

Answer the Call
September 30 – October 1, 2023

Welcome back to Wk 3 of our six wk series entitled When God Shows Up. This is our highest value in our church. What do we wanna be known for when all is said and done, that those church guys really know Jesus. Yes, they are loving, they a multigenerational church, committed to God's word, they are an inner healing church, love to worship God, but those guys live as if Jesus is fo real.

PMark, shared powerfully in wk 1 that to know God is to know Jesus, God becoming like you and me, God taking on humanity, fo come jalike us, but different cuz he's without fault. And last wk, PLori reminded us again that we are all "God's kids" We are all children of God. The King's keiki! And God shows up as our perfect father who loves us, period.

When Jesus shows up in our lives, that's our cue to follow, but before He sends us out into the world to make a difference, He first teaches, models, and guides us. And he does something miraculous, before he sends us out, he deposits his very own spirit into our lives. So wherever we go, we become carriers of his very presence. Isn't that good news?

But some of us honestly would say, I am unqualified to respond to his call to make a difference, in fact I feel disqualified, defeated, and kinda buss up, and I don't think I know enough. Can I, should I, or do I wanna answer His call to go out and tell others about Jesus to make other followers of his? That's what I'll be talking about tonight/today.

Let's go back to Jesus first calling out of the 12 followers of his. When he first called them to follow him, do you think they knew what they were eventually gonna do, like heal the sick, cast out demons, break strongholds, made the lame

walk again, make the blind guys see? In fact, we don't hear all the stories of Jesus calling each individual, but we hear how he called Peter. You know what Peter was a doing when Jesus called him to follow him. He was, fishing! He calls Peter out in this way. **(KEYNOTE)**

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him (Mark 1:16 – 18 NIV).

And then Jesus eventually calls the rest of the disciples soon after. **(KEYNOTE)**

Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons (Mark 3:13 – 15 NIV).

Did you catch what he called them out to do? Sometimes we miss that he first called them to be in relationship with him. Another translation says, to be his constant companion, to experience his very being, to know his heart, listen to what he's thinking about, watch how he responds to other. It was an up close and personal study of his life. That's what he called his disciples to do above everything else. Yes, to do some radical things, be world changers, but it was first and foremost to be with them.

OG Discussion Q1: Recall and share the moment God showed up in your life and how did you respond to his call to follow him? Did you give up anything to follow Jesus like Peter did?

So I ask you? Are you with Jesus? I don't mean the guy with the beard today, but I mean do you sense his very presence in your daily life? Do you welcome him into your room? Your workplace, your relationships? Your inner thoughts? That's what he primarily calls us for!

When you read and follow Jesus and the early days of Jesus walking with his disciples, they were just spectators to his teachings and miracles. But eventually,

he calls them to get into the game, participate with him, and more than that, to go out without Jesus being with them. Then come back and report to me what you've experienced.

Watch the scene of Jesus calling his disciples to go out? (**KEYNOTE BULLET PTS**).

We're gonna do some bible study.

- What is Jesus telling them he's gonna do to them?
- How does he send them out?
- What does he send them out to do? You ready

I figure most of you know the story, so I go show um in my language, maybe yours too.

SHOW VIDEO HERE: HAWAII PIDGIN VIDEO

Why do you think they were able to go out and do those amazing things? Is it because they went to school? Had a manual to learn from? No, they were enrolled in the best mentorship, discipleship, apprenticeship program. It was from being in his presence. Listen good, it's from being with the Master, mentored by the master himself and being empowered by Him to do so!

They were ordinary men on a mission to do the extraordinary.

I want you to read about how Peter and John were characterized after the resurrection, after Jesus went back to His Heavenly Father and taken up in the clouds. (**KEYNOTE**)

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus (Acts 4:13 NIV).

