



You Need a Calling | Week 2

Sometime in the next three weeks during group time, have everyone go to MidtownMembers.com, watch the video on page 2, and fill out their Member Checkups.

1. Catch Up On Life:

This is when we update each other on the things that Jesus has been up to in our lives since we last saw each other. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)

- Celebrate the wins - where have you seen Jesus working in the last week (shaping you to be more like Himself or working in the lives of those that He's put around you)?
- What (if any) big life updates do you need to catch us up on (positive or negative)?

Pray: Take every opportunity to pray and thank God for the good He's doing in our lives, and ask for help and healing anywhere there is pain.

2. Review the Mission:

Just like God the Father sent Jesus on a mission of reconciliation for us, Jesus sends us out as ambassadors of His reconciliation. We are called to make disciples wherever we go. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

People:

- Reactive - Who in your life (family, coworkers, etc.) can we join you in praying for? Who has God put around you that is showing spiritual interest? Who is hurting and could use some love from our group?
- Proactive - Who are the people we are intentionally living on mission with (neighbors, STC partner organizations, or a specific demographic in Columbia)? What are our upcoming plans to love, serve, and build relationships with this group?

Plan:

- Are there any rhythms already planned, or an extra rhythm we could plan to create a way for these friends to connect with our group?

Pray: Prayer is the fuel of God's mission. Let's pray for our people by name; pray for their needs, and opportunities to have spiritual conversations that help them take next steps toward Jesus.

3. Sermon Discussion:

God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, to equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, to show us our sin, and to strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a LifeGroup throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25)

Primary Passage: 1 Corinthians 7:17-24, Colossians 3:22-24

Related Passages: Psalm 145:16, Psalm 147: 13-14

Read and Recap: Have someone read 1 Corinthians 7:17-24 and Colossians 3:22-24 and recap the highlights from this week's sermon. What stood out to you and why?

- What is your initial reaction to Paul's command to put your heart into your work even if it's not work you enjoy? What specific obstacles/resistances do you have with putting your heart into your work?

In the sermon we quoted Tim Keller who said, "Our work can be a calling only if it is reimagined as a mission of service to something beyond merely our own interests. In fact, thinking of work mainly as a means of self-fulfillment and self-realization slowly crushes a person and undermines society itself."

- Do you think of your work as a calling? Why or why not?
- How does this definition help you reimagine your work as a calling?
- In what ways are you looking to work to serve yourself?
- How does your work specifically serve God and serve others?

- How does seeing your work as a ministry to others motivate you to "work heartily"?

Pray that the Spirit would give you eyes to see the ways that God is at work in your work. **Pray** that you would grow in fruitfulness in your work and that God would reveal Himself to others through your work.

4. Engage the Heart:

Jesus calls us to walk in the light, confessing our sins to God and each other. God's Spirit works through confession and community to lead us to repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10)

- What are you struggling to trust God with this week? How can you give God control of it?
- Has the Holy Spirit been prompting you to do anything that you've been resisting? What steps do you need to take to obey?

Pray: James tells us that a community that regularly confesses sin and prays for each other will see a lot of healing. Confess your sins in prayer and pray for each other.