
THE TAKE HOME

St. Paul UMC | 2000 Douglas Blvd., Louisville, KY 40205 | www.stpaulchurchky.org

Stories of Calling

*Explore these
Biblical call stories:*

Genesis 12:1-5a

Exodus 3:1-15, 4:10-17

Judges 4:4-10

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Judges 4:4-10

Isaiah 6:1-8

Luke 1:26-56

Acts 8:26-38

Acts 9:1-20

Reflection:

Take a moment and write about: the setting, the activity of the one who is called, the way through which the summons comes, what is asked, the immediate response, and the continuing interaction between God and the one who is called. What are the outcomes?

Practice Listening by using the Ignatian examen questions:

Find a quiet space where you can be comfortable. Sit in silence for a few minutes and invite the Holy Spirit to be present with you.

Ask yourself, “For what moment today am I most grateful?” and “When did I feel most alive today?” Give thanks to God for these blessings.

Ask yourself, “For what moment today am I least grateful?” and “When did I feel life draining out of me?” Pray for forgiveness and healing.

Thank God for being present throughout your day, in good times and bad.

Reflect on your examen experience.

What did you notice while praying?

What feelings surfaced and to what parts of your day were these feelings connected? Note patterns that emerge as you practice this over time.

Questions for Reflection on Chapters 1 and 2 of Parker Palmer’s book *Let Your Life Speak*

-Do you sense God’s calling in your present life? How? In what ways? Looking back, what have been the major turning points, signs, or guiding events in your life so far?

-What other “voices” speak their desires for your life? How do you try to distinguish God’s call from these other voices in your life?

***Ecumenical Lenten Services
Each Thursday***

Theme: Dynamic Duos

The HCM (Highland Community Ministries) Lenten Lunch Series is a simple meal of soup and bread prepared by the congregations.

Generally around 25 or so folks attend. The meal starts at noon with a brief welcome and blessing. There is time for the meal and then a 25-30 minute reflection/lesson. A different congregation hosts each week and a guest minister brings the reflection/lesson.

Thursday February 22,
Deer Park Baptist Church,
speaker Elizabeth Kirkpatrick,
topic: Phillip and Nathaniel

Thursday March 1, HCM,
speaker David Platt
topic: Pharisees and Saducees

Thursday March 8,
Strathmoor Presbyterian,
speaker Darren Brandon,
topic: James and John

Thursday March 15,
Bardstown Road Pres,
speaker Troy Burden,
topic: Mary and Martha

Thursday March 22,
St. Paul UMC,
speaker Rev. Dr. Mary
Nebelsick,
topic: Herod and Pilot

-Have you experienced any inner resistance to what you think God desires for your life? How about resistance from other people?

-Parker Palmer describes *vocation* not as “a goal I pursue” but as a “calling that I hear.” Palmer says, “Before I can tell my life what I want to do with it, I must listen to my life telling me who I am.” What are some different ways we might understand the word vocation?

-Frederick Buechner describes calling as “the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” What are your thoughts on this description?

-Have you begun to get a sense of your deep gladness? What can you say about it?

-How are you attempting to learn about the world’s deep needs? What do you know so far?

-What puzzles you most about these views of calling?

-What do you need from God as you try to understand and respond to your calling?

Quotes:

“People who plant the seeds of movements make a critical decision: they decide to live ‘divided no more.’ They decide no longer to act on the outside in a way that contradicts some truth about themselves that they hold deeply on the inside.”

“Some journeys are direct and some are circuitous: some are heroic, and some are fearful and muddled. But every journey, honestly undertaken, stands a chance of taking us toward the place where our deep gladness meets the world great need.”

**Next week please read chapters 3 & 4 of
Parker Palmer’s book:**

“Let your Life Speak”

books are available in the office for \$10 each.