



STUDY GUIDE

December 26, 2021

Message Series:
Message Title:
Teaching Pastor:

STABLE
Calling
Angie Frame

Warm-up/Icebreaker:

What is your absolute favorite Christmas treat to eat? What makes it so special?

Pray:

Dear Lord Jesus, we praise You above all and are grateful to slow down and take this opportunity to remember that we are loved and forgiven. We accept that You can work all things together for good for those who are called according to Your purpose, knowing that You have a plan for our lives. We pray that we focus and listen for Your guidance and direction. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Get Started:

Read Luke 5:1-8.

“Simon tells Jesus to go away. He sees Jesus do something huge and amazing, and his first reaction is not, “Wow; I want to be part of that!” but “Go away from me,” Jesus. Why? The same reason some of you don’t go after the good opportunities that show up in your life, don’t receive the gifts people try to give you, don’t live into a calling of greater purpose--because you don’t think you’re worth it. That’s how Simon felt. He almost missed out on his calling, because he didn’t think he deserved it. He was so aware of his own brokenness that all he could do was tell Jesus to go away, because he was a sinful man. He thought his past disqualified him. He was literally standing in front of Jesus, who wanted to change the direction of his life, and he told Jesus to walk away. Some of you know what that’s like, how that feels. You’re painfully aware of how broken you are, the mistakes you’ve made, the trauma you’ve endured, the failure you’ve experienced. You don’t think you deserve good things or a good life. You definitely don’t think that God has a calling for you to share the good news of Jesus or to be an agent of good in the world. You think God could use anyone else, everyone else, just not you.” -Pastor Angie Frame

- Can you relate to Simon Peter? What do you feel disqualifies you from being a part of God’s work?

Read John 15:1-17.

- Have you ever undergone the pruning process so that you can produce more fruit? Was that process painful? Was the result worth undergoing the pruning process?
- What does it look like for someone to “remain” or “abide in Jesus”?

- What is produced in the life a Christian who truly abides in Jesus? When you have the complete joy of Jesus in your life, how does it change your relationship with God? How does it change your relationship with your family? How does it change your relationship with fellow believers? How does it change your relationship with nonbelievers?

Watch and Discuss Video:

No video for this message.

Reflect and Commit:

“The God who created the world, who created you, is with you right now. And he has plans for you. He wants to change the direction of your life. He’s calling you to a life that’s abundantly overflowing with purpose. Jesus says to you like he said to Peter, “Don’t be afraid.”

Don’t dismiss Jesus; don’t push him away. He knows everything--everything you’ve done, everything you’ve endured. He knows all about your past. He knows you’re broken. He’s not expecting you to be perfect; he already knows you’re not. And still, he wants to use you. He’s still calling you. Jesus came to this earth to be with you, to forgive you, to reconcile you, to offer you peace, and to call you.” -Pastor Angie Frame

Read Ephesians 2:8-10 and 1 Peter 2:9-10.

- How is calling defined by the scriptures above?
- Do you sense that God wants to work through you to accomplish His plan? What is your reaction to being called by God? What does living out that calling look like in practical terms? How are you working through this to be more obedient to God?
- Pastor Angie’s message ended with the following questions for us to answer: Are you ready? Are you ready to come to Jesus right now, just as you are? Are you ready to see what God wants to do next?

“God’s work in this world is what it’s always been--to bring the whole world--every person--into relationship with Him. Jesus’s coming here was a big part of that mission, but it’s not complete; we get to finish it. Truly living into Christmas means living into the reason Jesus came here. It means accepting all of the stability that Christmas offers us--from God’s being with us, to forgiving us, reconciling us, and offering us peace--and then living into our calling.” -Pastor Angie Frame

Pray:

Dear Lord, God, creator of the universe, You’ve called us to be part of Your work to bring light to the world. What a joy and privilege! But the work ahead is challenging, too, so we’re grateful for the reminder this Christmas that You are WITH us every step of the way. Help us to remain in You and Your love and to listen for and embrace Your calling for our lives. We pray all this in Your Son’s name, Jesus. Amen.