



**NO SERMON NOTES THIS WEEK**

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# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *June 12-17, 2023*

*These devotionals have been adapted from the United Methodist Church's lectionary for this week (Year A)*

## INTRODUCTION

A disciple is a follower. Considering that - in the gospel accounts - Jesus said "follow me" more often than he said, "believe in me," we can be confident that there is a call to follow laid upon anyone and everyone who seeks to draw closer to Christ. It could even be argued that the whole of the life of faith is wrestling with that call to follow him. Yet even a cursory reading of the gospels will reveal that Jesus never undersold this call. He never tried to convince us that following was an easy or a simple thing. There is effort here; there is sacrifice demanded; struggle and lifelong commitment are needed. What is being asked of us, we who seek to be disciples of Jesus Christ?

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### Monday: Genesis 12:1-4

The phrase "in the beginning" evokes thoughts of the story of creation, found in the book of Genesis. But the book of Genesis has a second powerful story of a beginning: when God calls Abraham (or Abram) to be the beginning of a new nation. Abram is given vague information (at best) on God's plan; but he followed anyway. When have you followed God faithfully, even when you were unsure what laid ahead?

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### Tuesday: Matthew 19:21, Matthew 4:18-19, Matthew 9:9, Matthew 28:16-20

Reflect for a minute on the radical nature of Jesus' call to leave everything behind and to live into a new reality as his follower. When coupled with the added responsibility of inviting the whole world to come to know the one we follow... it's a big task! But Jesus teaches we are to live as witnesses, not hidden away tending to our own souls, safe and secure behind the walls of our sanctuaries. We aren't called to safety, but to a risky and transforming faith that leans into the kingdom of God daily. Before moving on with your day, take one more moment to consider the weight of the call.

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### Wednesday: John 12:26

Think about a time when you experienced what you believed to be a call from God to take action. (Quick note: maybe you haven't felt like you've had a call from God - that's ok! Consider a story / testimony you've heard from someone else about a call from God). A call can be scary, challenging, and intimidating... it might feel like God is asking a lot from us. When you received a call, what emotions did you experience? What obstacles did you wrestle with? What hurdles did you overcome? What did the call teach you about yourself? What did the call teach you about God?

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### Thursday: Exodus 33:12-17

Sometimes a calling from God sends us to places where we might not want to go - or at least to places we aren't too sure about. There are often many unanswered questions in responding to a calling. The difficult thing is that those questions never quite go away. We might be years into following this call, and suddenly the questions come back: "What am I doing?" "What have I gotten myself into?" "If this really is a call from God, why isn't it working out better?" What questions have you had as you've journeyed on your walk with God?

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### Friday: Matthew 25:40

A call might be to a place, to a task, or to a way of living. But in all of it, there is a call to a relationship, both with God and with others. How does having a calling from God to do something change the way that you view the people you're living out that calling for?

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## MOVING FORWARD

Abraham became a "father of many nations" as promised (see Genesis 17:5). But even someone who God had big plans for wasn't given clarity at the time of his calling ("Go... to the land that I will show you" - Genesis 12:1-3). In other words: Abraham was following blindly to an unknown land, just as we often feel that we do in response to God's calling in our lives. As you wrap up another week, pray for discernment and courage in what God calls you to do next.