

Home Group Leader's Notes

Week of October 8, 2023

Sermon Series: *Called*

"Called" is a series on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. The beginning of a relationship with Jesus and God is answering the "call" to follow Jesus. We reviewed the meaning of His words of invitation, to repent and believe, which are the starting place of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

Pastor Bill Born has described discipleship in terms of being like a large tree with roots, a trunk, and four branches. This week, we will focus on two branches: call into fellowship and called to be like Jesus. We will begin this week's notes by listening to God's glorious plans for those who follow Jesus.

The focus this week is on the first two "branches" of discipleship. The first branch is actually the "trunk" – it is fellowship with God and one another. Throughout the Bible, we see that God created us to be in an intimate relationship with Him and one another. Jesus promised eternal life to those who believe in / follow Him. Jesus summarized what this means in John 17:3: Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." This is why God made us – to know Him in His fullness. Everything else in life flows from our intimacy, our fellowship with, our knowing God. The second branch is a calling to be "like Jesus. Because we delight in God and want to be with Him, our second calling is to become like Him in His character and ways. We want to love and live like Jesus.

GOD'S PROMISES

Read the following Scriptures of what it means to be "called into fellowship with God." For each passage, write a few words to remind you of how God blesses those who are His disciples.

While the preference would be that people prepare before you meet, perhaps you could look at some key verses in your time together.

John 17:3

1 Corinthians 1:9

John 14:23

What do we learn about our part of entering into this fellowship with God?

John 13:34-35

Philippians 3:7-8

1 John 4:21

Read the following Scriptures regarding what it means to be “called to be like Jesus.” For each passage, write a few words to remind you of how God transforms those who are His disciples.

Luke 6:40

John 17:17

2 Corinthians 3:18

1 Peter 1:15-16

What do we learn about our part of being transformed?

John 8:31-32

John 14:21

1 Corinthians 1:2

DISCUSS TOGETHER

Regarding our call to fellowship, Pastor Bill’s summary is that “our first target is making disciples who love the Lord and His church.” What do you understand this to mean?

What fuels your desire to become like Jesus?

What is God’s part and what is our part of becoming like Jesus in character **and** works?

A few other questions you could discuss:

What helps you grow in intimacy with God? What hinders?

How do our American ways interfere with God’s plan for intimacy with Him and one another?

PLEASE PRAY FOR GOD’S FAMILY AND WORK

- Pray for your global partners who need God’s mighty strength
- Pray for how we love one another and reveal Jesus to our world
- Pray for our unity with other believers and churches

I am praying that the good Shepherd works in and through you as you discuss His amazing call to draw near.

Steve