

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

February 3-10, 2019

Worship as encounter with the living God cannot be limited to one hour per week. "Weekday Worship" invites you to extend your worship beyond the sanctuary, to hear the story of the Bible as your story, lived out each day of each week. Feedback is appreciated and should be directed to Rita Boyer.

BIBLE READING

This week's reading is: Luke 5:1–11 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=414579048>).

Other readings are: Isaiah 6:1–8–13; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1–11

The theme is: Being Surprised.

Simon Peter was a fisherman by trade. It was not an easy job. Experience taught him which waters had the most fish at what time of day. How frustrating it must have been to come up empty after spending an entire night fishing! It would have been frustrating, though not surprising, since it was an area of the lake where fish were not known to be plentiful. Unlike Simon, Jesus was not a fisherman. He was a teacher and healer. Yet, when he directs Peter to put his net down into the deep water, Simon Peter follows his instructions. As a result, Simon Peter and the other fishers fill two boats with so many fish that their nets are beginning to break and the boats are starting to sink! One would think Simon Peter would have been overjoyed, but instead he tells Jesus to go away and declares his own sinfulness. In so doing Simon Peter responds to a miracle of abundance with fear and embarrassment focused on his own shortcomings. Jesus, however, does not criticize Simon Peter's fishing abilities or chastise him for his inadequacies. Instead, Jesus affirms him as a fisher and a person of worth, inviting him to use his gifts in a new and surprising way - catching people! Jesus invites those who believe in him to believe in themselves and what Jesus can accomplish through their lives. When we stop focusing on what we cannot do, when we obey Christ's call and "go deep," we may be amazed at how full our lives will be!

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

"Questions to Consider" enable you to connect your story to the biblical story. Rather than easy questions to be answered at first glance, these questions or reflections can be returned to and meditated upon throughout the week.

Underestimating ourselves often goes hand in hand with underestimating God.

How willing are you to be surprised? How can you open yourself to God's surprises?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of February 3:

Instead of "choosing welcome" and embracing Jesus' ministry with foreigners, the hometown crowd turns on Jesus. How are we being called to "choose welcome" today?