

## "COUCH SLEEPER CALLOUT" Week1: Explore

### KEY SCRIPTURES:

**Matthew 28:19** "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..."

**Matthew 4:18-22** As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

**Luke 1:1-4** Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you... so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

**Luke 5:3-11** 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 signaled 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.

**John 1:39** "Come," he replied, "and you will see."

**John 20:27** Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

**Hebrews 5:12 (NLT)** You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food.

**2 Peter 3:18** grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### QUESTIONS:

1. Growing up, what was your idea of "going on an adventure?"
2. Share some place you've always said you will go to "someday"...that can be a literal place, or a figurative "place"--for example, the "place" of being the spouse you know God calls you to be. (Feel free to share both!)
3. Read the Matthew passage above. Some have thought the journey of following Jesus was supposed to start like the Matthew passage reads: seemingly sudden and impulsive, with no room for questions. Has there ever been a time in your life--faith related or otherwise--where you have had questions or struggles, but didn't feel like you could ask or explore?
4. We talked about how when it comes to exploration, sometimes we hide behind questions--maybe we feel it isn't ok to ask them, or maybe we're afraid of what we might find so we stay in the familiar place behind those questions. Can you think of other reasons we hide behind our questions? Is there a time you've hid behind questions--not only faith-related, but for any reason?
5. Luke's account shows us detail, investigation and exploration. The disciples had heard about Jesus, about his teaching and miracles...and now they found themselves encountering Him among them. He first invites them to head out in the boat. Do you have a memory from early in your faith journey where you felt Jesus inviting you to explore?
6. Jesus doesn't stay there. The disciples listen and explore, but now Jesus makes it personal and invites them to encounter him by asking them out into deeper water to cast their nets. "Because you say so, I will let down the nets." Is there a time you were perhaps uncertain, but in faith, tried things God's way anyway? What was the result? Is there a time now where you need to step out in that way?
7. Finally, the disciples encounter Jesus' power in their midst, and leave their lives behind, despite the risk, to follow Him. Consider sharing any ways that you may be sensing Jesus unsettling you and calling you out from your spiritual status quo?