

January 4, 2009
Matthew 4:18-22

**The Call of Christ into His Mission:
The Reorientation of Vocation**

Share your story

Have each person share a highlight from this holiday season.

Read Matthew 4:18-22

What does Jesus do in this story?

How do the disciples respond?

What prior knowledge did the disciples have of Jesus? (Read vs. 12-17)

What does it mean to be "fishers of men?" (Rely on stories and teachings from the gospels to answer this; to show how Jesus taught the disciples what he meant by this.)

Apply It

What is your work? What is your career? What is your vocation?

Do you have the same answer for these three questions? Why or why not? Is one of these questions easier or more difficult to answer than the others?

What is your understanding of the definitions of "work," "career" and "vocation?"

The disciples encountered Jesus while they were at work.

In what ways do you encounter Jesus while you are at work?

In what ways are you able to connect your work with God's work?

Jesus intentionally interacted with the disciples to help them connect their work to God's work.

When you encounter people at their work how can you help them connect to God's work?

How can you counteract the situation described in the column to the left?

Jesus tapped into the central identity of the disciples, fishers, and connected this to God's purpose.

What labels would you use to describe your central identity? Are you able to relate these labels to your work and how you partner with God's work?

Pray Together!

Pray for each other as you heard needs through your discussion today.

Invite God into your places of work.

Our society often encourages alienation and disconnection between people in the workplace. "The sale of a product, for example, leaves no necessary connection between people. I can go into a furniture store, pay the salesperson for a lamp and walk out. I may never see her again. In fact the disconnectedness is often a value in the world of commerce. We don't want to be bothered by stories from a clerk's personal life. They may annoy us and cause us to shop elsewhere."

Quote from Reclaiming the Connections: A Contemporary Spirituality by Kathleen Fischer