**Generosity**

Week 1 Preaching Resources

**Luke 5:1-11- Large catch of fish**

**Focus:** When we go out deep there are plenty of fish

**Me:** Tell a story about a time when you were sick of “casting your net.” Maybe you were sick of going through the motions at work or in your family. You might introduce it by saying, “Let me tell you about a time I got tired of casting my net…”

**We:** Begin by transitioning: “You know this feeling- We all have experienced a time when we have tried to cast our nets and we come up empty.” You might include a cultural example or something from your congregation. All can relate to being tired of going through the motions. Establish this felt need for all who have gathered.

**God:** Transition by saying something like: “God’s Word talks about when people got sick of casting their nets and going through the motions.”

**You:** This is the part where you go right at practical application. You might transition by saying: “Here’s what the scripture means for your life.” We know that there are still fish out there. Jesus calls us to go deeper. Jesus is telling you that you will make the catch. You might include a personal example or finish your opening story if you did press on and get a catch. When we listen and are willing to obey (go deeper), God is faithful and will show us where the fish are.

**We:** Now imagine a world where all of us were willing to go deeper together. Imagine the abundance that our church, community and world would find. This is a great opportunity to give a congregational example of when you have worked together in the past. Through the Miracles Everywhere campaign, we will be casting nets alongside church pastors and leaders in Tanzania. We will support pastor salaries, provide trainings, start new congregations and launch a Hope Center with a health clinic, school and mission hosting facility. Celebrate that the United Methodist Church is a global congregation. Challenge your congregation to go deeper by partnering with the campaign to catch fish and make new disciples in Africa.