

## Encounter Jesus: Peter

**Read:** Luke 5:1-10

### **Summary:**

We are not made to live isolated lives but were destined for intimacy. Jesus, the centre of all history did not hide away or mystically float around the earth but encountered many, many people....the gospels are full of the stories.

*Crowds Pressing* Jesus started his teaching ministry in the Synagogue but in His desire to reach the people He quickly moves outdoors! Jesus wants to meet you where you are today. Jesus sits in the boat whilst 'normal life' continues around him and teaches the people. The crowds have gathered to listen to His teaching. Jesus wants to encounter you, everyday, in normal life – are you listening to Him?

*Fishing Lesson* The carpenter come preacher is telling the fisherman how to fish! Despite his professional ability Simon Peter submits to the masters authority; he takes out the boats and drops the nets despite having tried all night and having caught nothing. It is a miracle. There are fish, fish and more fish! The nets begin to break, they call for help and both boats are about to sink. This action demonstrates the presence of God

*Humble Pie* In the boat, among the fish Peter gets on his knees, confessing Jesus not just as master but Lord. He is overcome by his own sinfulness as so many others in the bible are when they catch a glimpse of God (Abraham, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Job, the Israelites...). This is not a momentary encounter but means a change in the direction of Peter's life.

*The beginning* Peter and the others (it's not a limited invite) leave all. Despite all the fish and the work and money; despite the great blessing in their life they leave it all behind. Instead they sign up for a 3 year intensive training programme. A disciple is not one who has it all together but who is willing to learn.

We know that this is the beginning and that Peter continues to gain revelation and understanding into who Jesus is!

### **Application:**

Please select from the following questions and do not attempt them all. Encourage all to take part and be as honest as possible.

1. What did God say to you on Sunday and what are you going to do as a result?
2. What have you heard Jesus say to you in the last week? How did you hear it?
3. What 'faith steps' is Jesus asking you to take?
4. What do you find difficult in pursuing humility? How do you overcome?
5. How are you actively trying to keep on learning in your Christian life? Is there something that you need to study / do?
6. What things do you find hardest to leave behind in your desire to follow Jesus?
7. Please spend time praying for each other!