How were they characterized? They were men of courage, Resolution Men, jalike some of the men and women in our church. Never go formal schooling, bible college, not sure they even took some TA classes. They were unschooled and, lissen up, ordinary Joes. And it's easy to miss but the people recognized that

these men were . . . ? They were in the presence of Jesus! Again, there's something about being in the very presence of Jesus. Acknowledging he's with us. That's where the power comes from to be his witnesses to tell others about Jesus! You ever think why Jesus picks ordinary people to do his extraordinary work? Why doesn't he pick the best and brightest? Why didn't he go to the synagogues to find the sharpest teachers of the law? I think it's clear that God wants to use people like you and me. Ordinary, but special. God likes to take the ordinary and change it to something he can use. We get some info on the 12 disciple's vocations.

- Peter and his braddah Andrew were what? Fishermen. James and his brother John the Sons of Zedebee, were fishermen too.
- Matthew, Levi, he was a tax collector who knew many shady characters jalike some of you.
- Simon: The Zealot, The territory sovereignty guy
- The Bible provides no information on the professions of Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Thaddaeus or James, the son of Alphaeus.

Ordinary men asked to do what Jesus did. And what qualified them for such a call, a mission? They were willing to follow Jesus and up close and personal. How many of you encountered Jesus, experience his very presence? Then, he can use you too! Tell the person next to you, he can use you too. He can use me too!

Remember a couple weeks ago we had our water baptism? The pastoral staff raved about it all week and said this one was special. And over the 20 years of us being a church, we've had maybe 100 of them. It wasn't just because of the onolicious food, the volunteer appreciation shirts, or even the calm water conditions. It was the pre-baptism sharing that was so powerful. Many came prepared to share their stories. It wasn't like we had to force anyone to share.

And those who shared all had moving stories of how God showed up in their lives in a real way. So much so that everyone sharing and those listening got emotional.

And nobody told them go invite your friends to church to hear about this Jesus. They did it on their own. Why? Cuz they had a fresh encounter with Jesus. And they want to tell everybody about what happened when God showed up in their lives.

Just think of the disciples, they had been exposed to Jesus life, saw his teachings, experienced the miracles of him multiplying the two fish and five loaves to feed the crowds, saw Jesus turn water into wine, make the blind guy see. Now they want others to experience their Jesus as well.

And now, he's telling them, "now your turn to do the same". How would you respond to that call? You think Peter knew what Jesus meant when he was initially called, "Come follow me and I'll make you a fisher of men". The way you fish for fish, I goin make you fish fo peopo. Dass how Da Jesus Book tell um.

I don't think he knew what he was in for. I think they were being prepared without even knowing it. They saw Jesus' heart, witnessed how he loved people, how he listened compassionately to people needs, spoke in encouraging words. They were being prepared even if they hadn't done those things Jesus asked them to do.

Fast forward to post resurrection, you see Peter and the other disciples operating in so much power. And what's the key! They were with Jesus.

How many of you have encountered Jesus? Or I should ask, has Jesus showing up in your life been life changing? Or honestly, is it, not so much? If that's you, maybe you need a refreshing new encounter with Jesus!

We don't get to hear all the conversations that surely happened with the disciples responding to Jesus' call to go out two by two.

I'm sure I'd have plenty to say to Jesus: "Eh, why you partner me with him or her". Why you sending me ova dea? What you like me fo do again? Wait, let me watch you litto moa. Then, I'd doubt his call and come up with more excuses. Wouldn't you?

Honestly, I would probably tell Jesus, "Jesus, you're the miracle worker, the bondage breaker, the one who casts out demons, healing the sick, not me! And you want me to do that? You go, I can support you as I've been doing.

I so would like to hear all the stories of the disciples doing the extraordinary works Jesus send them out to do, but we only get to hear generalities.

The disciples and the 72 others he sends out, come back—and seem to have had a good time! That people did welcome them, that they were provided for, and healings happened—that they could trust Jesus when they responded to his call.

The writers of this account Matthew, Mark, and Luke, don't report how the disciples wrestled with this call to do something extraordinary.

