



Pastor Dave Patterson
What on Earth Am I Here For?
"Live Your Calling"
Sermon Small Group Notes

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than

CALLING = God's invitation for me to live His plan for my life

[Romans 8.28, NIV]

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED according to His PURPOSE.

Not all things are good, and not all things are God.

[John 15.16, CEV]

"You did not choose me, I chose you and sent you out to produce fruit, the kind of fruit that will last."

God initiates call.

[Ephesians 1.18-19, CEV]

My prayer is that light will flood your hearts and that you will understand the hope that was given to you when God CALLED YOU. Then you will discover the glorious blessings that will be yours together with all of God's people!

Things You Need to Know About Your Life's Calling:

1. My calling is a gift from God.

A career makes for a living; a calling makes for a life.

[Galatians 1.6, NCV]

God, by his grace through Christ, has called you to become His people.

[2 Timothy 1.9, NIV]

He has saved us and called us to a holy life - not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.

2. I am called for God's purpose.

[Ephesians 2.10, NIV]

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

3. God chose my calling before I was born.

[Galatians 1.15, NLT]

It pleased God in His kindness to choose me and call me even before I was born! What undeserved mercy!

[Jeremiah 1.5, MSG]

Before I shaped you in the womb, I knew all about you. Before you saw the light of day, I had holy plans for you.

[Isaiah 44.2, CEV]

I am your Creator. You were in my care even before you were born!

[Psalm 139.16, NLT]

You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

4. **My sins and mistakes do not change my call.**

[1 Timothy 1.12-13, NJB]

By calling me into His service, Jesus has judged me trustworthy, even though I used to be a blasphemer and a persecutor and contemptuous. Mercy, however, was shown me, because while I lacked faith, I acted in ignorance.

5. **My calling is permanent.**

[Romans 11.29, NIV]

God's gifts and His calling are irrevocable.

[Romans 11.29, NLT]

God's gifts and His call can never be withdrawn.

As long as you keep coming back, you win.

6. **God empowers me to accomplish what he calls me to do.**

[2 Thessalonians 1.11, NLT]

*So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of His call. May **He give you the power to accomplish** all the good things your faith prompts you to do.*

WEEK 1 MEMORY VERSE

[1 Thessalonians 5.24, NIV]

The one who calls you is faithful and He will do it.

7. There's a prize for living out my calling.

[Philippians 3.14, NIV]

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

[1 Thessalonians 2.12, TEV]

Live the kind of life that pleases God, who calls you to share in His own Kingdom and glory.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What does the word "calling" mean to you?**
- 2. How does the pattern *calling, response, and discovery* point to our role in fulfilling God's kingdom?**
- 3. Have you ever put God's call on the "waiting list?" If so, how did that work out in the season that followed?**
- 4. What does it mean to be "God's workmanship": His "work of art," His "masterpiece?"**
- 5. Why do you think that in God's sovereignty He still honors, and doesn't override, our free will?**
- 6. What did you "use to be" before God called you? How has He transformed you?**
- 7. How is recognizing God's voice significant to fulfilling God's calling? When were times when you have clearly heard Him?**
- 8. How does God's eternal prize "for those who say yes to the heavenly phone call" motivate you today?**