**OPENING PRAYER:**

*God who works wonders, we invite you into this place.*

*Jesus we light this candle as a sign of your presence.*

*Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten us.*

*We pray that we keep our hearts and minds open to new ideas and that we may grow in our understanding of your ways. Amen.*

“Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after.“ Henry David Thoreau

**BREAKING THE ICE:**

* Have you ever gone fishing? Did you catch anything?
* Have you ever gotten into a routine of life and work like Simon?
* Who was the person who went out deeper to introduce you to Jesus?

**WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:**

*Read Luke 5:1-11.*

* What strikes you about this passage?
* Jesus asking the disciples to go deeper into the water was an unreasonable request. As fisherman, Simon would have known that the fish were closer to the shore. How do you think they felt when Jesus asked them to go deeper?
* Where have you found abundance in unexpected places?
* What are areas in your life where you hesitated to move out into deeper waters?
* The fisherman called their partners to help when the catch was so large. Then they left what may have been their largest catch ever on the beach. Is that surprising?
* What is the miracle in this story?

**NEXT STEPS:**

* How will your life be different based upon what you have learned in this week’s scripture, lesson and/or sermon?
* What is limiting your belief that Jesus has a large catch of fish planned for you and your congregation?
* We are asked to come and be a partner by sharing our gifts and abundance. Are you willing to go deeper?
* What are you asked to give away to live into the person God is calling you to be?

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

Dear Lord, We thank you for those who have come alongside us to and shared your love. We trust that your Holy Spirit will help us to see the miracles you are working today. Give us the courage to listen to your directions to go deeper, so that more people will know your love. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.