

Foundations

Week Seven: Into the Deep

Connect Group Guide - 11.2.25

Opening Prayer

Ice Breaker

Share about a time when you had to step out of your comfort zone.

- What made it scary?
- What was the outcome?

Key Scripture

Luke 5:4-6 - "When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break."

Summary of Main Points

1. Obedience Always Comes Before Overflow

- Peter obeyed even when it didn't make sense
- Faith means doing what God says even when we're tired or doubtful
- You can't have a deep water catch with shallow water obedience

2. God's Harvest is Greater Than Our Capacity

- The catch was so large the nets began to break
- God gives more than we can imagine when we step out in faith
- It's not about filling seats; it's about filling lives

3. The Deep is Where Destiny is Discovered

- Peter found more than fish—he found his purpose
- Obedience doesn't just bring provision; it reveals calling
- Jesus is calling each of us personally to go deeper

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. What does "launching into the deep" mean to you personally?
 - How is it different from staying in the "shallow waters"?
2. Why do you think Peter was willing to obey Jesus even after fishing all night with no results?
 - What does this teach us about obedience?
3. Pastor Mike said, "You can't have a deep water catch with shallow water obedience." What does this statement mean?
 - Can you think of biblical or personal examples?

Personal Reflection

1. Where in your life have you been content to stay in the "shallow waters"?
 - What might God be calling you to do differently?
2. What are some "empty nets" in your life right now?
 - How might God be inviting you to see them as opportunities for abundance rather than failure?
3. The message mentioned that Peter was looking for provision but found purpose.
 - Share a time when you were seeking one thing from God but He gave you something even better.

Application & Action

1. What specific area is God calling you to "go deeper" in?

Consider:

 - Serving at church
 - Giving/finances
 - Sharing your faith
 - Letting go of something
 - A career or life direction change

2. **What fears or doubts are holding you back from obeying God's call to go deeper?**
 - How can this group support you?
3. **Pastor Mike emphasized that obedience comes before overflow.**
 - What is one act of obedience you can commit to this week, even if you don't see the results yet?

Key Takeaways

- **Obedience unlocks miracles** - God's blessings often come after we take the step of faith
- **Empty spaces are invitations** - What looks empty is actually God's invitation to abundance
- **Going deeper reveals purpose** - The deeper waters are where we discover our calling
- **We need each other** - Just like Peter needed help with the catch, we need community to fulfill God's vision
- **God speaks personally** - Jesus didn't speak to the crowd; He spoke directly to Peter—and He speaks directly to you

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE area where God is calling you deeper and take one concrete step:

Serving:

- Sign up to serve in a ministry (children's ministry, hospitality, etc.)
- Commit to attending both services to help create space for others

Finances:

- If you've never tithed, commit to trying it for one month
- Prayerfully consider a specific financial gift God is calling you to give

Sharing Faith:

- Identify one person in your life who needs Jesus and pray for them daily
- Invite someone to church or small group this week

Personal Growth:

- Identify one habit or thing God is asking you to let go of
- Set aside 15 minutes daily for prayer and listening to God

Family:

- Pray specifically for prodigal children or family members to come home
- Start a family devotional time

Group Prayer Time

Prayer Focus Areas:

1. **Obedience** - Pray for courage to obey even when it doesn't make sense
2. **Vision** - Ask God to reveal where He's calling each person to go deeper
3. **Prodigals** - Pray for family members and friends who need to come home to Jesus
4. **Church Growth** - Pray for the church's expansion and for lives to be transformed
5. **Personal Needs** - Share and pray for specific needs in the group

Before Next Week

- Journal about what "going deeper" means for you personally
- Practice the specific action step you committed to
- Be ready to share what happened when you stepped out in obedience
- Read Luke 5:1-11 daily and ask God to speak to you through it

Closing Thought

- The same Jesus that filled Peter's boat is filling His church today, but not with fish, with people. From now on, you will catch men.
- Going deeper might feel risky, uncomfortable, or even scary—but that's where God does His best work. The shallow waters are safe, but the miracles happen in the deep.

Leader Notes

- Create a safe space for honest sharing about fears and doubts
- Celebrate small steps of obedience, not just big dramatic changes
- Follow up during the week with group members about their commitments
- Be prepared to share your own "deep water" story to encourage vulnerability
- Have tissues available—this topic often touches emotional areas