

Into the Deep – Week 1 Small Group Questions

Read:

Luke 5:1-11, One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee,^[a] great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon,^[b] its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish." "Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again." And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking. When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, "Oh, Lord, please leave me—I'm such a sinful man." For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed. Jesus replied to Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!" And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.

Ask:

1. What does it mean when you hear someone talk about going spiritually deep?
2. Pastor Jeff says, "Deep is not about information; it's about transformation. Am I becoming more like Jesus each day? Deep is not about academics or learning more about God; it's about application, being more like God. Deep is not about orthodoxy, what I believe; it's about orthopraxy, how I behave. What I do with what I believe." Do you agree? Why or why not?
3. When asked, Peter obeyed and let down his nets again even though he hadn't caught fish all night. How can how we respond to God through obedience reveal where we are with God in our relationship?
4. How do we allow human reasoning to get in the way of trusting God and doing what He says?

Read:

Luke 5:7-10, A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking. When Simon Peter

realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, “Oh, Lord, please leave me—I’m such a sinful man.” For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed.

Ask:

1. Share about a time you were in awe and amazed by God. Do you consider very often the idea of how sinful we are as humans versus how holy our God is and that He still desires to know you, love you and walk with you each day? Does that truth affect you as much as it should?
2. Oswald Chambers says, “The remarkable thing about God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else.” Do you agree with this? Do we truly have nothing to fear when we fear God? If that is true, why does it seem like so many people, even Christians, battle fear?

Read:

Isaiah 6:6-8, Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. He touched my lips with it and said, “See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven.” Then I heard the Lord asking, “Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?” I said, “Here I am. Send me.”

Ask:

1. God calls the church to go to the unclean, unwanted, and unloved. Who is that today? Do you feel that is a priority in your life?

Apply:

1. What is one thing from this message that stood out to you the most?
2. Where are you struggling or even fighting with God when it comes to obeying Him? Why do you find it hard to obey God in this area? What habits, mindset, and changes need to happen so that your behavior matches your belief?
3. This week, consider giving intentional time each day to sit, be still, and be in awe of God. Make a list of all that He has done for you and focus on praising Him.