

# WEEK 2

## Beginning Our Journey Together

The 2003 movie *Big Fish* was named after the lead character's perceived tendency to tell exaggerated stories about his life, including a story about a very large fish. We have all encountered that tendency (in others of course, never ourselves) for tales to grow in fantastic details and, inevitably, for the fish to always grow longer and multiply in numbers. In the Scripture passage for this week, Jesus instructed some seasoned fishermen where to cast their rope nets, and the catch was so large that even these seasoned exaggerators (the fishermen) were blown away. The haul of fish threatened to snap the ropes and break the nets (Luke 5:6).

Ropes were standard, everyday tools for most vocations in antiquity, and in one form or another continue to be for many trade vocations today. Whether you were a builder (ropes for lifting, pulling, and measuring), a farmer (ropes for yoking and driving livestock), or, as in this case, a fisherman (casting rope nets) you would have your hands around a rope countless times each day. Christ uses this ordinary vocational tool of Peter and his fishing partners to recast their calling and redirect their future. Instead of catching dead fish they would now begin casting for live people, their vocations now blessed and made larger as they were woven into Christ's mission.

Christ has a calling for our church's future, but that calling to be on mission for Christ will necessarily include Christ's work in weaving together the tools we have (our individual resources, gifts, callings, and vocations) blessing them and multiplying them just like He did those many years ago for Peter and his partners. It's this idea that we want to explore this week: working together to support Christ's mission for our church.

### CHECKING IN

As you begin your group session, take some time to check in as a group.

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Share what has happened in group members lives since you last met. You can also use this time to let people share additional insights or questions they had from the previous week's theme:

- Last week we discussed the idea of Building Together as a group of friends--twining our lives together in community so that we are stronger together. We were reminded that "a cord of three strands is not quickly broken" (Eccl. 4:12). As you reflected on this theme through the week did you discover any additional insights or applications that you would like to share with the group?

### BEGINNING PRAYER

You might choose at this time to share new prayer requests and follow up on ones shared last week (or you can do this at the end of the session). Here is an opening prayer: God, as we enter this season of building and growth as a church, help us to discern what you are calling us to do to support Your mission for our church. Help us to discern and use our gifts, vocations, and callings so that Your kingdom comes and Your will is done, in our church, community, and world as it is in heaven. Amen.

### WARM-UP ACTIVITY

What are some "big fish" stories or perhaps "big game" stories in your group? Do you think Peter spent his life assuring people that this was one big fish story that really happened? What are some ways that you have seen Christ at work in your life that might seem like a "big fish" story?