

Building Blocks of Faith

Episode #5 - The Call to Discipleship

1. Read the two passages below, then answer the questions that follow:
 - John 1:12 - But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God...NRSV
 - Romans 8: 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba Father! NRSV
 - a. Notice that both passages refer to persons being "children of God." What does it mean to be a child of God?
 - b. Did you know that if a person is baptized into the Methodist Church but never goes through confirmation or claims the faith as their own, and not their parents, they are removed from the church roles? What are the implications of that?
 - c. At what point did you claim your faith as your own, not just following your family's traditions but actually having a relationship with God that is yours?
 - d. What does it mean that "God has no grandchildren?"
2. Romans 10:13 says - 'Whoever believes on him will not be put to shame.' 14-15 Now how can they call on one in whom they have never believed? How can they believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how can they hear unless someone proclaims him? And who will go to tell them unless he is sent? As the scripture puts it: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!'
3. When asked, "Tell me about yourself..." what categories do you usually use to define yourself? How do human beings usually build their lives around these "life definers"?
4. Have you or someone you love ever had a "life definer" end in life, and what was the impact to the sense of self-definition? Have you ever wondered how you would define yourself if your job, spouse, possessions, physical abilities, etc. disappeared?
5. Have you ever considered the importance of making your relationship with God the primary definer of who you are as a person?
6. How can you start living life differently, to make your choice to follow God lead the other parts of your life?
7. What have you discovered is your greater purpose for God in life? How can you invest your life in eternal purposes (serving others, helping others, teaching, etc.) so that as other parts of life change, your sense of self-definition does not go away?

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8. When was the moment in your life that you confirmed your faith, determining that being a child of God is the most important definer of your life?
9. What other “things” shout for us to use in our self-definition, but do not lead to eternal purposes?