

BUT YOU ARE A CHOSEN PEOPLE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD,
A HOLY NATION, GOD'S SPECIAL POSSESSION
THAT YOU MAY DECLARE THE PRAISES OF HIM WHO CALLED YOU

CHOSEN

OUT OF DARKNESS INTO 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.

WEEK TWO

Why Not Me?

Luke 5:1-11

5-DAY DEVOTIONAL • SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Willing and Available

DAY 1

From Excuses to Availability

READING · LUKE 5:1-11

Peter had every reason to say no. He was tired, he had already cleaned his nets, and he had caught nothing all night. Yet when Jesus said to push out into the deep, Peter obeyed, even reluctantly. God does not wait for your conditions to be perfect before He calls you. He calls you in the middle of your exhaustion, your failure, and your doubt. The question He is asking is not whether you feel ready. He is asking whether you are willing. Availability, not ability, is what opens the door to the miraculous.

REFLECTION

What excuses have you been holding onto that are keeping you from stepping out in obedience?

TRY THIS WEEK

Write down one area where God has been prompting you to act. Surrender that excuse to Him today in prayer.

DAY 2

God Sees the Bird, Not the Egg

READING · JEREMIAH 1:4-8; EPHESIANS 2:10

Jeremiah told God he was too young and did not know how to speak. God's response was not to argue with his limitations but to declare his purpose before he was even born. In Ephesians 2:10, Scripture affirms that we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for good works that He prepared in advance. God does not look at who you are right now and see only your current limitations. He sees what He designed you to become. You may see an egg. He sees the bird. Stop defining yourself by your present state and start trusting His eternal perspective.

REFLECTION

How have your own perceived shortcomings caused you to underestimate what God can do through you?

TRY THIS WEEK

Find a quiet moment today and ask God to show you one gift or ability you have been overlooking or dismissing as insignificant.

DAY 3

Ordinary People, Extraordinary God

READING · ACTS 4:8–13; 1 CORINTHIANS 1:26–29

When the religious leaders saw Peter and John, they were astonished. These were uneducated, common men. But something about them was undeniable. The religious leaders recognized that they had been with Jesus. In 1 Corinthians 1, Paul reminds us that God deliberately chooses the weak and the foolish things of the world so that no person can boast before Him. God's strategy has never been to recruit the most impressive résumé. His strategy is to take ordinary, available people and display His extraordinary power through them, so that when the world sees the results, all glory returns to Him alone.

REFLECTION

Do you ever feel overlooked or underqualified? How does knowing that God intentionally chooses the ordinary change the way you see yourself?

TRY THIS WEEK

Identify one person who seems ordinary but is doing something quietly faithful for God's kingdom. Encourage them specifically today.

DAY 4

The Power of a Faithful Yes

READING · JOHN 6:1–13; MATTHEW 25:21

A young boy had two fish and five loaves of bread. By any reasonable measure, it was not enough. But he placed what he had into the hands of Jesus, and it fed thousands with abundance left over. God is not asking you what you do not have. He is asking what you are willing to place in His hands. In Matthew 25:21, the commendation is not given to the person who did the most impressive thing. It is given to the one who was faithful with what they were given. Faithfulness, not fame, is the currency of God's kingdom.

REFLECTION

What do you currently have—time, talent, relationships, resources—that you have not yet fully surrendered to God?

TRY THIS WEEK

Take one small, concrete step of faithful service this week, even if it feels insignificant. Offer it to God and trust Him to multiply it.

Follow Him and Find Your Purpose Along the Way

READING · MATTHEW 4:18–22; PROVERBS 3:5–6

When Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James, and John, He did not hand them a five-year plan. He simply said, follow me. They did not know the destination. They did not know the details. They left their nets and followed. Proverbs 3:5-6 instructs us to trust in the Lord with all our hearts and not to lean on our own understanding, and promises that He will direct our paths. Purpose is rarely discovered in a moment of stillness and certainty. It is most often found in the act of following. You do not need to have it all figured out before you take the next step. You just need to take it.

REFLECTION

Are you waiting to understand the full plan before you follow Jesus more fully? What would it look like to trust Him with just the next step?

TRY THIS WEEK

Pray this simple prayer today: “God, make me available. Help me see the potential You placed in me. I choose to follow You, one step at a time, and trust You with the rest.”

Why Not Me?

