

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

The Making of an Apostle - Part 1

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Introduction

From fisherman to Great Apostle (meaning one sent on a mission), Simon Peter's life changed dramatically over time. He left everything to follow Jesus, and went from the high of being the first to proclaim Him as the promised Messiah to the low of denying Him as He headed to the cross. Peter was redeemed, and after the crucifixion he boldly taught about Jesus wherever he went. In Peter's story we see that Jesus had foreknowledge of him; Jesus chose Peter and called him. As we reflect on Peter's story, let's discover what it is to be known, chosen and called by God.

Read

John 1:41-42, Luke 5:1-10

Discuss

1. To Be Known

In John 1:42, Simon Peter's first encounter with Jesus, Jesus demonstrated that he foreknew him. Read Ephesians 1:4-5. From the reading, we see you were in God's heart before creation. How does being known by God in this way impact your perception of yourself? Do you believe that your life has significance in God's eyes?

2. To Be Chosen

In both the John and Luke readings, we see that Jesus chose Peter and he responded. Read Romans 8:29-30. God always takes the initiative and we echo our response. How do you feel about the fact that you were chosen by God? Do you wrestle with the idea that God chose you rather than you chose God?

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3. To Be Called

In the John and Luke readings, we see that Jesus called Peter. He went from being Simon the fisherman to Peter the Rock and fisher of people. Read 2 Timothy 1:9. Everyone who follows Jesus has been given a calling, without exception. What do you perceive is God's call on your life? Do you have a sense of a God-given purpose?

4. To Be Deaf

Read Matthew 13:14-15. Jesus's disciples once asked Him why He spoke in parables. How did Jesus respond to people's reluctance to hear the call of God? Have you ever been deaf to God's calling in your life? Did you feel that you missed out on anything? What have you done about this?

5. To Disqualify Yourself

Read Isaiah 6:5-7. Isaiah comes into the presence of God and is called to be a prophet to the people of Israel. How did Isaiah initially disqualify himself from the calling? How did God overcome this? Have you ever disqualified yourself from the calling God put on your life? How did God overcome this self-disqualification?

6. To Be Defiant

Read Jonah 1:1-3. Jonah is called by God to go to the city of Nineveh and proclaim His message to the people there. What did Jonah do instead? Read Jonah 3:1-3. Does God give Jonah a second chance? Have you ever disobeyed God's calling? Did you experience His grace?

Respond

Wherever you are around the world, God calls you. He calls you into a relationship with Himself and He calls you to a life full of purpose. The response God seeks from each of us to His calling is obedience. We see that Peter was foreknown, chosen and called by Jesus. Reflect on the fact that you too are foreknown, chosen and called by Jesus. Share with the group how you are stepping into your calling. As a group, pray together that each one of you would have the courage to respond to His calling. Over the coming weeks, as we discover more about Peter's journey, reflect on who you are becoming and who God is calling you to become.