



**HATFIELD
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINE TERM 1 WEEK 6

15 March 2018

Fulfilling our calling

‘I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.’

Ephesians 4:1 (NIV)

Icebreaker

What is the kindest act someone else has ever done for you? Share with the group.

Introduction

Paul opens Ephesians 4 with an urgent injunction to the believers at Ephesus to live a life worthy of the calling that each member has received from God. The word ‘worthy’ means having great merit, character, value, or excellence. Among others, God has called us to be His children, His heirs, kings, and priests who serve Him. In particular, in the letter to the Ephesians Paul stresses the call to be active members of the Body of Christ, responsible for building His church. We should, therefore, fulfill our high calling with excellence.

Discussion

- Our calling as Christians is twofold: a general calling to follow Christ as a disciple and a specific calling to fulfill our unique life tasks. The New Testament captures our general calling with many nouns (see some in the introduction above). Brainstorm other nouns used in the gospels and letters to describe our general calling. Discuss what responsibility or role is associated with each term.
- Each of us has also received a specific calling in life which God unfolds to us as we walk the Christian walk. This specific calling is multidimensional: you may be called to be a spouse, a parent, to fulfill a particular occupation, and to carry out a particular church ministry. Ask each member of your group to identify the specific tasks they are called to fulfill. Think of the ‘hidden’ or ‘invisible’ tasks we are called to – as caregiver, friend, neighbour, etc. Discuss how we should value these humbler aspects of our calling and perform them with excellence.

- The book of Nehemiah illustrates a man who fulfilled both his general calling and specific calling with excellence. Follow the link to a summary of Nehemiah on *The Bible Project* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nJ5xEiR9sbc>. What challenges did Nehemiah face in fulfilling his specific calling to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem? Discuss how Nehemiah endured ridicule (Neh 4:2); threat (Neh 4:8); and enticement (Neh 6:3) to achieve his purpose with great merit.

Prayer

- Thank and praise the Lord for the high calling we have received in Jesus Christ: to live a life of value, purpose, favour, and grace as His children and His disciples.
- Thank the Lord for the hidden or invisible aspects of your specific calling. Ask Him for grace and strength to fulfill all your tasks and responsibilities with merit and excellence and in so doing, bring glory to Him.
- Ask the Lord to keep us focused on our general and specific callings. Ask Him for clarity of purpose, courage to deal with challenges, determination to eliminate distractions, and faith to believe His promise that He will fulfill the good work He has begun in each one of us.