OPENING PRAYER & ICE BREAKER

Open your time together in prayer, asking God to give each person an open heart and a willingness to hear what He may be saying to them individually through this discussion.

Ice Breaker: Think of a time you said yes to something you felt completely unprepared for. What happened?

SERMON OVERVIEW

This message continues the Chosen series, moving from a “why me” mindset to a “why not me” mindset. Last week we explored “why me?” This week the focus shifts to “why them?”—examining why Jesus chose the twelve disciples and what that reveals about how God chooses and uses ordinary, available people today.

KEY SCRIPTURE • LUKE 5:10–11

And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Section 1 • The Excuses We Make

- 1 When God impresses us to serve, the first thing we think about is our shortcomings. What is the most common excuse you make when you feel God nudging you toward something?
- 2 Peter said they had fished all night and caught nothing, but added, “at your word, we will let down the nets.” Have you ever obeyed God reluctantly like Peter? What was the result?

- 3 The message drew a distinction between doing more for the Lord and spending time with the Lord—“get closer, then you will do more.” How does your personal time with God affect your willingness and ability to serve?

Section 2 • The Egg and the Bird

- 1 An artist looked at an egg and painted a bird, seeing the potential rather than what was in front of him. How does it change your view of yourself to consider that God sees your potential rather than your current limitations?
- 2 In Acts 4:13, the leaders were astonished that Peter and John—uneducated, common men—had clearly “been with Jesus.” What does it look like practically for people around you to recognize that you've been in the presence of the Lord?
- 3 “If God showed you the big picture, you would not go, because it would scare you to death.” Do you agree? Why do you think God often reveals only the next step rather than the full plan?

Section 3 • What Do You Have?

- 1 Before Jesus called Peter to follow Him, He used something Peter already had—his boat. What do you already possess (a skill, a personality, a platform, a relationship, a testimony) that God could use right now?
- 2 In John 6, a boy offered two fish and five loaves. It seemed insignificant, but in Jesus' hands it fed thousands. What “small” thing have you been holding back because you didn't think it was enough?
- 3 “Visibility does not equal value.” How does our culture—and sometimes church culture—make it hard to embrace behind-the-scenes serving? How can this group help one another fight that tendency?

Section 4 • Faithfulness and Sending

- 1 God measures faithfulness, not visibility. Where in your life do you feel God calling you to be more faithful rather than more impressive?
- 2 Compassion Church values kingdom multiplication—developing people, then sending them out. How does that vision change the way you think about your role in your family, workplace, and community, not just inside the church?

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“Do not wait to figure out your purpose before you follow Him—you will find it along the way.” Is there something you've been waiting to understand before you take a step? What would that step look like this week?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ Jesus chooses the willing, not the already-qualified.
- ✓ God uses ordinary, overlooked people who make themselves available.
- ✓ God can develop in you what you don't yet have.
- ✓ God doesn't ask you to be the best. He asks you to be faithful.
- ✓ Your yes can impact someone you may never even know.
- ✓ Jesus chose them, then He sent them. He still does the same today.

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Choose one or more to commit to before your group meets again:

Option 1 Pray for Availability

Instead of asking God for more gifts or talent, pray this week, “God, make me available. Help me see the bird and not the egg in my own life.”

Option 2 Identify What You Have

Write down three to five things you already possess—skills, relationships, experiences, passions—and prayerfully ask God how He might want to use them.

Option 3 Take One Step

Identify one area of serving you've put off because you didn't feel qualified or ready. Take one concrete step toward it this week.

Option 4 Encourage the Unseen

Think of someone who serves faithfully behind the scenes and is rarely recognized. Reach out this week and tell them specifically how their service has impacted you or others.

Option 5 Share Your Yes

Tell someone about an area where you're saying yes to God, and ask them to hold you accountable to following through.

CLOSING PRAYER POINTS

- Reveal to each person what they already have that He can use.
- Replace a spirit of excuse with a spirit of willingness and availability.
- Give each person the faith to take the next step, even without seeing the full plan.
- Help the group see themselves the way God sees them—not as eggs, but as birds.

LOOKING AHEAD

Next week continues the series with a further exploration of the journey from “why me” to “why not me.” In preparation, read Luke 9:1–6 and Matthew 10:1–8, where Jesus sends out His disciples to do the very things He had been doing.

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He wasn't looking for the most qualified person. He was looking for someone willing to follow Him.

CHOSEN · WEEK TWO