



PLEASANT HILLS
COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Week of Sunday, May 16

*Questions with asterisks are meant to be answered by everyone in the group.
Leave time for prayer at the end of your small group gathering.*

Icebreaker

** What one routine, habit, or activity that resulted from Covid will you continue to do in the future?

Questions for the Sermon Series, *Can You Hear Me Now: God Calls Us*

Read this Bible passage to provide the context for the discussion questions that follow.

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him.

When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.¹

1. The message began with an illustration about a tool that can predict an earthquake before it happens.
 - a. How would your life be different if you had such a tool -- one that could warn you of the most difficult or most significant moments in your life?
 - b. Would it reduce the significance of those moments if you knew about them in advance? Why or why not?

2. Speaking of *calling*, Thomas Long says that God may work through the areas of life that give us joy. Frederick Buechner says that our calling is where our deep gladness and the world's hunger meet.
 - a. What is good and right about these statements?
 - b. What could be problematic about these statements?
 - c. How might these ideas lead to *you* fulfilling your calling in practical, real-life ways?

3. Pastor Mark said, "God's calling has a sacrificial nature to it... to *leave your nets behind*." What might this mean for you as you seek to be faithful to God's calling in your life?

Year-end review questions on the following page.

¹ Mark 1:14-20

As we consider how the Word of God has shaped our church family throughout the past year:

**** Have members of your group share what they remember most from the different sermon series from this past September through May. Focus on major themes and memorable moments.**

Here's a recap of content to jog your memory:

DEEP GRACE: THE STORY OF JONAH

Jonah disobeys God's call; God reveals himself to gentile sailors through Jonah's disobedience; Jonah prays from the stomach of the fish; Jonah preaches judgement against Nineveh's wickedness; Nineveh repents; Jonah becomes angry because of God's mercy toward Nineveh; God teaches Jonah that he reserves the right to show mercy

IN OTHER WORDS: PARABLES OF JESUS

The parable of the sower - and the four different types of soil; The parable of the wheat and weeds - the righteous and the wicked; The pearl of great price - giving up everything for the most significant; The parable of the sheep and goats: living *now* with the *future* in sight; The parable of the great feast and the excuses people make to avoid it; The parable of the lost sheep, revealing God's heart for the lost and his desire that they would return to him

ADVENT: AWAITING THE LIGHT

The parable of the ten virgins - procrastination and readiness; John the Baptist prepares the way; The prophet Isaiah promises strength in our weariness; Christmas video: longing for *home*; Christmas Eve: "Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

Manna from heaven, God's provision; The golden calf, our impatience and desire for more; Elijah fed by an angel, God's provision in our deepest need; Why are you downcast, O my soul?; John the Baptist in prison - Jesus, are you the one?; Jesus praying in Gethsemane

BALANCED DIET

Bible study and/or Bible reading; prayer; stewardship; worship; service

*Share the PHC "Summer Reads" list.
Discuss plans for next week's fellowship event.
Take prayer requests and close in prayer.*