

## Seedling Group Questions for the week of January 19, 2020 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

The sermon for January 19, “Dialogue, Discovery, Doing Life Together,” can be found at [www.saidanotherway.org](http://www.saidanotherway.org)

### Questions for opening up

When was the last time you began a new endeavor? Who, if anyone, did you enlist for support?

When you are being introduced by another person to someone new, what kinds of information about yourself do you think are helpful in the introduction?

### Read Isaiah 49:1-7

Which lines in this passage talk about the scope of God’s mission? What areas or groups of people today might be described as “coastlands” or “peoples far away”? Should we only read this in a geographical sense or might there be other ways to feel distant from God?

What does it mean that the servant’s mouth is “like a sharp sword” and “a polished arrow” hidden in the quiver? In what ways—if any—does this apply to Jesus and Jesus’ ministry?

What is the realization that the servant seems to make in this passage (v 6)? When have you experienced the church as a “light to the nations”?

### Read John 1:29-42

How many titles or names is Jesus given in this passage? Which one stands out to you as the most clarifying to your understanding of Jesus’ identity and mission? Which is the most obscure?

Why are we told that it was 4 o’clock in the afternoon (or “the tenth hour”)? Can you pinpoint any particularly illuminating or life-changing events in your faith history? What are they?

### Putting things together

DIALOGUE: What conversations have been formative in your faith story? With whom do you feel comfortable having conversations about God? Why?

DISCOVERY: What do you think motivates those first disciples to follow Jesus? What motivates people to follow Jesus today?

DO LIFE TOGETHER: Pastor Phillip says, “*While each person’s faith and understanding of Jesus may be in some way as unique as we all are from each other as individuals, there is never a sense in Jesus’ ministry, even at the beginning, that it is a private journey.*” What are the gifts of doing life together? What are the challenges to achieving that vision of community today?

### Making it personal

Jesus asks his first followers “What are you looking for?” How would you answer that question today?

**Isaiah 49:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>Listen to me, O coastlands,  
pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The Lord called me before I was born,  
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.  
<sup>2</sup>He made my mouth like a sharp sword,  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow,  
in his quiver he hid me away.  
<sup>3</sup>And he said to me, "You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."  
<sup>4</sup>But I said, "I have labored in vain,  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the Lord,  
and my reward with my God."  
  
<sup>5</sup>And now the Lord says,  
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,  
and my God has become my strength—  
<sup>6</sup>he says,  
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."  
  
<sup>7</sup>Thus says the Lord,  
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
the slave of rulers,  
"Kings shall see and stand up,  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
because of the Lord, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

**Matthew 24:36-44**

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup>"About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of

Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”