

March 1, 2026

SERMON: The Way of Calling
SPEAKER: Bethany Nolson
CORE SCRIPTURE: Luke 4:14-21 & 5:1-11 **WATCH SERMON** | **SERMON NOTES**

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

SUMMARY

On the shore of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus invites Simon to join him on the way in ministry. Jesus names his calling, invites Simon to join him, and Simon responds, leaving everything to become a fisherman for God's Kingdom. So what invitation is Jesus extending to you? How is he asking you to use your life? Your giftings, your talents, your treasures to fulfill this same calling? The same call that Jesus gave to Simon that day is the same invitation that he extends to us to be part of his ministry, to be part of his rescue, to be an active member in his family, and to be a part of what he is doing in the world today.

SHARE

Think of a time when someone asked you to do something that didn't make logical sense, but you trusted them and did it anyway. What happened? How did that experience shape your trust in that person?

READ

Read together out loud as a group: **Luke 4:14-21** and **Luke 5:1-11**.

DISCUSS

Feel free to pick/choose what is most helpful for you. Remember, the goal is to have rich, relational, authentic, Jesus-centered discussions.

1. What stood out to you the most about the sermon?

2. In Luke 4:18-19, Jesus reads from Isaiah 61 but intentionally stops before the phrase "the day of vengeance of our God." What does this omission reveal about the nature of Jesus' mission and the kind of Messiah he came to be? What is Jesus' mission as outlined in Luke 4 and Isaiah 61?

3. Look closely at Luke 5:4-5. What does Simon's response—"Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets"—teach us about the relationship between obedience and understanding? What does this passage reveal about faith when God's instructions don't align with our experience or expertise?

4. Bethany emphasized that “it wasn’t about the calling, it was about who was asking.” How does this truth change the way you approach what Jesus might be inviting you to do, especially when it feels illogical or requires sacrifice?

5. Bethany highlighted Jesus’ calling to “proclaim good news to the poor, freedom for the prisoners, recovery of sight for the blind, and to set the oppressed free.” Where do you see opportunities in your everyday life—at work, in your neighborhood, or within your family—to live out this calling to care for those on the margins?

6. Simon left everything on the shore—his boats, his catch, his livelihood—to follow Jesus. What might Jesus be asking you to leave behind or sacrifice in order to follow him more fully? What makes that difficult?

7. The sermon asked, “What invitation is Jesus extending to you?” and offered different responses depending on where we find ourselves (in the towns, the synagogue, on the shore, in the boat). Where do you find yourself today, and what is your next step in responding to Jesus’ invitation?

NEXT STEPS:

- **Reflect:** Spend time this week asking Jesus, “What are you inviting me to do?” and practice responding with, “Because you say so, I will do it.”
- **Engage with Scripture:** Meditate on Isaiah 61:1-3 and Luke 5:1-11. Journal about how Jesus is calling you to be a person of justice, restoration, and invitation.
- **Serve:** Consider joining a serve team at Cornerstone or getting involved in an outreach that cares for those on the margins. Check out the **serve page** on the website or the serve wall in the cafe.
- **Lenten Commitment:** If you haven’t already, make a Lenten commitment to draw closer to Jesus during this season. Join the Lenten prayer spaces—”**A Space to Pray Along the Way**.”

PRAY:

Take time to pray together as a group:

- Pray for each person to hear Jesus’ specific invitation to them and to have the courage to respond, “Because you say so, I will do it.”
- Pray for Cornerstone Community Church as we journey “on the way with Jesus” and discern what he is calling us to in this next season.
- Pray for those on the margins—the poor, the oppressed, the brokenhearted—that God would use us to proclaim his good news and freedom.
- Invite group members to share specific areas where they need faith to obey even when it doesn’t make sense, and pray for one another.

CONNECT:

Check out **The Hub** on Cornerstone's website to stay connected with upcoming workshops, Group Launch opportunities, baptism classes, and community events. Consider how your group might serve together or participate in a Lenten prayer space as a way to deepen your journey with Jesus this season.

CLOSING:

As you go this week, remember the benediction from Isaiah 61:1-3: "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on us, because the Lord has anointed us to proclaim good news to the poor... to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." You are called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor. Go and be fishers of men, inviting as many as possible to join us on the way with Jesus.