

LIVING A LIFE OF MEANING AND PURPOSE



Video: *The Power of Calling* documentary—“Uncovering the Stories”

QUESTIONS

- First, what’s something that stuck out to you about this church?
- What’s something that surprised you?
- In what ways is your own story known in your church?

Story-Sharing (Pairs) Look at the images on your handout. Choose one that connects you with something that brings meaning and purpose to your life. Now turn to a partner and tell your story—how does your chosen image connect a story about meaning and purpose in your life? As you listen to your partner’s story, make sure to ask at least one clarifying question. For example: “What about this experience in your life still has an impact on you, and why?” or “What feelings did you have during this time, and why?”

QUESTIONS

- What are the feelings you experienced as you told your story, and why?
- What feelings surfaced in you while you were listening to your partner?
- When you see these “feeling words” listed, what insights or observations can you make about the stories of our lives?

John 4:1-18 – Jesus & the Woman at the Well

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, “Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John” (although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized), he left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.” Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!”

QUESTIONS

- What “feeling words” on our whiteboard (or Chat) likely apply to the experience of the woman, and why?
- What can we learn from the ways that Jesus engaged the woman and her story?
- Jesus engaged the woman at a place and time that was part of her daily life. Assume he wants to help you to “mine” your daily life for meaning and purpose—what do you think you would find together?
- How does your current work connect with your life story, and why?

Conversation (Pairs) Return to the images on your worksheet. If callings happen in and through our stories, choose an image that speaks to you of a new calling or purpose that you sense God is putting in front of you. With your handout, turn back to your partner and discuss:

- Which image best expresses your call into a deeper 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 people’s stories and how God calls all people?

CLOSING: Look at the images on your handout again—ask Jesus to guide you, through one of the images, into one aspect of his call to a life of meaning and purpose. Once you sense him directing you to one of the images, take some moments in silence to pray for clarity about your purpose—ask the Spirit of Jesus to help you pray...