



Liturgy Notes for the week of January 14, 2018

## Liturgy: The Work of the People

Friends and strangers, passionate believers, hopeful skeptics: All are welcome as full participants or thoughtful observers.

If you are visiting, you'll find a card in the pew pocket explaining our liturgy. Fill out the back side and drop it in the basket to keep in touch.

## This Week's Reading: Luke 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, 2 he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. 3 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. 4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch."

5 Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." 6 When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. 7 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. 8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" 9 For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; 10 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." 11 When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.



Practicing the Way of Jesus for North/Central Austin  
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## Community Group Discussion Guide

Community Groups are "Families on Mission."

Learn more at [AustinMustardSeed.org/CommunityGroups](http://AustinMustardSeed.org/CommunityGroups).

Use this guide to facilitate discussion in your group and in personal reflection.

### Check-in

Always begin by checking in. This is a time for everyone in the group to speak briefly. You may choose to always use the basic check-in question "what was one high point and one low point from your past week?" or come up with an "icebreaker" of your own.

### Sermon Synopsis

*We learn practices of Jesus so that we can know, love and follow him.*

We aim to experience and expand God's work of renewal together, and we recognize that comes through following Jesus. We see Jesus as the fullest expression of who God created us to be. We learn from one another, and encourage one another, to take on the patterns of the Jesus way of living.

### Discussion Questions

1. Take a moment to read and discuss Luke 5:1-11. Consider how Simon feels in verse 5. Share a story when you might have felt similar.
2. Look at verse 8. Why do you imagine Simon responded to Jesus that way?
3. In verse 5, Simon calls Jesus "master", but it's not until verse 8 that he recognizes Jesus' authority. Do you consider yourself a follower of Jesus? Discuss what following Jesus and recognizing his authority has meant or might mean in your life.
4. When was a time you learned a new skill, habit of lifestyle? What was did you learn? How did you learn? How has it changed you?
5. How is "learning practices of Jesus" similar or different to your experience of church or how you have seen church portrayed in our broader culture? What is the value of this difference? Are there any downfalls you see to it?
6. There are three places we engage in practices: personally (as individuals), relationally (in our day-to-day primary interactions) and communally (together as a church). Which area do you think you do best in? Which one would you like to experience more?
7. What is a relational practice of Jesus your Community Group could practice together this year?

### Our Shared Blessing

*Close your time together by reading together this blessing:*

Austin Mustard Seed, may we recognize the goodness and beauty of Jesus' way of living. May we have an awareness of how much we fall short...and how much more we might become through learning these practices. May we invite and inspire others to live in this way alongside us.