



TRUE LIGHT

OUT FISHING THE FISHERMAN

September 21, 2025

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Sunday School :
9:30 a.m.
Worship:
10:15 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00PM

MINISTER

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*"This is the day the Lord
has made. Let us rejoice
and be glad in it."*

Psalm 118:24

**We Welcome You
To All Of Our
Services**

Many of us who claim to be Jesus' disciples today treat our personal life like a roll top desk. Far more than dividing things into secular and sacred, each of us subdivides much of our life to help us cope with our responsibilities, interests, and personas. We keep our different areas of interest and involvement separate from each other in separate cubbyholes. If we are honest, we even keep a few of our areas of interest *very* separate from our "God stuff." We simply don't want our spiritual interests interfering with these other areas of self-interest!

So we have a cubbyhole for recreation. We have another for vacation. We keep a special drawer full of stuff for work responsibilities, relationships, and politics. We also have a cubby for parenting, hobbies, and investing. We even have a "God stuff" cubby for our Christian "Facebooking" as well as our church friends and church life. If we're completely honest, some of us also have an "opposite of God stuff" internet cubby. This place is where we keep all sorts of things we really don't want God to interfere with or influence what we do.

When things get really messy, we pull down the roll top desk and everything looks "fine" on the outside to others. We punch our "I'm fine!" button and head to church, pray for help, read Ann Voskamp, check out Max Lucado books, or seek a counselor. The problem is everything on our inside is a scrambled and mixed up mess. Under the roll top, there is no ordering Lord to bring coherence and purpose to our multi-personalized jumbled up mess. Which brings us to this week's "Saved at Sea" segment with Jesus.

Jesus' entourage followed him to the seashore on the northwest side of the Sea of Galilee. This part of the sea of Galilee was called Lake Gennesaret. Peter and his homie-fishing buddies were washing their net after a long night of work. Suddenly they were overrun by the God-squad of people wanting to hear Jesus and see one of his miracles.

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-- (Luke 5:1-3).

Why did Jesus come to the seashore? He knew the crowd would follow him there. Sure, the acoustics were good in this place. Yes, a boat makes a great pulpit, and this location on the lake makes a great amphitheater. Is there possibly something more to this moment than just a good place for a sermon for the masses? Let's ask another questions and see if we can't find out what's going on in this important moment.

Why did Jesus really interrupt Peter and his buddies? Did he need Peter's boat or was he trying to win the heart of the boat owner? A quick reading of the story (Luke 5:1-11) sure seems to suggest that Jesus was on a "fishing expedition" of his own!

Jesus commandeered a boat. He used this boat, the water, and the shape of the shoreline as his amphitheater. But, notice who owned the boat! Simon Peter, the guy who would one day be the leader of Jesus' apostles. So as we pay close attention to what's happening, we realize the audience that came to hear Jesus wasn't Jesus' target audience for this moment. Jesus was after bigger fish than a herd of fickle people who made up the crowds that often followed him! He was looking for dedicated disciples who would become world-changing disciple-makers. Jesus was looking for people who would do anything and give up everything to follow him... obey him... and carry on his mission.

So instead of offering an invitation song or an altar call with 10 verses of "Just as I Am" to get the crowds to respond, Jesus surprisingly told Simon Peter, "Hey buddy, let's go fishing."

When he [Jesus] had finished speaking he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch" - (Luke 5:4).

However, there was a huge problem with what Jesus said. Everybody who knew anything about fishing in Jesus' day knew you didn't go fishing with Peter's kind of nets in daylight. Fish could see and avoid them. Also, everybody who knew anything about fishing in the Sea of Galilee knew you didn't catch fish with these kinds of nets in deep water. They were most effective for fish near the surface. On top of that, everybody who knew anything about fishing in those days knew you needed to be fishing at night or in the dusk of dawn and sunset. You weren't going to catch anything at the time of day Jesus was speaking to the crowds!

What makes Jesus' command all the more interesting, Simon Peter knew fishing better than "everybody who knew anything about fishing in Jesus' day." Fishing was Peter's life. Fishing was Peter's livelihood. He fished every day. He knew how to catch fish. He earned his living catching fish. He took care of his wife and family catching fish. He had partners with whom he fished regularly. So Peter knew what Jesus was asking was crazy, yet...

Simon [Peter] answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets"-- (Luke 5:5).

In cornbread English, Peter is saying, "The fish aren't biting, or I would've caught them last night. But if I am going to call you Lord over spiritual stuff, then I'd better let you be Lord of all my stuff... even the stuff I know best - my boat and my fishing!"

Peter's actions rattle my roll top desk approach to life. They make me ask myself, "Is there a place in my life - one of those little cubbyholes - where I need to say, *"But because you say so,* Jesus, I will let you have control of my life even here. I want you to be Lord over all of my stuff, all of my places, and all of my cubbyholes!" When Peter obeyed, look what happened!

They caught fish! They caught a lot of fish. They caught a boat-sinking amount of fish. Bottom line, it was the wrong time, wrong place, and wrong nets to catch fish. But...Peter obeyed because even though everything else was wrong, he had the right Lord! Peter obeyed, and nets started breaking. Buddies begin helping. Boats begin sinking. Every fisherman's dream catch is happening!

And Jesus' best catch of the day was not a catch of fish, but a catch of fishermen! We could rightly alter the old saying to read this way: Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime. Teach a man to teach others to fish, and you change the world forever because you've transformed his friends and him from fishermen into disciple-makers.

