

Home Group Notes
Week of October 15, 2023
“Called” week 3



In the previous two weeks, we discussed what it means to be “Called” to follow Jesus, to be “Called” into fellowship with God and His family, and “Called” to be like Jesus in His character and ways. For this week, we will focus on “Called” to sacrifice and “Called” to bear fruit.

We love the call to fellowship and welcome the idea of becoming like Jesus. But following in His suffering is a challenge. We have a natural resolve to avoid pain of any kind. And yet, this calling is throughout the Scriptures. Let’s look at a few of the many words from Jesus and His apostles. What do we learn in each passage?

Luke 14:25-33 (Notice Jesus’ repeated use of the word “disciple.”)

What do we learn from Paul in 2 Timothy 1:8-14?

Next, consider Peter’s word in 1 Peter 2:20-25.

The fourth branch of discipleship is described as continuing Jesus’ work in the world: We are called to bear fruit. There are multiple layers connected with this aspect of discipleship. First, we dare not think that we can fulfill Jesus’ work in our own power. Second, we need to be clear on the purpose. What is my motivation to follow Jesus? And third, what is the “fruit that lasts?”

What do we learn from the following passages?

John 14:12-17

John 15:1-4, 14-16

1 Corinthians 7:17

Ephesians 2:10

Matthew 28:18-20

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

What makes it difficult for American followers of Christ to embrace the call to sacrifice and suffer “for the gospel?” (2 Timothy 1:8; 1 Peter 2:21)

One person called the willingness to sacrifice “no competing affections.” What changes in a believer that makes obedience and “sacrifice” a choice and a joy?

Is the work of “Called to bear fruit” done by us or God? (See John 15:8)

How can we follow these branches of discipleship in community, in sync with God’s family?

What are some of the “good works” of disciples? What is their ultimate purpose?

DO YOU SEE THIS IN YOUR OWN LIFE?

It is a healthy thing to ask, ‘Do I see this in my life?’ Am I sacrificing and suffering as I set aside my own wants and wishes to follow Jesus? Am I following and sacrificing Jesus out of love for Him and one another?

PRAYER NEEDS

- Chuck Smith is home on hospice. He is no longer responsive. Please keep the family in your prayers. Ev Bruckner after the passing of his wife, Joanne. Please pray for the family. Amani who is battling leukemia. She was able to come home from the hospital on October 10 after a bone marrow test. Please pray that the test results would be negative and for strength for Amani and Sam & Abby. Linda Carrier begins chemo next week for ovarian cancer. Continue to pray for John Stark in his treatment for lymphoma.
- Please pray for the 100 college students who attended a weekend retreat with Ben Vail and InterVarsity team
- Please pray for our global partners serving around world to make disciples