

LETTING THE  
WAY OF  
**JESUS**  
LEAD



## Ordinary People, Extraordinary Call

WEEK 1

### Gather

AS YOU BEGIN, PRAY TOGETHER.

READ GOD'S HOLY WORD.

#### **Matthew 4:18–22**

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

### Ponder

*Jesus begins His ministry not by recruiting the impressive but by calling ordinary fishermen into an extraordinary purpose. His invitation, “Follow me,” is potentially disruptive at first, but grace quickly follows—Jesus initiates and disciples respond. We read that the calling of Jesus is less about how qualified you are and more about the transforming power of Christ’s call. For our community, it frames the idea of discipleship as a Spirit-led journey into a new identity and vocation. We are invited to hear again that Jesus has never stopped calling ordinary people (each of us) for extraordinary work. It might be true that the work doesn’t always feel extraordinary, but understanding God’s calling on our life better frames our purpose and perspective as we move through each day.*

## Equip

TAKE A GROUP PAUSE AND THEN CONSIDER THE QUESTIONS TOGETHER AS A GROUP.

### Called

- Do you think “letting the way of Jesus lead” is for the super-spiritual or for everyone? Why?
- Do you think “letting the way of Jesus lead” is about doing extraordinary acts or also about our daily lives?
- Why do you think there was no hesitation on the part of the disciples in the Matthew 4 passage when we read “Immediately they left their nets” ? Talk about this idea with your group. What does it make you think/feel?
- What are the “nets” in your life that God is asking you to leave behind? Or what do you think is holding you back from following God’s call immediately?
- How can you let God lead you into the calling he has for you?

### **“How I spend this ordinary day in Christ is how I will spend my Christian life.”**

(p. 24) Tish Harrison Warren, *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life*

- What is Jesus’ extraordinary call on his would-be disciples?
- Jesus promises that he will make us fishermen—how does this promise give you hope in your spiritual journey?
- How is this passage a good example of what discipleship is?
- What do you think it would look like for our FPC Community to more fully commit to God’s call for our congregation?

## Engage

CONSIDER THESE PRACTICAL NEXT STEPS IN THE WEEK AHEAD. SHARE WITH YOUR GROUP NEXT WEEK ABOUT HOW THESE PRACTICES HELPED OR HINDERED YOU IN YOUR JOURNEY.

- How might you encourage another friend or community member after hearing this sermon and gaining a better understanding of discipleship and what it means for our church? Consider reaching out to someone that comes to mind as you think about your immediate FPC community.
- Reconsider these disciples this week. The word “immediately” is used twice in these few verses. How are you inspired or challenged to be more attentive to God’s call on

your life? Take some time to reflect with someone close to you about this passage and what it has meant for your understanding of God's call.

- Be intentional to pray this week about where God is calling you and also how God might be asking you to participate in this larger call on our FPC community.

## Pray

**TAKE SOME TIME (60 SECONDS TO A COUPLE MINUTES) AND QUIET YOUR HEART AND MIND BEFORE YOU PRAY TOGETHER**

*Dear Jesus, thank you for calling us—ordinary people. Open our eyes that we might see exactly where you are asking us to move. Give us discernment as we go about our day to day lives, that we might pay close attention to the places You're calling us—to the people that You're calling us to. Help us to surrender our “nets” or the things that so easily entangle us or preoccupy us, that we might be fully devoted and dedicated to the calling you've placed on each of us. Encourage us in the midst of seasons without clarity or full of confusion—we know that you are the God who calls us as we trust you to lead the way. Amen.*