SPIRITUAL CALLING

Introduction

In this Bible study, you will look at a fisherman whom Jesus asked to make a choice-a big choice.

Listen to the story and move into groups of 4 to discuss the questionnaire.

THE CALLING OF THE FIRST DISCIPLES

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, 2he saw at the water's
edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. "He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

'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 any-
thing. 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. 7S0 they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

.When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" 9For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, I.and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men."

11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Luke 5:1-11

1. Where is the best fishing spot in your area? What is the biggest fish you've ever
caught (or the biggest fish story you've ever told)?

2. If you had been Simon Peter when Jesus said, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch," what would you have done?

0 wondered who this guy thought he was
0 told Jesus I was too tired
0 suggested another time when the fish were biting
0 politely told Jesus to stick to his preaching
0 grudgingly gone ahead with the idea
0 happily done what Jesus requested

3. When they caught so many fish that their nets began to break, how did Peter probably feel?

0 overjoyed 0 dumbfounded
0 terrible about what he had said 0 aware of who Jesus was

4. When was the first time you felt the tug of Jesus on your heart? 0 when I was very young

0 when there was a crisis in my life 0 in a church service
0 when I was at a retreat/camp 0 just recently
0 I don't know that I have. 0 other:

5. How would you finish this sentence? "I am committed to know and follow the will of God for my life ..."

0 all of the time
0 most of the time
0 some of the time
0 on occasion

6. How does the call to leave your nets behind and follow Jesus (in order to "catch men") sound to you?

0 radical 0 scary 0 exciting 0 crazy 0 fulfilling 0 other:

7. What would it mean for you to be "catching people" for Jesus? 0 to share my faith with my friends

0 to invite friends to my group or church 0 to show others God's love through my love
0 to start focusing on people rather than things 0 other:

8. In order to "catch people" for Jesus, what do you have going for you that is "good bait" (something that helps draw people to Jesus)?

0 my ability to make friends 0 my ability to share my faith
0 my ability to listen when people have problems 0 my knowledge of the Bible
0 my willingness to take risks 0 my willingness to "walk my talk"
0 my willingness to help people in need 0 my openness to people of different cultures and backgrounds
0 other:

9. What would be the greatest thing you would like to do with your life? What is
keeping you from doing it?

10. How can this group support you in prayer this week