1. **Luke 5:1-7**

* At what time of the day had Peter been working and what might it represent?
* What did Jesus ask of Peter and how did he respond?
* When you are called by Christ to execute an action at God’s command, what is your response? Please share an experience you have had like Peter’s.
* Reflect back on the Gospel, and share what was different about Peter’s second attempt to “catch” “fish”?
* In a spiritual sense, what might Peter’s lowering of the net to the sea represent?
* What overall message do you see here for the Church and yourself in this story about the “net” being lowered into the sea for a “catch”?

1. **Luke 5:8-11**

* How many boats were there according to the scripture?
* Who was in the first boat and who was in the second?
* Regardless of which “boat” takes in the fish, to whom does this “catch” belong?
* What might these two boats signify, in regard to the Church?
* **Jeremiah 16:14-16**
* What is this reading in **Jeremiah** speaking about in the **Old Testament**?
* What does God promise to “send” to the people who had been “banished”?
* Whom might the “fisherman” represent during Jesus’ time and ours?
* Whom might the “hunters” represent during Jesus’ time and ours?
* How do Simon, James, and John respond to Christ after experiencing this miracle?
* **St. Maximus of Turin** (380 AD – 465 AD) *Sermon 110.2*

“That you may understand that the **Lord was speaking of spiritual fishing**. Peter says, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets”. It is as if he were saying, ‘Through the whole night our fishing has brought us nothing, and we have been laboring in vain. Now I will not fish with fishing gear, **but with grace**, not with diligence acquired by skill, **but with the perseverance acquired by devotion**.’ When Peter **lets down the nets** at the word, therefore, **he is in fact letting down the teachings in Christ**. When he unfolds the tightly woven and well-ordered nets at the command of the Master, he is really laying out words in the name of the Savior in a fitting and clear fashion. By these words he is able to save not creatures, but souls. Peter, who beforehand was **unable to see in order to make a catch**, enduring **darkness without Christ**, had indeed toiled through the whole night. But when the **Savior’s light shone upon him the darkness scattered**, and **by faith he began to discern** in the deep what **he could not see with his eyes.**”

* **St. Ambrose** (339 AD – 397 AD) *Exposition of The Gospel of Luke 5.77-78*

“The nets are broken, and no fish is lost. Their companions in another ship are summoned to help. What is this other ship, perhaps Judea, from which John and James were chosen? For Judah became his sanctuary. So, they came from the synagogue to Peter’s ship, to the Church, in order to fill the two vessels for all, **whether Jew or Greek**, bend the knee at the Name of Jesus ‘Christ is all, and in all’. But to me that multitude is suspect, lest through its fullness the ships are well-nigh sunk, for there must also be heresies, that good men may be tested. Yet, we can understand another Church through the other’s ship, for many Churches are derived from One. Behold, the care of Peter, to whom his own catch was already suspect.”

* **St. Cyril of Alexandria** (378 AD – 444 AD) *Commentary on Luke Sermon 12*

”Let us admire the skillfulness of the method employed in making them a prey, who were to make prey of the whole earth; even the holy Apostles who, though themselves well skilled in fishing, yet fell into Christ’s meshes, that they also, letting down the dragnet of Apostolic preaching, might gather unto Him the inhabitants of the whole world. For verily He somewhere said by one of the holy prophets ‘Behold I send many **fishers**, saith the Lord, and they **shall catch them as fish**, and afterwards I will send many **hunters**, and **they shall hunt them as game**.’ By **fishers** He means the **holy Apostles**, and by **hunters**, those who successfully became the **rulers and teachers of the holy churches**.”

* Share something that was meaningful to you in today’s study with the group.