

Small Group Meeting on 'Jesus Calls Us'

Review (20 mins)

Reflect together on your experiences over the last week. What has God been teaching you? Where have you been growing in your walk with Him? Had you set yourself a challenge in your discipleship? How is that going? Share those experiences with your small group.

Read (10 mins)

Recap on the sermon from last Sunday. Try to give a summary to those who were not able to be present.

Luke 5:1-11, 27-31; 6:12-16

Read the Bible passage for this week, slowly and prayerfully. It might help to use your imagination to picture the scene. Below, you will find helpful background information in our 'Setting the Scene' section.

As you read, look out for *shockers* and *blockers*.

Shockers – a phrase, word, image or something from the text that resonates, stands out or connects with you.

Blockers – something from the text that raises questions for you.

Setting the scene:

- Jesus has continued his preaching and healing ministry, but also makes time away from busy-ness to spend in prayer and reflection (4:42ff, 6:12)

- In 5:1-6:16 Jesus continues this ministry and introduces us to two new groups who we will encounter from this point forward: disciples and religious opponents.
- Note that, in the time of Jesus, it was customary for disciples to seek out a Rabbi to follow. Jesus turns this on its head as he is the one who calls disciples.

Reflect (20 mins)

After you have all had time to read the text, pause and be still to listen to God through the Scriptures.

Begin your reflection time by each naming your *shockers* and *blockers*. Listen carefully to each other, share your thoughts and reflect on this passage together.

You might also like to explore these questions:

Q1. With both the fishermen and Levi, Luke tells us they ‘left everything and followed him’. What does that mean for us as disciples today? Is our discipleship on our terms rather than God’s? If so, how?

Q2. How have you heard/sensed God’s call on your lives (it may be becoming a Christian, your wedding day, the start of a new job, moving house, etc.). How is that call being worked out today?

Q3. Church Mission Society describes its call as ‘[setting] people free to play their part in the mission of God’. What might such a call look like for your small group?

Respond (20 mins)

As you draw near to the end of your session, consider how you might respond to your reading and reflection by “walking the talk”. What are you going to be doing this week that will help you respond

to God's call on your life? It may be to continue a challenge or activity that you are currently engaged with over many weeks. Be prepared to share how you are growing in that.

Some new challenge ideas

1. God's On-going Calling

Take some time out during this term to reflect on where God has led you this far in your life and ask the question: 'what next?' Be open to receiving the answer 'stay as you are' *or* 'change, walk this way'. Later in the term share your answers with your small group and feel free to discuss with one of the staff team.

2. 'You will be catching people'

Spend some time in prayer for the people you regularly meet; asking God to show you if there is one or more you need to be intentionally sharing the gospel with or inviting to Alpha. Continue in prayer by asking that opportunities will arise and that you will take them.

3. 'They left everything and followed him'

Reflect on your first calling by God. Do you still have the same energy and excitement in following Him or have you 'lost your first love' (Rev 2:4)? Seek God's face as to what you need to do to get back on track. You might like to use the prayer below as a daily help in doing this.

Group Prayer

As a group, pray for one another this week as you explore afresh God's call on your lives. Pray for a willingness to stay doing what you are doing *and* a willingness to be open to change. You may like to pray together a prayer by a 13th century Bishop Richard of Chichester:

Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits thou hast given me,
for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly,
and follow thee more nearly, day by day.
Amen.