purpose for them. Jesus had much more in store for them beyond catching fish—He was calling them to be fishers of men. After Jesus revealed Himself through the miracle, the fishermen *left everything and followed Him*. How did you decide to follow Jesus? What does following Jesus mean for you today?

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