I'd like you to watch this scene from The Chosen Series 3. Just one disclaimer. What you'll watch is extra-biblical, meaning, it's not recorded in bible. But it surely isn't heretical, a teaching that is so far off.

And actually the bible is silent on much about the disciples background. The writer/director Dallas Jenkins takes some creative liberty and he's brilliant. Watch this scene of how he portrays one disciples response to that call to go out. I show this because I think we can all relate to this disciple as if he were you.

WATCH THIS VIDEO:

What a powerful scene even if it was made for TV. You gotta love our savior!

Little James has followed Jesus faithfully despite a painful disability. Why are we moved? Aren't we all like James, wondering, I have some things I still haven't gotten healing from, unforgiveness, past hurts, physical afflictions, and you want me to make a difference in others? And I'm not healed myself?

OG Discussion Q2: Can you relate to Little James? What encouragement can you take from this scene?

I want you to hear about the most influential person in the bible the Jesus called to follow him and about his shortcomings! It's Saul. Who would become who? Paul.

(KEYNOTE)

So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud. Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong (2 Corinthians 12:7 – 10 NLT).

This is the Paul that helps plant all these churches around the Mediterranean and the good news about Jesus is being spread out. This is that superstar church planter, missionary, spokesperson for God. Yet, there is something he struggles with!

When Jesus calls us to follow him, he knows everything about us, our hurts, hang ups, and our bad habits. He knows all our strongholds, our stinking thinking, and some of us like Paul have some kind of thorn in our side. Yet, he still picks us.

OG Discussion Q3: Do you sense God has given you a thorn in your flesh, something that makes you weak like Paul? How has God's grace been enough for you?

At NHCO, we pray for and believe in physical healing, inner healing, deep wound/hurts to be healed, strongholds of stinking thinking to be changed. And sometimes, especially, in the physical, we don't experience the healing and still God wants to use us. We gotta trust that God is a good, loving, powerful, and in control of all things, He's sovereign!

Personal Story: You guys know about my hearing loss in my right ear? I had a diving accident, went down without equalizing well, and I damaged my inner ear. I've asked God to heal me over the years, gotten prayer, seen others get miraculously healed, but not me. And I don't think it's a lack of wanting healing! I like hear good! That's why I sometimes get into your face cuz I sometimes no can hear to good. But I'm not deaf!

And I've got long term covid. And you know how much of a handicap that is for free diver that is! I can't hold my breath and go down 50' or more no more. I can't even dive 10' to save my own life! And I'm bummed out! And honestly, I felt I could run with many younger than I. Play softball, basketball, do things to show, eh I not old!, but it's been humbling. And maybe God was saying, Earl you no can make tantaran no moa, "Show off". I'm so open to getting complete healing, but it's been year now! This keeps me humble and open to God's touch on my life. I'm thankful that these thorns in my side haven't not disqualifying me from what I do.

So I take the cue from Paul and most all the more of my weaknesses, cuz then Christ power can rest on me. And when I'm weak, the promise is . . . He is strong in me! Broken, but not broke, not perfect, but usable.

I like end with this story: I like share how God showed up in my life a week or so ago. Some of you who are my Facebook friends saw that I posted for sale my 2001 Toyota Tacoma. I found someone selling 2016 Tacoma and I wanted one that would last me another 20 years that I could tow my kayak instead of putting on my roof. And my good friend Lance Llanto was free to go check um out with me. And he said, Pearl, if you no buy um, I like buy um! That was good enough for me!

Well, no need have two trucks no moa. Have you seen my cherry Tacoma 2001?

This is the video I posted. **Show video of my TACOMA**

Cherry looking right! But because I'd place my kayak on my roof and take it diving, over the years the salt hasn't been my Tacoma's friend. Caused rust, but I worked with Lance to grind the rust out and then weld in sheet metal over those holes. I could have just put bondo, hide the rust, and covered it, but I wanted to do it right.