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BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

September 23 - Curtis & Vickie McClard (A)
September 26 - Jacob Clayton
September 27 - Pam Collier



Attendance for September 14: 106

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Sharon Durham recovering from back surgery and slowly improving but very sore *
Steve Jones diagnosed with stage 2 prostate cancer and will determine a course of treatment soon *
Alyson Mickey, still having some issues from a recent seizure *
Faye Dockins as she undergoes radiation treatments, and continues to deal with macular degeneration *
Cathy Provance's surgery postponed for the near future *
Woody Wood met with his surgery Wednesday

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Cody Boyt * Jerry Burleson * David Burleson * David Carson * Pat Cooper * Karen Forkum * Pat-sy (Hardy) Gregg * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Donna McKuin * Gloria Moore * Woody Wood

Those dealing with cancer/other illness (non congregational) :

Melinda Akers * Chastity Beard * Cathy Bennett * Rodney Britt * Jeanie Buck * Scott Burleson * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Tammy Clark * Billy Cobb * Randy Cravens * Barbara Denson * Bill Fitzpatrick * Misty (Owens) Franklin * Audrey Galloway * Emily Garner * Patricia Greninger * Stan Goodman * Renee Goodman * Christy Heskett * Nolan Hollowell * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Kristin Meadows * Jerry Mickey * Connie Lemmons * Ponna Mahan * Betty Nicholson * Keagan Owens * Nikki Reif * Joe Richardson * Bobby Thornton * Mindy Tomah * Alan Woodward

Our Shut Ins

Pat Cooper * David Terrill

Looking Ahead:

September 24: Our Wednesday night fellowship meal will be fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans and rolls. Desserts will be needed. If you can help prepare fellowship meals this year, please let Stan know.

September 26: Estate and Trust planning informational meeting at 6 p.m. in the fellowship room. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend; a light meal will be served.

September 27: Children's Homes 70th anniversary homecoming and open house. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery. Don't forget to get your change for children cans filled up.

October 2: Ladies Retreat planning meeting at 6:30 in the fellowship room.

October 5: First Sunday potluck and fellowship meal. We will have a potluck meal following morning service and an early evening service immediately following the potluck. Everyone is encouraged to attend both the meal and early evening service.

October 10 & 11: Ladies Retreat at BYC hosted by the Bernie congregation! We will have a wonderful weekend filled with women of great faith, have great food, and great fellowship.

October 14: Ladies Lunch Out at 11:30 at Grecian Steakhouse in Sikeston. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend.

CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

TO BE ANNOUNCED



Contribution for September 14: \$3373

WILLING TO SERVE

September 21, 2025

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Chase Burch
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
Scripture.....Jordan Ross
Prayer.....Jason Karnes
Closing Prayer.....Jess Lecroy

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Prayer.....Justin Allen
Scripture.....Darrin Shipman
Dismissal.....David Burleson

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
Prayer.....Sam Garner
Dismissal.....Mike Duley

September 28, 2025

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Opening Prayer.....Jason Karnes
Scripture.....Darrin Shipman
Prayer.....Zack Tanner
Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....David Carson
Prayer.....David Burleson
Scripture.....Sam Garner
Dismissal.....Matt Ward

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Notice what happens next! *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 (Luke 5:8-11).*

Peter recognized he was in the presence of the great I AM, the living LORD, God Almighty, God who is holy, holy, holy (Isaiah 6:1-9). Jesus was no longer just a preacher or a prophet. Jesus out fished the fisherman. He was Lord of the seas and all that is in them! Jesus gets Peter to the place where he needs to be - humble and repentant.

Jesus had this special group's attention. He told them, "Guys, we've got something a lot more important to fish for than fish. I need you to join me and let's fish for people!" He called them to a higher calling and a higher form of fishing. So they pulled their boats up on the shore and left everything - the boats, the crowds, the lifestyle, and their prized biggest catch of fish ever and followed Jesus in to a world-changing future!

On that special day on the seashore, Peter and his buddies had a collision of their roll top desk way of doing life and Jesus who wanted to be Lord of everything, even their boat and their fishing.

In much the same way, Jesus is confronting you and me. He is challenging us to identify our "boat." What's the area of our lives that we haven't yielded control to his lordship? Where's the area of my life that I keep cubbyholed away from my "God stuff" because I think I know how to do life better in that area than the Lord? What have I reserved to my "boat" because I don't want to have it changed by Jesus?

Notice that at first, Jesus used Peter's boat for a place to speak to the hearts of people. But before he could use Peter's boat in this way, Peter had to yield control over his boat to Jesus! I wonder what Jesus is calling me to use my "boat" to do?

The truth is, most of us today spend a lot more time in our "boat" than in our pews or even our beds. Work and recreation take up a much larger chunk of our time than sleep and church and "God stuff." So the nature of our discipleship is not determined so much by our "God stuff" time as it is our work and recreation time - our "boat" time. Peter's great fishing trip reminds us that Jesus is Lord when we are in our "boat," or he is not Lord at all.

So here's the big question for you and me to ask ourselves today: "What is my boat?" And here's the second one: when am I going to fall on my knees before Jesus and ask him to be Lord - not just of my "God stuff," also of my "boat"?

Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

BIBLE TRIVIA:

What is the name of the Bible character who saw a roll flying in the sky? * Two men in the Bible had the same name. One was a very poor man and the other was a friend of Jesus. What was their common name? * When Peter was released from prison, he knocked at the door of the gate and a certain person came to answer his knock. Who was that individual? * People will be thrown into the lake of fire because... * When Paul was shipwrecked on the island of Melita, he stayed with the chief man on the island. Who was this man? * What is the name of the man who slept in the land of Nod?

(Genesis 4:16)

Answers: Zechariah (5:1) * Lazarus (Luke 16:20; John 11:12:1) * Rhoda (Acts 12:13) * Their names are not written in the Book of Life (Revelation 20:15) * Publius (Acts 28:1,7) * Cain