



Church Vision 2026

The Miraculous Catch: Counterintuitive Obedience

Jess Woodliffe – 01 March 2026 ([watch talk here](#))

Reflecting further on the church vision passage in Luke 5, Jess unpacked for us what it means to respond to Jesus in obedience which is sometimes counterintuitive to what the ways of the world, or what we ourselves instinctively feel, think or want to do. In the context of faith, obedience means choosing to obey God's plan and will for our lives even if it doesn't make sense. It means whole-hearted, all-in surrender to God, as Jesus demonstrated in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:34-36), 'yet not my will, but yours be done.' Jess noted, we obey knowing God is trustworthy (Proverbs 3:5-6) and sees the bigger picture (Romans 8:28). We also do this using discernment, considering the ways God guides us through:

- Commanding Scripture (the Bible)
- Compelling Spirit (the Holy Spirit)
- Counsel of the Saints (the church)
- Common Sense (reason)
- Circumstantial Signs (providence)

Key verses:

Luke 5:5

Acts 20:22-24

Matthew 5:44

Matthew 16:25

Mark 14:34-36

Acts 20:35

Matthew 20:26

Reflect and discuss

1. What stood out to you from Jess' talk?
2. Read the key verses. What do you learn about 'obedience' to God from these passages?

Share & Pray

Consider Jess' question: **What is God asking me to step into or turn away from in obedience to him?** Spend time in smaller groups sharing your responses and praying for one another. Check back in with one another next time about how this is going.

Activate

Reflect on a past experience of acting in counter-intuitive obedience to God.

How did you discern what God was asking of you?

What went well?

What was challenging?

What did you learn about yourself?

What did you learn about God?

What encouragement have you taken from this experience?

How has this strengthened your relationship with God?

Prepare to share your experience in a future Small Group meeting.