

MID-WEEK REFLECTION 1

“At Our Savior’s Way Lutheran Church, we make disciples to follow Jesus by forming relationships.”

GETTING STARTED:

Who holds you accountable for the way you are living? Who helps you to grow?

DIGGING DEEPER:

All Believers in Christ are Called to be His Disciples

I Peter 2:9-10 *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness in to his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

Reflect on these Words from God to You

You are chosen.

You are a priest.

You belong to God.

God called you out of darkness to his wonderful light.

Once you were nothing. But then you received mercy.

Turn to a person near you (or say it to yourself if you are doing this study alone) and say their /your name and read these words out loud.

_____Name_____, You are chosen. You are...

We all seek to know our purpose and why God put us on this earth. At different stages of life the things we do may change and how we do them, but God’s call remains constant. Jesus invites us to follow Him and share His love. Sometimes the call is dramatic like the apostle Paul’s call to follow Jesus on the road to Damascus, but at other times God’s call is a simple prompting in our heart to contact someone on the phone, or send someone a card, or make a visit to a friend or neighbor and share His love.

Question: Have you ever felt God was inviting you to get involved in some service or felt Him calling you to care for someone or to do some ministry? Describe your experience.

Jesus’ Call Is Unexpected:

Luke 5:1-11 *One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, he saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to*

Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So, they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man! For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." So, they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Questions: God's call is always unexpected and undeserved. God comes into our ordinary lives and invites us to experience something extraordinary.

1. What can we learn from Peter's response to Jesus?
2. Why does Jesus tell Peter not to be afraid?
3. Why would Peter or anyone leave everything to follow Jesus?
4. Did you ever make a conscious decision to follow Jesus?

Jesus' Call is First to Himself:

Matthew 11:28-29 *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*

Question: Why does Jesus invite us to come to Him personally?

What does it mean to be yoked to Jesus?

Why does knowing Jesus lead us to rest?

Jesus Calls Us as We Are but He Does not Leave us that Way:

Matthew 9:9-13 *As Jesus went from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.*

While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Question: How would Matthew respond to someone who said, "I do not qualify to be a disciple. I am not good enough or spiritual enough?"

Question: Who do you know needs to hear the good news that God loves them and is with them? What good news has God given you that you can share with them?