Well, I knew I had to sell my baby. Looked at the bluebook and made it look pretty cherry, took pictures of all the work I did. Well, I thought the price was fair, and so when I listed it, I got so many messages, but many were not serious. And the nerve of some of the guys sending me low balling offers! Some criticized my work, cuz I didn't fix it perfectly, and commented you won't get what you are asking for. Good Luck!

I was getting pretty discouraged as people said they wanted to see it, but they all fell through.

The next day, I was sharing with Gayle my frustration and even doubted if my Tacoma was really desirable, valuable. So we cried out to God, pray and asked God for just one person to be so happy to get it. Well right after that, I get this guy that messages me. I'm interested and could I see it after 3pm. Hmm, I wasn't gonna hold my breath! But the guy follows through and texts me again.

So I meet up with the guy. The guy test drives it as I'm explaining why I'm selling this and I tell him, we go on the freeway and he said "Ah, no need". Then, we go back and he checks out the car again, I showed him some of the dents, where I worked on the car, told him about the A/C that it was working intermittently, and going need one new compressor.

He told me he was moving Big Island and needed one truck to haul his opala from his house to the road. The Garbage Trucks no go into all the neighborhoods cuz so big da island.

And I was ready for him to start nit picking stuff on my truck and then give me a low ball offer. Then, he said, ah, can replace the A/C compressor bumbye. Then, he said, would you consider, in my mind ok you not offering me much lower. But I was cool, hmm, Shoots!

I was honest about stuff and he was so ok with it. Found out he's gonna ship it to the Big Island all the trucks he was looking at had way high mileage.

And I thought he'd have to go to the bank, he said, I get cash. What? Wait, I not emotionally ready to let my baby go. And as I was getting my stuff out of the truck, Gayle was talking story with his wife. And I told the guy my wife and I was praying someone like you would come and see the value in my truck and want it. He said he was looking for exactly kine truck, 4 cyl, lower mileage, perfect value and usage!

I said something like I'm a pastor and I didn't want to be honest. He said, what church, New Hope, he said he went befo, wow! Then after counting the cash, I gave him the keys, signed over the title, then I said to him and his wife, could we pray for you, "She said you would" Yeah, God showed up! You are blessed and I'm blessed! And Gayle and I prayed for them. Small kine sad seeing my baby leave.

And this was what God showed me. We are all like my Toyota, we all get small kine rusts, we get imperfections, we wonder if anyone wants us, but God comes and says, "I wanna use you, I wanna repurpose you! In fact, better you have some imperfections cuz I can use that. You are valued, maybe not attractive on the outside, but super good on the inside. It was like God saying, "you may have had some deep rusts, but as the master bodyman, I'll do some deep repair in your life, I'll take out all the rusts, clean you from the inside out, and make you useful again, retool you for my purposes. I no just going put bondo, I going do some deep repair on your life. Will you be perfect, not quite. You still going get some flaws. And that's what God does with us when he shows up. He tells us, "I'm repaired you, made you cherry, yeah, still get some work to be done in your life, but you surely you're not disqualified, in fact, I like use you. You get much value.

Maybe you don't see it, but can you trust me!

God is gonna speak to all of us to do something that's beyond what we see. Like the disciples, to go and do the very same thing Jesus as done. How are you gonna respond?

When Jesus shows up, he'll call us to something we don't see. But it's up to us to follow him in obedience. What if I didn't answer that call? I'm sure God could

have raised others up to complete DGASB. But I had more flexible time to dedicate myself to be one of the main translators. I could have become an insurance salesman.

I'm not saying he'll call everyone to be a pastor. That's what my assignment. But, what I know for sure it is this. That same calling out of his 12 and the 72 to go out is his same call for us today. Jesus is calling everyone to is to go out share the good news about Him and about where He stay the king, his kingdom, Jesus' ways.

Maybe Jesus is calling you out to do something you don't feel, you don't see, but you know he's calling out to you. Don't hesitate, answer his call, and do so now! And you watch, you'll see, that Jesus will be right there with you to the end of the age!