



SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

June 11, 2023

Guest Preacher Rev. Dr. Bill Lentz



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for giving us opportunities to faithfully follow you. We admit that discerning and following a calling from you is daunting; but we pray that we can listen for your voice and look for your spirit to move in us, even when our human nature is reluctant to follow anyone's will but our own. We pray this in the powerful and matchless name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Genesis 12:1-4a (NIV)

The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

*² "I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;*

*I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.*

*³ I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."*

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him

Exodus 33:12-14 (NIV)

¹² Moses said to the Lord, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.' ¹³ If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."

¹⁴ The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

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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?

QUESTIONS

1. Is there someone in your group who has experienced a call from God to do something? Perhaps step out in faith to be part of a ministry, go on a mission trip, or advocate for a cause? Would that person be willing to share their story?
2. What questions or difficulties have you experienced after taking a step out in faith? Were they resolved? Or do they persist? How do they impact your attitude towards following?
3. Has there ever been a time that you’ve participated in an activity or trip and had your perspective changed; whether it be your perspective on your relationship with God, how you view others that you participated/served alongside, or how you view others that you assisted through the task you were doing? Talk about that experience.
4. Genesis 12 says God called Abram (Abraham). What do you envision that calling sounding like? A deep rumbling voice that formed words in Abram’s soul but was thunder to everyone else? A dream that refused to fade in the morning dawn? The proverbial “still small voice?”
5. When you venture into the unknown as a follower of God, how do you do it with confidence? What are things that give you comfort and support?

FINAL APPLICATION

What is one thing you can do this week to discern where God might be calling you to follow him?