

CALLING AND DISCIPLESHIP

Everyone wants to spend their lives doing something that has meaning, uses their gifts, and is something that they enjoy doing. God's call for all people are, first, to be in relationship with God, and second, to work in the world. Frederick Buechner speaks of the second type of call this way:

"The place where God calls you is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meets." Asking questions can help us unlock our deep gladness and how we experience the world's deep hunger. Do you know someone struggling to know what God's call is in his or her life? Invite them to join you for a cup of coffee and share with them in each of these 5 important conversations. You'll both walk away with more than just 5 cups of coffee. You may both end up with clarity about calling and discipleship. **Choose a friend, family member, neighbor, or stranger to walk with you this week as you share 5 cups of coffee and have transformational conversations.**

Let's start our conversation with leadership development and what that looks like in your life and at our church. I'm excited to have so many leaders reading this week's devotionals - I know you may not always feel qualified to be a leader, but I also know that God calls each of us to lead in some area of our lives and provides opportunities for us to lead others in their relationship with God. Take a moment to circle up with your partner for this week's journey and share about someone in your life who has served as a mentor to you or encouraged you in your relationship with God.

Through this week's experiences we can grow in understanding of our gifts, our beliefs and passions, and our opportunities to serve together. We can also learn how to deepen our spiritual practices related to prayer and scripture. This journey gives us the opportunity to be in community with God and one another. Before you begin, express how being in a covenant (promised) relationship with someone else has or can be beneficial for each of you.

This Ice Breaker will allow a time for each of you to get to know each other a little bit. Read a few statements below and if the statement is true for you, share a brief story regarding this relatability.

1. I've lived in this city/town my whole life.
2. I'm a first-generation Methodist.
3. I like to travel.
4. I enjoy cooking.
5. I have never been to Brewers game.
6. I'm a military veteran (or their spouse).
7. I am or was a teacher.
8. My family comes to church with me.
9. My favorite color is green.
10. The affects this pandemic has on my life are _____

Prayer: Good and Gracious God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, invites all people to follow him and become his disciples. Touch our hearts, enlighten our minds, and stir our spirit. Help us daily to take up our cross and follow him; by living his Word and proclaiming his Good News to those around us. May our faith in you increase, may our hunger for the Gospel intensify, and may our parish be strengthened as we learn to love one another as he has loved us. For this we pray, Amen.

Objective: To practice having conversations with one another about our spiritual lives and our call to ministry, as well as learning how to invite others to consider in what ways God might calling them.

21 September 2020 - The God Conversation

- What do you believe/know/hope about God?
- How do you experience God in your life today and/or in the past?
- How does belief in God shape how you understand yourself and others?
- How does your knowledge about God motivate you to action in the world?
- In Moses' story, God speaks through a burning bush. What does God's voice sound like to you?



EXODUS 3:1-15

22 September 2020 - The Gift Conversation

- Do you have a sense of your spiritual gifts and natural talents? What are they?
- Who has affirmed these gifts and talents in you?
- How have you used these gifts and talents to benefit yourself?
- How have you used these gifts and talents to benefit others?
- What do you want to do with your gifts and talents?



1 CORINTHIANS 12

23 September 2020 - The Passion Conversation

- What is something that you do well and enjoy doing?
- What are some things (social justice issues) that really 'fire you up' or bother you?
- What are somethings that you could talk about/write about/think about/do for long periods of time and never get bored?
- Has anyone ever commended you for your enthusiasm about something? What was it?
- If you could give a million dollars to someone/something, what would it be? Why? What would you want them to do with the money?

MICAH 6:8



PRAYER for 20 - 23 SEPTEMBER 2020 - I pray, Lord, that you would use me to reveal your salvation to this world. My life is an instrument in your hands to reveal your glory. Use me to touch lives with your transformative love and power. I pray for Heaven to invade earth. I pray against any distraction or snare of the enemy that would steal from my life. I forgive those who have wronged me. I am free in the name of Jesus. I pray for you to fulfill your will and purposes in my life every day. Empower me to make a difference in the lives of others through my actions and prayers. I thank you, Lord, that I am a world changer with every person who crosses my path. Your will be done. Amen. 2

- What does offering your life as a "living sacrifice" mean?

