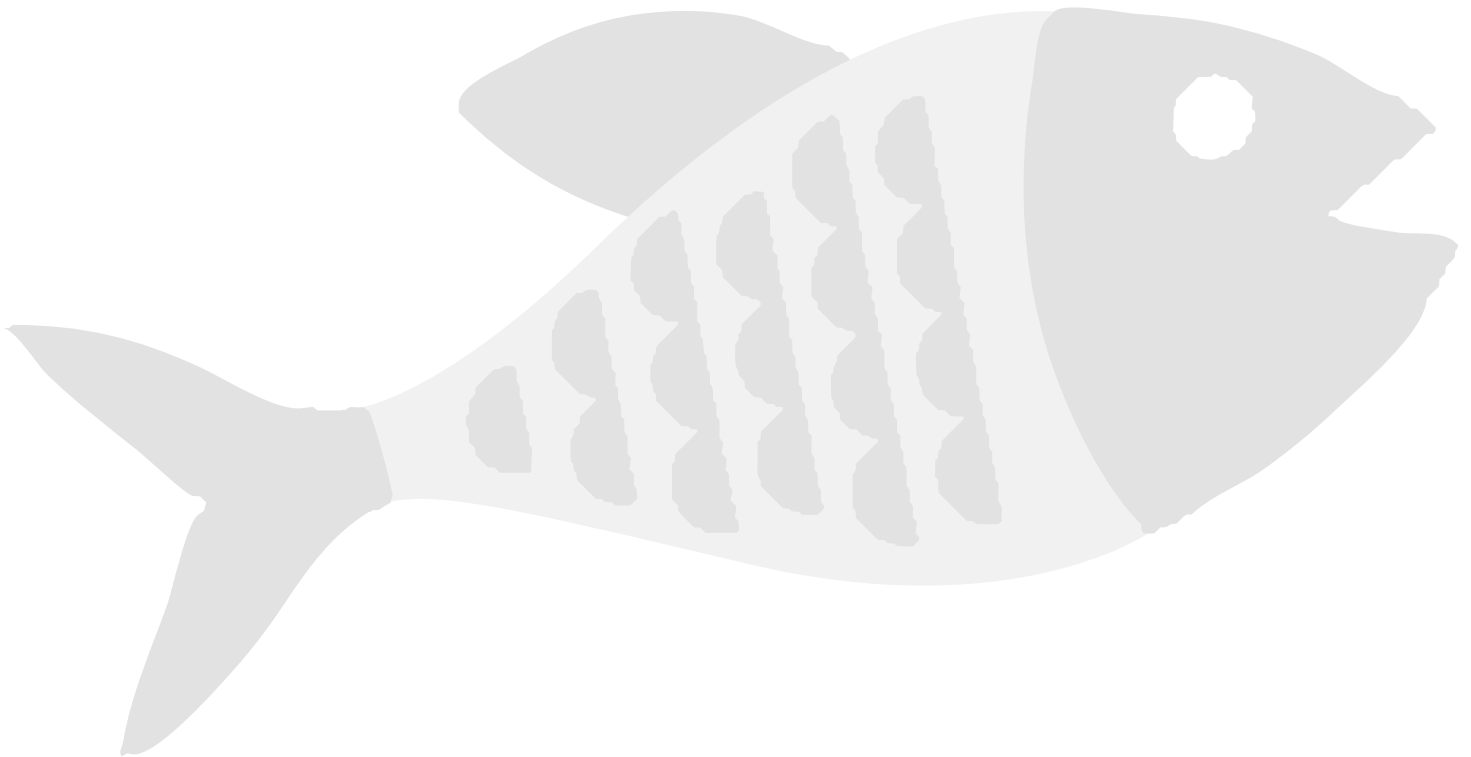


## PRAYER

Dear Lord, as we engage with the verses from Luke 5, may our eyes be opened to your provision in our lives and our hearts be filled with thankfulness.

## ACTIVITY/ICE BREAKER

Bring your concerns of today to God in prayer and open your heart to what he wants to say to you in response. Write your reflections in and around the fish.



