

Six Cups of Coffee



Discussion Starters for Asking Questions About Calling and Discipleship

Everyone wants to spend their lives doing something that has meaning, uses their gifts, and is something that they enjoy doing. The United Methodists of Arkansas seek to create vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world. Vital congregations need lay and clergy leaders who are vital, Christ-centered disciples with servant hearts.

God has called you to be a part of this mission. "Calling" might be a single word, but there are so many ways to live that calling out as a disciple, whether you feel called to serve in lay leadership or as a clergy person.

It was through conversation with Jesus at the well that the Samaritan woman discovered God's workings in her life and new possibilities about her future (John 4). Deep, powerful questions about calling and discipleship can transform our life!

Do you know someone struggling to know what God's call is in his or her life? Invite them to join you for a cup of coffee and share with them in each of these six important conversations. You'll both walk away with more than just six cups of coffee. You may both end up with clarity about calling and discipleship.

**God
Conversation**
Exodus 3:1-15

- ❖ What do you believe/know/hope about God?
- ❖ How do you experience Jesus Christ in your life today and/or in the past?
- ❖ How does belief in Jesus shape how you understand yourself and others?
- ❖ How does your knowledge about Christ and his grace motivate you to transform lives, your community, and the world?
- ❖ In Moses' story, God speaks through a burning bush. What does God's voice sound like to you?

1

**Gifts
Conversation**
1 Corinthians 12

- ❖ Do you have a sense of your spiritual gifts and natural talents? What are they?
- ❖ Who has affirmed these gifts and talents in you?
- ❖ How have you used these gifts and talents to benefit yourself?
- ❖ How have you used these gifts and talents to benefit others?
- ❖ What do you want to do with your gifts and talents?

2

**Calling
Conversation**
Matthew 4:18-22
Luke 5:1-11

- ❖ What is something that you do well and enjoy doing?
- ❖ What are some things that really "fire you up" (faith-sharing, ministry, small group experiences) or bother (social injustice issues) you?
- ❖ What are some things that you could talk about/write about /think about/do for long periods of time and never get bored?
- ❖ Has anyone ever commended you for your enthusiasm about something? What was it?
- ❖ In the story of the calling of the disciples (Matthew 4 & Luke 5), Jesus invites people to follow him and to begin "fishing for people." Every disciple has a calling (literally, a vocation). What kind of calling from Jesus are you hearing now?

3

**Discipleship
Conversation**
Romans 12:1-8
Colossians 3:12-17

- ❖ In the Wesleyan tradition, we speak of "acts of piety" (Bible study, prayer, fasting, worship, sharing your faith, sacraments, accountability, etc.) as ways to grow in our relationship with God. What acts of piety do you practice?
- ❖ What would it look like for you to connect with the saving grace of Jesus Christ daily? How do you make that happen? How would you spend that time?
- ❖ Who in your life could you commit to staying accountable with concerning your spiritual practices? Is it a small group? A Wesleyan Class Meeting?
- ❖ The apostle Paul shares how discipleship is rooted in prayerfully offering yourself to God (Romans 12). What does offering your life as a "living sacrifice" mean to you?

4

**Fruitfulness
Conversation**
John 15:1-8

- ❖ Has anyone ever given you an opportunity that allowed you to use your gifts in leadership and service? Why did they offer it to you?
- ❖ Who do you know that has your "dream job"/"dream service opportunity?" What would you say to them if they were here now?
- ❖ What kind of opportunities are available for you in using your gifts, talents, and ministry passions in the world in the month/months ahead?
- ❖ Have you ever created the opportunity to lead a ministry? What happened? How did it feel?
- ❖ What are you willing to do to open up more opportunities for fruitful discipleship?

5

**Faith-Sharing
Conversation**
Matthew 16:13-19

- ❖ Do you know your faith story? How do you describe how Jesus transforms your life?
- ❖ What would it look like if you were so passionate about how Jesus loves those in your community who don't yet love him that you're willing to do something about it?
- ❖ Have you ever created the opportunity to share the story of your relationship with Christ? What happened? How did it feel?

6

**The Bonus
Conversation**

After you've had Six Cups of Coffee and enjoyed some conversation, what do next steps look like for both of you? Mentor, what are some ways that you can continue to support and encourage your mentee that you both agree would be helpful? Mentee, what does it look like to step out in faith?
We want to hear about how God is at work in your lives as you both live out your callings as disciples of Jesus who are equipped to make disciples!

The Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church offers regular **Orientation to Ministry events** as a safe place to share about calling and living out your calling from God through the ministries of the UMC. Contact your district office or bom@arumc.org for information.