24 September 2020 -The Spiritual Growth Conversation

- In the Wesleyan tradition, we speak of "acts of piety" (bible study, prayer, fasting, worship, sharing your faith, sacraments, accountability, etc.) as ways to grow in our relationship with God. What acts of piety do you practice?
- What would it look like for you to connect with God daily? How do you make that happen? How would you spend that time?
- Who in your life could you commit to staying accountable with in spiritual practices?
- What do you want from God in your spiritual life?

ROMANS 12:1-2



25 September 2020 - The Opportunities Conversation

- Has anyone ever given you an opportunity that allowed you to use your gifts in leadership and service? Why did they offer it to you?
- Who do you know that has your "dream job"/dream service opportunity?" What would you say to them if they were here now?
- What kind of opportunities are available for you in using your gifts, talents, and passion in the world in the month/months ahead?
- What could 2 or 3 people in your community do about the social justice issue that "fires you up" in the 2 months ahead?
- What are you willing to do to open up



COLOSSIANS 3:17

PRAYER FOR 24 & 25 SEPTEMBER 2020

God of love, source of mercy and compassion, weave your dream for the world into the fabric of our lives.

Remove the scales from our eyes and lift the indifference from our hearts, so that we may see your vision –a new reign of justice and compassion that will renew the earth.

Transform our lives, so that we may accomplish your purpose.

Anoint us with your spirit of love that we might bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim release to the captive.

Give us a new urgency and a new commitment to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, and visit those who live in isolation.

Help us to reach out to those whom no one else will touch, to accept the unacceptable, and to embrace the enemy.

Surround us with your love, fill us with your grace, and strengthen us for your service.

Empower us to respond to the call of Jesus – to deny ourselves, to take up our crosses, and to follow.

AMEN

more opportunities?

26 September 2020 - The Bonus Conversation

The Bible says,

Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:12–14; English Standard Version

With that in mind, I want to look at what the Holy Spirit does in the process of discipleship.

THE HOLY SPIRIT REGENERATES

It is the Holy Spirit who is the one who gives new life in Jesus. Without Her influence at the moment of hearing the Gospel, no one would accept to turn and follow Christ as Lord and Savior.

THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTS OF SIN, LEADING TO REPENTANCE

From the initial decision to get saved, the Holy Spirit begins the process of redirecting a person's life out of their sinful activities of the old human through the conviction of sin.

THE HOLY SPIRIT SANCTIFIES

The work and role of the Holy Spirit, is to fully renew us according to the image of Christ in a process called sanctification. She is the one who draws us to Christ in the beginning. She causes us to be born again (John 3:5-8); and She continues this work within us until we are perfected in Christ for eternity.

After you've had 5 Cups of Coffee with your fellow disciple and enjoyed some transformative conversation, what do the next steps look like for both of you? How will you pledge to continue your covenant relationship? To support and encourage each other during the next six months? 12 months? Long term?

I would enjoy hearing about how God is at work in your lives as you both of you live out your call as a disciple of Jesus!

PRAYER: Just a mustard seed, you said, just a mustard seed of faith to remove the mountain of doubts and difficulties which beset our often-frail existence. We readily confess, Lord Jesus, that there are times when we reach out seemingly in vain for that mustard seed. And yet, if we did but think for a moment, in that very act of reaching out we reveal the presence of the very seed that we seek. Lord Jesus we have faith in your power to heal, but lack the self-confidence to ask. We have faith in your ability to mend broken hearts, but lack the experience in our own lives. We have faith in your power to bring wholeness into lives that are incomplete, but hesitate to trouble you with our prayers. We are like children, Lord Jesus standing here in awe of your power and love, afraid to ask that which we know is possible, because we are afraid of the consequences of our asking. Lord Jesus, accept the mustard seed that we hold out to you, hearts outstretched. Take it and the prayers that we

offer, and grant us the grace to accept that our prayers are heard and answered at the moment of asking, by a God who knows our own incompleteness, and is working to make us whole. In Jesus name, amen.