



April 19, 2026

THEME:

Luke – Fishers of Men

LIFE APPLICATION:

Let your light shine before others.

SCRIPTURE:

Luke 5:1-11

MEMORY VERSE:

“...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” **Matthew 5:16**

Parents, ask:

In church on **Sunday, April 19**, we had a special celebration. **Can you tell me what we celebrated?** (Let children guess.) We celebrated the 7th anniversary of Moments of Hope Church! What are some things we learned about our church? (Discuss) We learned how MOHC started, during Covid, and without a location! In our seven years, we have met at all of these places, trying to find a permanent church home:

- AG Middle School
- Hope Farm
- River Place in Fort Mill, SC.
- Movement Mortgage
- Providence Day School
- Providence Square

These seven years have been very special! **What are some things you love about Moments of Hope Church?** (Let everyone share.) Even though we have not yet found a permanent church home, God has done amazing things!

Let's read about something very special that happened with Jesus and the people he chose to be his friends and followers. **Read and discuss Luke 5:1-11.**

READ AND DISCUSS LUKE 5:1-11

1 On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, 2 and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. 3 Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. 4 And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." 5 And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." 6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. 7 They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. 8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." 9 For he and all who were with him were astonished 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. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." 11 And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him."

1. What were the people doing in **verse 1?** (They were pressing in to be close to Jesus.) Why were they crowding together around Jesus? (They wanted to hear him speak the word of God.) Where was Jesus? (He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret.)
2. In **verse 2**, Jesus noticed two boats, and the fishermen were finished and washing their nets. **What did Jesus do?** (Read **verse 3** — he got into Simon's boat and had Simon put the boat a little out from the shore. He sat in the boat and taught from there.) Do you remember from earlier in Luke when Jesus healed Simon's mother-in-law? Jesus knew Simon and asked him to help. Jesus could teach from the boat and everyone would be able to hear! Simon must have been tired from fishing all night, but he said yes because he knew Jesus and trusted him.
3. What did Jesus tell Simon to do after he finished speaking? (**Verses 4 and 5** — he told Simon to put his nets out in the deep water to catch some fish.) How did Simon reply? (That they had already fished all night and caught nothing.) But, what did he do even though he was tired? (He did what Jesus asked.) Think about this: Simon was tired and he had plenty of reasons and excuses to say no to Jesus. **But he said yes! He trusted Jesus!**
4. What happened when Simon let the nets down into the water? (Read **verses 6 and 7**. Simon and the other fishermen caught so many fish that the nets and the boats were overflowing. Jesus had blessed them with the biggest catch of fish they had ever seen!)

5. What did Simon do when this happened? (**Verses 8 and 9** — he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.") Why did Simon say this? (He knew he was sinful and did not deserve what Jesus was doing for him.) Simon knew he was a sinner. **Is it important for us to know we are sinners so that we can understand what Jesus has done for us, even though we don't deserve it?**
6. Simon Peter and the others were all astonished at what had happened! **Show me what your face would look like if you were astonished.** (Let family members make "astonished" faces.)
7. Who else was with Simon Peter? (James and John, the sons of Zebedee.) What did Jesus say to them? (**Verse 10** — "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.") What do you think this means? (Discuss. How could they "catch people" for Jesus?) Jesus was inviting these men to follow him and tell others about him! And, he was assuring them that they did not need to be afraid. **Have you ever been afraid to follow Jesus?** Remember, he is always with you, wherever you go.
8. In **verse 11**, what did the men do? (They left everything and followed him.) They trusted him with their lives and with his plan for them. **Do you trust Jesus with his plan for your life?**

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR, DAVID CHADWICK:

The last seven years with Moments of Hope Church have been so special. God has done many wonderful things among us. **Many people have decided to follow Jesus for the first time, there have been miracles of healing, babies born to people who had not been able to have children, and many Hopesisters serving all over the Charlotte area and even in other countries.** We have given over **14 million dollars** to ministries in the city and all around the world. We have **baptized almost 700 people** into the faith. We have a wonderful community of people who love Jesus and love each other. We are committed to our **Core 4 strategy** of discipleship and learning to be fully devoted disciples of Jesus.

What will the next seven years bring?

1. We will continue to live out our mission statement: **to make disciples who know, grow, and go.**
2. We will continue to emphasize our development and spiritual growth in:
 - Scripture
 - Theology
 - Wholeness
 - Outreach
3. And, my hope is that we will all "go fishing" for the rest of our lives!

FAMILY CHALLENGE

1. Parents, discuss these points with your kids. How can our family be "fishers of men?"

- Every day is a fishing expedition (pray to start your day).
 - Listen to the Holy Spirit to know where and to whom you are supposed to cast your bait.
 - The gospel is our bait (tell others about a holy God, a sinful man, the Cross and forgiveness).
 - Change your fishing holes if they become “dry” — there are others who need to know the good news.
 - Remember: It’s called fishing, not catching, for a reason.
 - You’re in sales, God is in management.
 - There’s no greater joy than to be a part of helping someone know Jesus!
2. If possible, go fishing together (or go watch someone fishing at a local lake) so that your kids can see what we have been talking about. Remind them that Jesus wants us to be “fishers of men” and tell people around us about him.
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PRAYER:

Jesus, thank you for loving us and blessing us even when we don't deserve it. Thank you for saving us from our sin and giving us a job to do for you in this world: telling others about what you have done for them and how they can be in your forever family. We love you. In your name we pray, Amen.