

Worship Material
Whom shall I send?
Material from Roots Bible Study
Sunday 9th February

Begin with an opening prayer

Holy God, we gather to worship you in all of your glory.
Fill this place with your Holy Spirit and help us
to see more of who you really are.
Come, meet us and prepare us to do your will. **Amen**

Read Luke 5:1-11

Bible notes

This episode falls hot on the heels of the healing of Simon's mother-in-law at Capernaum. One can easily imagine the confusion and disruption caused by Jesus, who appears and does two miraculous things in quick succession and then, without much commentary, asks that Simon Peter follows him to catch people instead of fish. The response of Simon Peter and his colleagues to this call is shown by Luke to be the correct one. This call marks the next major phase of the story as Jesus gathers followers 'who will listen to his teaching and witness his mighty acts and thus become qualified to teach and act with authority themselves'.¹

Not only does Simon Peter witness and understand Jesus' ministry and person, he also correctly identifies himself as a sinner. Even though the fishermen catch nothing at night, when they would most likely have succeeded, they still acknowledge the worth of Jesus' words as one who speaks with authority above the ordinary man. Simon Peter acknowledges Jesus as 'Lord' just as Elizabeth had also (1:43). As a result, Simon Peter abandons security and certainty to follow Jesus – as tradition has it, all the way to his own cross.

1 John T Carroll, Luke: A Commentary, WJK, 2012, p.124

Prayer

Refrain: We thank you, God, with all our hearts:
we bow down and praise your name.

We thank you that you nurture our faith, helping us to believe
and to live out our lives through your calling to us: (*refrain*)

We thank you for your constant love and faithfulness: (*refrain*)

We thank you that you hear us, answer us and strengthen us: *(refrain)*

We thank you for your promises and your care: *(refrain)*

We thank you that we cannot hide from you

and for the assurance that you are always with us: *(refrain)*

Amen.

A prayer to conclude

Almighty God, you have given us a fresh glimpse
of your glory and majesty.

We are not worthy to walk with you,
but you have made us clean.

Send us out, in the power of your Holy Spirit,
to speak your words and to show your love.

Amen.