

Vocation – Exploring God’s Call

Discussion 2 - God Calls Forth our Gifts

After people have settled and have had a chance to visit for a short time, invite each person to think of one thing in the past week that someone did for them that made their week better.

Read: John 6: 1-14

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ²A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, ‘Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?’ ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, ‘Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.’ ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, ⁹‘There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?’ ¹⁰Jesus said, ‘Make the people sit down.’ Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, ‘Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.’ ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, ‘This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.’

Exploring the text:

- a) Why did so many people want to see Jesus?
- b) In response to the need to feed the people, how did Jesus “give the work to the disciples”? What was Philip’s reaction?
- c) How do you think the boy felt when Andrew brought the boy with his lunch to Jesus?
- d) How did Jesus respond to the boy and his gift?
- e) Beyond the miracle of the feeding, what do you think we are meant to see in this story?

Going Deeper:

- a) What are some of the needs in your community and your congregation?
- b) Have you ever been in a situation where the needs seem to overwhelm the resources? How has a congregation or a community responded?
- c) What are some of the gifts in your life that you might bring to Jesus to respond to a need in the world?
- d) How does it feel to have your gifts received and shared for a good purpose (For God’s purpose)?

After your discussion, thank everyone for their participation and close with the Lord’s Prayer and the Grace.