

Small Group Guide: Your Calling is Confirmed

Based on Mark 3:13-19

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when you received confirmation about something important (a reservation, a purchase, a decision). How did that confirmation make you feel?

Sermon Overview

This week we explored how Jesus called and appointed His disciples, and what that means for our own calling as believers. We learned that Jesus doesn't just call us to salvation—He calls us to discipleship and mission.

Key Scripture: Mark 3:13-19

Key Takeaways

1. Jesus Calls (Mark 3:13)

- Jesus initiates the calling—He went first
- The disciples were young men (ages 11-20s), not the middle-aged bearded men we often imagine
- Jesus chose ordinary people who didn't complete traditional religious education
- He calls commoners, not just the qualified or educated

2. We Come (Mark 3:13)

- The disciples dropped everything to follow Jesus
- Jesus withdrew to the mountainside—away from the crowds
- We often look for our calling in crowds, conferences, and conversations, but we need to get alone with God
- **Key Principle:** Jesus came to where we were for salvation, but we come to where Jesus is for discipleship

3. He Appoints (Mark 3:14-15)

- Jesus appointed them first **to be with Him**, then to preach and cast out demons
- Being "appointed" means being "set apart"—like fine china reserved for special use
- The word "might" means "able to" or "having the ability to"—not "maybe"
- Every disciple is a believer, but not every believer is a disciple

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Calling

1. What surprised you most about learning the disciples were so young when Jesus called them? How does this change your perspective on who God can use?
2. Pastor Jeremy said, "Every disciple is a believer, but not every believer is a disciple." What do you think is the difference? Which category do you find yourself in?

Jesus Calls

3. How have you experienced Jesus initiating something in your life? Share a time when you felt God calling you to something specific.
4. The sermon mentioned that Jesus chose ordinary fishermen who didn't complete advanced religious training. How does this encourage you regarding your own qualifications (or lack thereof)?

We Come

5. Jesus withdrew to the mountainside to call His disciples. Do you have a "secret place" where you regularly meet with God? If not, what prevents you from creating one?
6. Pastor Jeremy said we often look for our calling in the wrong places (crowds, conferences, conversations). Where have you been searching for confirmation of your calling? What would it look like to seek it primarily in time alone with God?

He Appoints

7. Read Mark 3:14 again. Jesus appointed the disciples first "to be with Him," and then to preach and cast out demons. Why do you think the order matters? What happens when we try to serve without first spending time with Jesus?
8. The sermon emphasized that we're "set apart" like fine china. What does being "set apart" mean practically in your daily life? How should your life look different from the world around you?

Application

9. Your calling includes preaching the gospel (sharing the good news). Pastor Jeremy said, "We preach the gospel when it's complicated. We preach the gospel when we don't see the full picture. We preach the gospel when we're ridiculed." Which of these scenarios is hardest for you? Why?
 10. The challenge was given to pray for one specific person to invite to Easter (April 5th) or to share the gospel with. Who has God laid on your heart? What's one practical step you can take this week toward that person?
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Practical Applications

This Week:

- **Establish or protect your "secret place"** - Schedule at least 15-30 minutes daily to be alone with God
- **Identify one person** God is laying on your heart to share the gospel with or invite to Easter
- **Pray daily** for that person by name for the next 6 weeks leading up to Easter
- **Ask God to reveal your calling** - Spend time asking God specifically what He's calling you to do, not just on Sundays but throughout the week

Going Deeper:

- Read Romans 6 (the "dead to sin, alive in Christ" passage mentioned in the sermon)
- Journal about these questions:
 - What does it mean that I'm "dead to sin and alive in Christ"?
 - How is my life different now than before I knew Jesus?
 - What "dead things" in my life need to come alive at the name of Jesus?

Memory Verse:

"He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons." - Mark 3:14-15

Closing Reflection

Personal Inventory:

- Am I spending more time in public service than in private devotion?
- Is my life noticeably different from those who don't follow Jesus?
- Do I believe I have the authority and ability to share the gospel?
- What is preventing me from fully embracing my calling as a disciple?

Closing Prayer Points

Pray together as a group for:

1. **Boldness** to share the gospel with the specific people God has laid on each person's heart
 2. **Discipline** to establish consistent time alone with God
 3. **Clarity** about individual callings and next steps of obedience
 4. **Easter Sunday** - that God would prepare hearts and draw people to salvation
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Leader Notes

- Encourage vulnerability by sharing your own struggles with finding/following your calling
 - Remind the group that calling isn't just about "ministry positions"—it's about living for Christ daily
 - Challenge those who serve in church to also identify how they're living out their calling outside Sunday mornings
 - Create accountability for the Easter challenge—perhaps check in next week on who people are praying for
 - Emphasize that the "secret place" with God is foundational to everything else
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