## VIDEO

Watch video 2: Catching fish

## READ

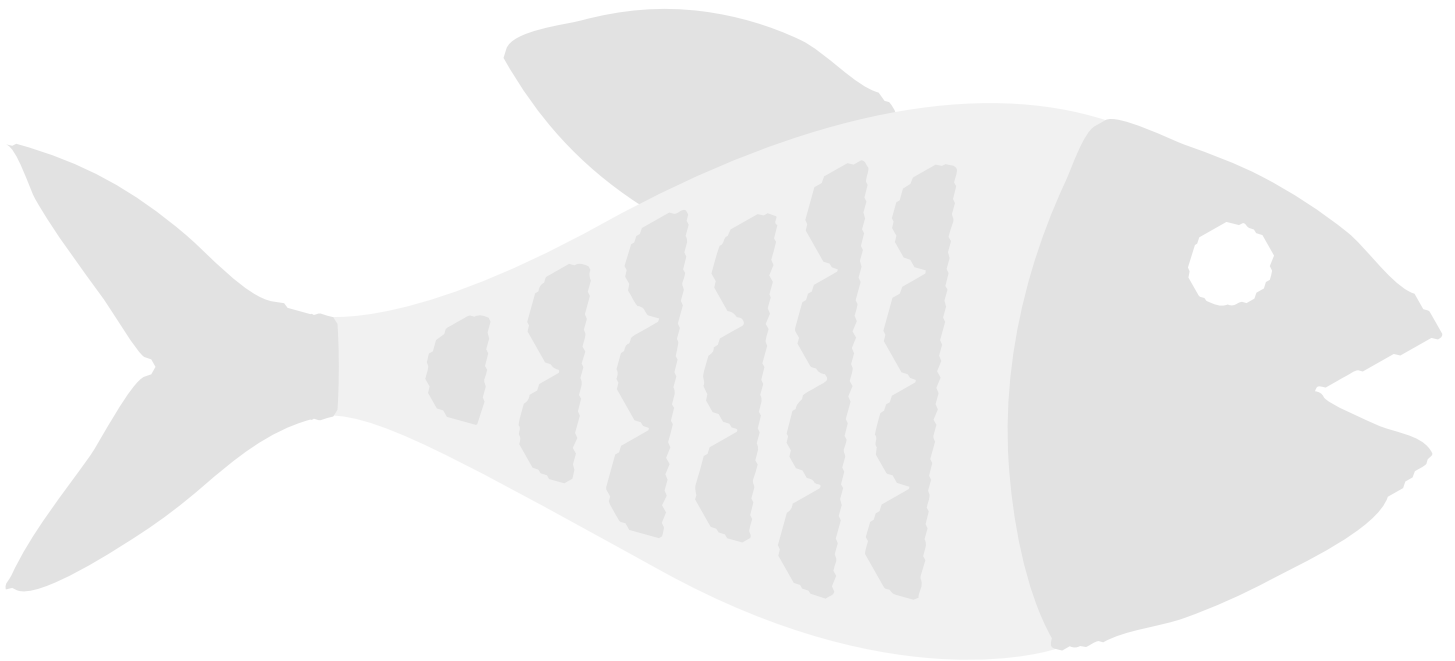
Luke 5: 1-11 (NIV) One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and 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 anything. 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. So they signalled 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!" For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, 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 fish for people." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

## REFLECTIONS

These fishermen were poor, struggling to feed their families and somehow get by. This wasted, disappointing night did not leave these guys in a good state. So when a teacher called Jesus wandered up and showed them where to get a bumper catch of fish this was a revelation on various levels. Firstly, how does a teacher of religion know more about fishing than a fisherman? And if he knew there was this rich catch down there, why not keep it for himself? Jesus was not well off. The surplus was so great, much of this catch could be sold. Why give away all this money? First and foremost Jesus was demonstrating his generous lifestyle. He didn't just talk the talk, he walked it. He lived differently, with open hands. Willing to share his life with others. But there was a deeper purpose behind this, he was about to invite these fishermen, Peter, James, Andrew and John, to leave their jobs for a while and learn a new trade. So this massive catch of fish would provide for them and their families whilst they were away from their day jobs. Jesus was practically minded. He knew what life was like for these men and their families. They needed to eat, and pay their rent and taxes. He'd grown up in that same ordinary lifestyle, after all. They would never forget his generosity, and would be reminded of it again on another morning in John chapter 21, after another soul-destroying night. On that day Jesus was about to ask them to leave fishing again, this time to start the church. So he gave them another bumper catch. And these incidents would shape them, and draw them towards a life of generosity and care for others. We can be tempted to think that being a Christian is first and foremost about a spiritual life, but Jesus was totally grounded in reality. He knew all about the stresses and pressures of this world, and forged a new way of living.

## QUESTIONS

1. How might we discern the difference between need & want?
2. In the video Brigit mentioned how God answered a very specific prayer. Where have you experienced an answer to a prayer?
3. What is God's provision to you today, write your answer down in the fish.
4. In the video Dave mentioned that God often uses us to bring his provision to the community in which we are placed. How might this be relevant to you today?
5. How might the understanding of God's provision speak to us in our church communities?



## PRAYER

Dear Lord we thank you for your provision to us, each and every day. We pray that we may be the ones sharing this with those around this and count it a privilege to do so.