

Week 2 CG GUIDE: Why Am I Here? Calling

Note: We will cover Spiritual Gifts next week at our two trainings: Wednesday, 2/18, at East, and Sunday, 2/22, at North. This week, we will look at our calling in preparation for the upcoming Sunday sermon on our calling in Christ.

When it comes to understanding our calling, we begin with who we are—our identity in Christ as children of God, heirs, ambassadors, witnesses, and more. From that identity flows our purpose, which is shared by every believer: to glorify God in all we do by living in relationship with Him, becoming like Christ, and joining His mission in the world. Only then do we discern our unique calling, the personal way God expresses His purpose through our gifts, passions, and opportunities. As we learn what our gifting and calling are, we will need input from other believers who can affirm or speak into our lives.

Our unique calling is made up of our gifting, abilities, Holy passions, resources, and station in life. Every believer is called to full-time ministry. Few are called to vocational ministry; everyone is called to the ministry of place. You may be called to vocational ministry, but you are definitely called to the ministry of place. The **ministry of place** is the idea that God works through *where* He has put you, just as much as *what* He has called you to do. It's the conviction that your physical location, your neighborhood, your workplace, your routines, and the people you regularly encounter are not random—they're part of God's intentional assignment for your life. Instead of waiting for a "bigger" or more dramatic calling, the ministry of place invites you to see your present environment as sacred ground: a place to be present, to love well, to embody Christ, and to join God's work right where you already are. When we are operating in our gifting, living out God's purpose, and fulfilling our calling it is energizing, joyful, and never a burden.

Opener: If you could do one thing every day the rest of your life, what would it be?

Read: Mark 5:1-20

1. Jesus cast out a legion of demons from this man. The man was healed from his afflictions and bondage, just as we were in various ways. There is an interesting moment at the end of the story where Jesus sends the man back to his hometown.
 - A. Why do you think Jesus did this?
 - B. How do you think people responded to seeing this man, in his right mind, not running around naked?

- C. How does it relate to the place Jesus has placed you and the impact of His transformation in your life on others?

2. Consider the thought of the Ministry of place mentioned above and read these verses:

Acts 17:26 NIV - "26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands."

1 Corinthians 7:17 NIV - "17 Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches."

- A. Do you feel a sense of call in your life right now? Is it a call to minister where you are or to something else?
- B. There are things that make us unsettled in our call, some are of The Holy Spirit, and some are of the flesh. How do you know the difference? (Examples: A conviction to join a ministry vs. wishing you had someone else's calling or gifting, Hating working and ministry seems like an easier option). Give some examples
- C. What steps can we take to discover our unique calling?
- D. What are some signs that we are living out our calling? (see content above)

Closing: Share as you are willing about your current sense of call, whether a calling of place or something else, and how you will commit to living out that calling. Pray for each other's calling. If it is something specific, check in routinely over the coming months.

**If you are discerning a vocational ministry calling, please connect with one of the pastors to provide some guidance and resources to help you.*