

Gospel Centered | Mission Focused

Jesus said, "Come along with me."

Luke 5:27 (The Message)

Come Along | Week of February 7

The season of Lent is just around the corner (beginning with our Ash Wednesday [ZOOM](#) Prayer service on February 17 @7pm). This year we will journey with the disciples as they accept Jesus' invitation to "Come along...". This week and next we'll reflect on Jesus' invitation to his first followers.

Gospel Centered

Ice breaker... The sermon this week used a few TV ads – what are some of the TV commercials you remember and why?

Read Luke 5:1-11 & 29-32 – Jesus calls Simon and Levi

- What similarities feature in each of these two stories?
- What does Jesus reveal about himself in each of these encounters?
- "Discipleship" is another word for following. What does Luke's storytelling suggest about what is involved with answering Jesus' invitation to "come along with me"?
- Laurie pointed out that both stories involve a recognition of sin (Luke 5:8) and willingness to turn around and move in a different direction with Jesus (Luke 5:32).
- In your story right now, is your experience with Jesus more like Peter (who recognizes that Jesus' power outstrips any of Peter's competence) or similar to Matthew (aware of sins he is ready to walk away from in a new direction)?

Mission Focused

- Last week we talked about whether the phrase "mission focus challenge" felt energizing or exhausting. The stories this week about Simon and Levi give a fairly simple starting place for this challenge – responding to Jesus in our every day life. Does the invitation to focus on responding to Jesus in the middle of our every day lives feel exhausting or energizing?
- What is one habit or choice you have made in the past that has been helpful to focus on Jesus' presence in the middle of your daily routines and demands?
- **Preparing for Lent** – Laurie suggested that Connect groups may want to participate together in the Ash Wednesday Zoom call on February 17 – talk about whether or not that will work for your group.

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Gospel Practice | The Examen

Just before you pray for each other this week, take a moment to share one place in the past week that you experienced joy and one place this past week that was discouraging or drained joy. Then pray for Jesus' Spirit to meet each other in places of consolation (joy) and desolation (discouragement) this week.

Readings

The readings this week continue in Mark's gospel and will up to the beginning of Lent – the idea is that we have read through one Gospel as a whole story before we start focusing in on specific events in Jesus' life.

Monday, February 8 | Mark 6:30-56

Tuesday, February 9 | Mark 7

Wednesday, February 10 | Mark 8

Thursday, February 11 | Mark 9

Friday, February 12 | Mark 10

Saturday, February 13 | Mark 11

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