



### **So what is this “call” stuff all about?**

*Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God. He saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fisherman had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.* Luke 5:1-3 NRSV

- Fishing stories reveal to us what it means to be called out of our \_\_\_\_\_ into something \_\_\_\_\_.
- Fishing stories, like many other call stories, are about the pressing past the attempt or initial idea of following God’s direction and discernment.
- Having a “call” doesn’t have to be limited to pastors!

### **God’s call leads us into unfamiliar waters**

*When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink.* Luke 5:4-7 NRSV

- God’s *call* in our lives is the moment when God’s free and saving grace intersects or merges with our \_\_\_\_\_.
- Sometimes, the Lord challenges us to step beyond ourselves and into deeper waters.

### **Challenges to the Call**

*But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.”*

Luke 5:8-10 NRSV

- \_\_\_\_\_ impede us from living out the call God has put on our hearts.
  - The fear of failure or disappointment;
  - The fear of reaching others;
  - The fear of surrendering wholly to God.

### **The Risk of Discipleship**

- Call implies \_\_\_\_\_, but nothing \_\_\_\_\_.

*When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"* Esther 4:12-14 NIV

- While we may have already responded to the call, we never stop \_\_\_\_\_ to it.
- The call to faithful discipleship is to bear witness to the gospel, even when confronted with uncertainty.

### **Hold onto Your Call Stories**

- Let our \_\_\_\_\_ inform our ministries.
- Can God use your call story in redeemable ways?

*When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.*

Luke 5:11 NRSV

- Responding to the call takes, affirmation, sacrifice, and redirection.
- God's call to discipleship is an invitation to \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves.