**Small Group Study Guide**

Jumping into the Water of an Unknown Future

John 21:1-14 | Luke 5:4-6

From Sunday September 13, 2020

*A couple notes for first time participants of this study guide:*

*The purpose of the guide is for a group to interact with the sermon that was preached at Emmanuel over the past weekend. Sermons often present concepts and ideas that come alive when they are discussed with others.*

*The study is broken into a meal: The Appetizer is usually a bit of a conversational “crowd-breaker” that get people into the particular topic (BELONG). The Main Course deals directly with the sermon and Scripture passage (GROW). And the dessert deals with action steps that challenge the group as they grow in their relationship with God and share their faith with others (SHARE).*

**Appetizer:**

**Question:** What hopes and dreams did you have for 2020 that were not realized due to Covid-19?

**Have someone read Luke 5:4-6 and someone else read John 21:1-14**

**Pray:** Lord direct our conversation this evening in a way that is pleasing to you and encouraging to others. Amen.

**Main Course:**

The two stories that we read describe the disciples fishing. Some theologians suggest they talked about the same event but in different ways. But most would suggest that these were two different yet similar miracle stories of Jesus, one taking place early in his ministry, and one taking place later in his ministry.

**Question:** Take a close look at the two stories. What aspects are the same and what aspects are different? Do you think these differences are significant? Why?

**Question:** In the sermon, Pastor Jeff suggested that the disciples were being pushed out of their comfort zones through unmet expectations. Looking at the story, what was the comfort zone the disciples were being pushed out of?

The bottom line of the sermon was this: Our discomfort is often God’s incubator for calling creativity out of us.

**Question:** Does this ring true to you? Can you explain a situation where God used discomfort to help you be more creative in your faith?

**Dessert:**

It was suggested that the disciples had a choice when Jesus called them. That choice became a willingness to try, a willingness to trust, and a willingness to expect.

**Activity:** As a group, write down those three words: TRY, TRUST, and EXPECT on a piece a paper. Under each one start to brainstorm different ways that you can encourage one another to grow in these areas during this season.

**A willingness to try** suggests a certain activity outside of our comfort zone (volunteering, connecting with a neighbour, meeting new peope, etc).

**A willingness to trust** suggests a certain frame of mind outside of our comfort zone (areas of life we want to give God control over at this time).

**A willingness to expect** suggests statement of faith that we belive about God (areas that we assume he will move in, things we are confident that we will do)

**Prayer:** Once this list is made, have each member of the group pray for another member, asking for God to empower them by his Holy Spirit to be people willing to “jump in the waters” for the sake of God’s Kingdom.