

Seedling Group Questions for the week of February 10 – Epiphany 5C

The sermon for February 10 can be found at www.saidanotherway.org

Questions for opening up

What is the most tedious or monotonous job you've ever had?

Have you ever experienced the profound holiness of God? What happened? How did you respond?

Read Isaiah 6:1-8

Isaiah's description of God's holiness in the temple is very vivid. How many of the five senses are mentioned? How does it compare with your own understandings or perspectives of God's holiness?

What questions about God's nature and purpose does this passage raise for you?

Read Luke 5:1-11

How often do you think of the church as a movement? How does that concept challenge or inform your faith?

What significance, if any, does the "deep water" have?

Explain your typical mindset towards participating in God's work. Do you feel worthy? Confident? Are you worried about failure?

Putting things together

What is involved in "catching people" for Jesus effectively? What is the goal (or goals) of this new mission that Simon and the other disciples receive?

Pastor Phillip says, *"You might hear a lot...about the desire to 'make a difference' in the world, or the longing to be impactful, to go viral. I always feel great if something I've done or begun has affected a change somewhere. But isn't that really about me? Jesus never says, 'From now on you will be making a difference in the world.'"* How much influence does "making a difference" have in your life? In what ways is the desire to "make a difference" different from the call that Jesus issues to his disciples?

Making it personal

What are the long, daily slogs in the life of faith for you? How do you approach them?

What job or task of his kingdom is God sending you to do these days? How is that going?

Isaiah 6:1-8

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

Luke 5:1-11

¹Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ²he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” ⁵Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” ⁶When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. ⁷So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” ⁹For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” ¹¹When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.