

## Fail Forward Wk 1

### Opening Prayer

#### Locater Question

- How is it with your soul?
  - *This kind of language may be churchy for some. So think: How are you on the inside? Downcast? Joy-filled? Weary? Well?*

#### Guiding Scripture

- Luke 5:1-11, CEB

#### Scripture Discussion

- Why do you think Simon Peter was willing to trust Jesus and cast his nets once more? (Luke 5:5)
- When their nets filled, James and John were amazed and Peter fell to his knees. Why do you think they responded in these ways? How do you think you'd react? (Luke 5:10a)
- Jesus tells Simon Peter, don't be afraid. What do you think his biggest fears would have been? What would yours be? (Luke 5:10b)

#### Scripture Application

- Do you ever second guess or short-change what God can do with us? Why do you think you do that?
- What does it look like in your spiritual life to grow out "further and deeper" into the waters of your faith? (Luke 5:4)
- Where do you feel God nudging you to embrace a greater call to faith and action?

#### Theological Reflection

- We often sidestep opportunities to lead, speak or shape the church because we aren't "good enough" or we aren't "smart enough." Reflect on the theological implications of this mode of thinking? What harmful understanding of God and the world can come out of this framework of viewing God and ourselves?
- Jesus continually calls the ordinary, broken and sinful people around him to do something extraordinary works with him What does that tell us about the personality of God?
- As Methodists, we often talk about God's *Prevenient Grace*\*. How does our understanding that God chose us first impact our view of serving God once we've committed to following Jesus?

#### Transformation Question

- How might the Holy Spirit be speaking and moving in your life?
  - *We often feel little nudges in life. This question helps us to put more intention towards noticing, naming and defining a purpose behind the nudges God places into the daily rhythm of life.*

#### Weekly Roadmap

- Commit to reading the scripture for week 2: Mark 8:27-38, CEB
- Twice this week engage in *The Prayer of Examen*\*\* . Use the attached file to guide your prayer time.
- Spend time daily in individual prayer asking God: How might by failures be shaping me for the future?
- Begin looking and praying for opportunities to serve, lead and grow in impact with your sphere of influence.

#### Closing Prayer

*\*Prevenient Grace: s a Christian theological concept rooted in Arminian theology,. It is divine grace that precedes human decision. In other words, God will start showing love to that individual at a certain point in his lifetime.*

*\*\*The Examen Prayer card and instructions are attached (examen.png)*



# *the* EXAMEN

The *Examen* is a method of reviewing your day in the presence of God. It's actually an attitude more than a method, a time set aside for thankful reflection on where God is in your everyday life. It has five steps, which most people take more or less in order, and it usually takes 15 to 20 minutes per day. Here it is in a nutshell:

- 1** **Ask God for light.**  
*I want to look at my day with God's eyes, not merely my own.*
- 2** **Give thanks.**  
*The day I have just lived is a gift from God. Be grateful for it.*
- 3** **Review the day.**  
*I carefully look back on the day just completed, being guided by the Holy Spirit.*
- 4** **Face your shortcomings.**  
*I face up to what is wrong—in my life and in me.*
- 5** **Look toward the day to come.**  
*I ask where I need God in the day to come.*

Version of the Examen from *A Simple, Life-Changing Prayer* by Jim Manney © Loyola Press