

LIVING A LIFE OF MEANING AND PURPOSE

*An hour-long immersive experience for small groups, centered around one section of *The Power of Calling* documentary—flexible for in-person and online use. If you're in-person, you'll need a whiteboard or flip-pad and markers. If you're online on Zoom or another platform, post responses in the Chat. Give or post the Participant Handout for each person in the gathering and pass out pens or pencils for those who don't have them.*

INTRODUCTION (5 Minutes)—We so often approach our purpose in life as if there is just ONE thing that God created us to be doing, and that it's possible to miss it somehow. The phrase “He/She missed their calling” is a great example of this false belief. What if our lives are filled with “purposes” and “callings”—what if they're all around us, embedded in the lives and places that God has already given us?

SAY: But at the same time, we also need to recognize that the process of “being called” is often very uncomfortable. Let's explore that. Use the images on your handout to recall a time when you moved from a place of security to a place of “not knowing.” Which of the images brings a story to mind? Take a moment to look over the images, asking God to prompt a story of “not knowing” from one of them. *(Pause)*

Partner Sharing (5 Minutes, Pairs): Now 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 (5 Minutes, Whole Group): Gather everyone back together, then **ask:** What are some of the feelings that accompanied your move from comfortable to uncomfortable? Let's list on our whiteboard (or in the Chat) all that we can come up with... *(Write responses on whiteboard or in the Chat online)* When you see these “feeling words” listed, what insights or observations can you make about our “new seasons of life” experiences? *(Write responses on whiteboard or in the Chat online)*

SAY (3 Minutes): The callings of Jesus' disciples are not all that different from the stories you just told. Like you, these were average, everyday people who got swept up into a “not knowing” **Read Aloud:** Luke 5: 1-11.

QUESTIONS (10 Minutes, Whole Group):

- 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 (5 minutes): Watch “Kisha's Story” from *The Power of Calling* documentary.

Play the downloaded file or stream it from this link: <https://vimeo.com/vibrantfaith/poc-session2>

QUESTIONS (7 minutes, Whole Group):

- 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 (10 Minutes, Pairs): In Kisha's story, you see a person wrestling with how best to serve God with her life. She's torn between her responsibilities to herself and her family, and the persistent "tug" toward a risk that scares her. She is trying to understand how best to use the gifts that God has given her. With your handout, turn back to your partner and discuss:

- 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 (7 Minutes, Whole Group):

- 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 (3 minutes): 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... *(Pause for at least 60 seconds, then offer an "Amen" to end the prayer time)*