

# LIVING A LIFE OF MEANING AND PURPOSE



**Story-Sharing (Pairs)** Turn to one other person and tell your story of a time in your life when you moved from security to insecurity. As you listen to your partner’s story, make sure to ask at least one clarifying question—for example, “What, specifically, felt challenging or scary about this season of your life, and why?” or “What feelings did you have during this time, and why?”

## QUESTIONS

- What are some of the feelings that accompanied your move from comfortable to uncomfortable?
- When you see these “feeling words” listed, what insights or observations can you make about our “new seasons of life” experiences?

## Luke 5:1-11

One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. He noticed two empty boats at the water’s edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish.”

“Master,” Simon replied, “we worked hard all last night and didn’t catch a thing. But if you say so, I’ll let the nets down again.” And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.

When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, “Oh, Lord, please leave me—I’m such a sinful man.” For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed. Jesus replied to Simon, “Don’t be afraid! From now on you’ll be fishing for people!” And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.

## QUESTIONS

- What “feeling words” on our whiteboard (or Chat) likely apply to the experience of the disciples, and why?
- Jesus used something they were familiar with (fishing) to describe the kind of life He was inviting them into—why?
- They continued to fish even after Jesus called them to be disciples—in what ways have you seen your skills and abilities fit with deeper meaning and purpose in your life?
- Do you think of your current work as a calling—why or why not?

## Video: *The Power of Calling* documentary—“Kisha’s Story.”

- First, what’s something that stuck out to you in Kisha’s story—something that resonated with you?
- What’s something that surprised you?
- Could you do what Kisha did? Why or why not?
- In what ways do you relate to Kisha’s story, and why?

### QUESTIONS (*Pairs*)

- Which image best recalls a moment when you felt called into a deeper meaning and purpose in the past, and why?
- Which image best describes how you are feeling called into meaning and purpose right now, and why?

### QUESTIONS

- Let’s hear back from your conversations—what’s something that stuck out to you about your partner’s story, and why?
- Think about your conversation with your partner, and what you’ve heard from others today... What have you learned, or re-learned about how God calls all people?
- What do you want to remember about your own callings?

**CLOSING:** Look at the images on your handout again, and ask Jesus to prompt you to pray for someone to discover and pursue God’s call to a life of meaning and purpose. Once you sense who Jesus would like you to pray for, and why, take some moments in the silence to pray for that person—ask Jesus to help you pray...