

HEARING EVERETT

A PERSONAL AND SMALL GROUP JOURNEY

Sample

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HEARING EVERETT: A PERSONAL AND SMALL GROUP JOURNEY

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SESSION 1: BEGINNING THE JOURNEY

WELCOME 30 MINUTES

Now that you have watched the feature film, *Hearing Everett*, it's time to begin your own personal Journey. Let's begin with a discussion based on the film itself. As a group, reflect on the film and discuss the following questions.

1. As you finished watching the film, what were some of your impressions of the story and of the film itself?
2. What parts of the film most touched or impacted you? Why?

WATCH THE VIDEO: "BEGINNING THE JOURNEY"



3. Why is service to others important for our own spiritual growth? How has service to others been a catalyst for spiritual growth in your life?
4. Look up Ephesians 2:10. What does this verse teach about good works in the Christian life?
5. Read Matthew 9:35-38. How should these words from Jesus shape our lives as individual Christians and shape what we do as a small group?
6. Have each person in your group share what they would like to get out of this study.

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SESSION 1: **BEGINNING THE JOURNEY**

P **PRAYING TOGETHER.** **10 MINUTES**

Pray for yourself and everyone in your group participating in “The Journey.”

PRAY THAT:

- > Your heart will be open to what God wants to say to you.
- > God will give each of you a servant’s heart.
- > You will get to know each other better.

B **BEFORE NEXT TIME**

We would encourage you to spend a few minutes each day answering the following questions. Allow God to speak to you through these questions and Scripture verses. Read and reflect on this week’s devotionals. Write a note or two on those reflections that you can share with your group.

SESSION 2 PERSONAL STUDY: **“HEARING GOD’S CALL”**

1. Read Proverbs 16:9. What does this verse teach regarding God’s involvement in our Journey? In light of this verse, what should be our response?

2. Can you think of a time in your own life of when you’ve made plans and then watched God redirect your steps?

SESSION 1: **BEGINNING THE JOURNEY**

3. Read Jeremiah 29:11. This is a Scripture that the Everetts have long held on to in the midst of the difficulties in their lives at the Ranch. How do you reconcile this verse with the difficult Journey that the Everetts experienced?

4. Can you think of another person or story in the Bible where you see God's calling?

5. Give an example of how you have allowed God to lead in your own life.

6. Read Luke 2:1-5. Jesus' parents were forced by a secular political decree to physically get themselves to Bethlehem, thus fulfilling Scripture. Luke Everett uses the term 'God-incidences' to describe seeming coincidences that move both people and events. Can you think of any 'God-incidences' in your own life? What circumstances seemed to be part of God's plan for your Journey?

SESSION 1: BEGINNING THE JOURNEY

DAILY DEVOTIONALS FOR SESSION 2: HEARING GOD'S CALL

DAY 1

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy."

Philippians 1:3-4 NIV

The truth is, we all want to leave our mark in this world. As Christians, we want to be remembered as being faithful followers of Jesus. We want our decisions in life to glorify our Master. We want our brothers and sisters to seek us for counsel because of our understanding and discernment of God's Word. How do we reach this high level in our life? How can I make a difference for Jesus Christ in the world?

I remember my early construction days. I met a man who had all of these qualities. What made him so different was his love and priority for studying God's Word and then putting what he learned into action. His office door was always open, and if you wanted to talk about scriptural things he would open up his middle desk drawer and pull out a study he had taught and then give you all of his attention. When a need was brought to his attention, he raced to meet that need. In boxing, we call it the one-two knockout punch. Learn about how Jesus lived and ministered to people, and be that way yourself.

It happened to Nehemiah. He was held captive by a powerful kingdom. One day his brother came by to tell him about the distress and destruction in his home land. Nehemiah felt a great tug on his heart by God to get involved. For many of us God reveals a plan for our lives through involvement with others. If we want to impact others, we must heed His calling or He will pass us by. If we respond to the need, His power will empower us. Nehemiah heard the need, went to God to partner with him, and they made up a plan to solve the problem. He did not wait for someone else to take care of it. People who are remembered take the initiative. God wants us to be successful in His work.

Do you really want to be remembered as one who took Jesus seriously when He said in Matthew 5:16, NIV, *"Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven..."*? What kinds of things have pierced your heart? Do you feel sadness when you drive by the homeless guy going through the trash in the back of McDonalds? Or do you wish you could do something for those Russian orphans who sang at your church last Sunday? Think big! Your God is big! And check out the story of Nehemiah. He set the stage for Jesus coming back! Not bad!

-Howard Grobstein



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SESSION 1: BEGINNING THE JOURNEY

DAY 2

“For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Ephesians 2:10 NASB

If God created us, doesn't it make sense that He would give us what we need, to do the things that He wants us to do?

The first year that I served at Rancho Sordo Mudo I heard this verse in a way that I had not experienced before. A pastor was applying Ephesians 2:10 to parenting. He stated that as parents, we have the opportunity to respond to frustrating situations in a way that will show that He has prepared us to do well in the midst of trying times. I still believe that God gives us what we need in order to deal with the challenges of parenting, and I am constantly reminding myself (or is God reminding me?) that I need to do the good works that He has prepared for me as a father. However, I have recently been looking at this verse from a broader perspective. I believe that we can also apply Ephesians 2:10 to the area of service. When people hear that my wife Allison and I, along with our three children Kailey, Zachary, and Andrew who were 10, 7, and 6 years old at the time, picked up and moved to Mexico for two years they are amazed. Sometimes people say, “I don't think that I could do that!” I usually reply, “You never know what God can do with you.”

I believe that service involves a willing heart more than a calling. I believe that it comes down to seeing an opportunity and asking the question, “God, can you use me to do that?” Too often, people get wrapped up in the idea that they don't ‘feel’ God calling them to serve. There are countless opportunities surrounding them yet they don't ‘feel’ they are qualified. If we look at the verse above again it states that we are God's creation and that He has prepared good works ahead of time for us to accomplish. If God created us, doesn't it make sense that He would give us what we need, to do the things that He wants us to do? What are these good works? You probably have a neighbor that you could witness to or help in some way. You may have heard of a need for workers at your church. I could list several more here, but I think that you could generate your own list very easily. The bottom line is, “How are you going to be used by God to do the good works that He has prepared for you?”

-Kevin Whitted



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