







A green road sign with the word "Purpose" written in white, set against a blue sky with white clouds. The sign is mounted on two wooden posts and has a white border with reflective dots. The word "Purpose" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font, slanted slightly to the right. The background is a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The sign is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the frame, with the word "Purpose" extending towards the upper-right.

Purpose



RHYTHM



nooma®



▶ **What is one thing from that video that sounds familiar to you?**

JESUS CALLING

THE STORY OF JESUS

The Story of Jesus; the four Gospels

- ▶ (Anticipation: God will save his people.)
- ▶ Birth
- ▶ Public Life and Ministry of Preaching and Mighty Deeds
- ▶ Passion and Death
- ▶ Resurrection
- ▶ Community's experience of Jesus alive and with them (appearances, Acts, Pastoral Letters etc.)

KEY THEMES IN JESUS' MESSAGE

- ▶ The call to love one another
- ▶ The call to love your enemies
- ▶ The call to forgive one another
- ▶ The call to renounce revenge
- ▶ The call to avoid judging others
- ▶ The call to avoid self-righteousness

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- ▶ **The call to befriend/be concerned about those whom society looks down upon**
 - ▶ **The call to serve one another, humbly and unselfishly**
 - ▶ **The call to serve/be concerned about the poor**
 - ▶ **The call to beware of riches and the attachment to possessions**

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- ▶ **The call to be honest and just in your dealings with others**
 - ▶ **The call to be concerned about what is right and just**
 - ▶ **The call to pray, be in relationship with God and to trust God**

MY STORY

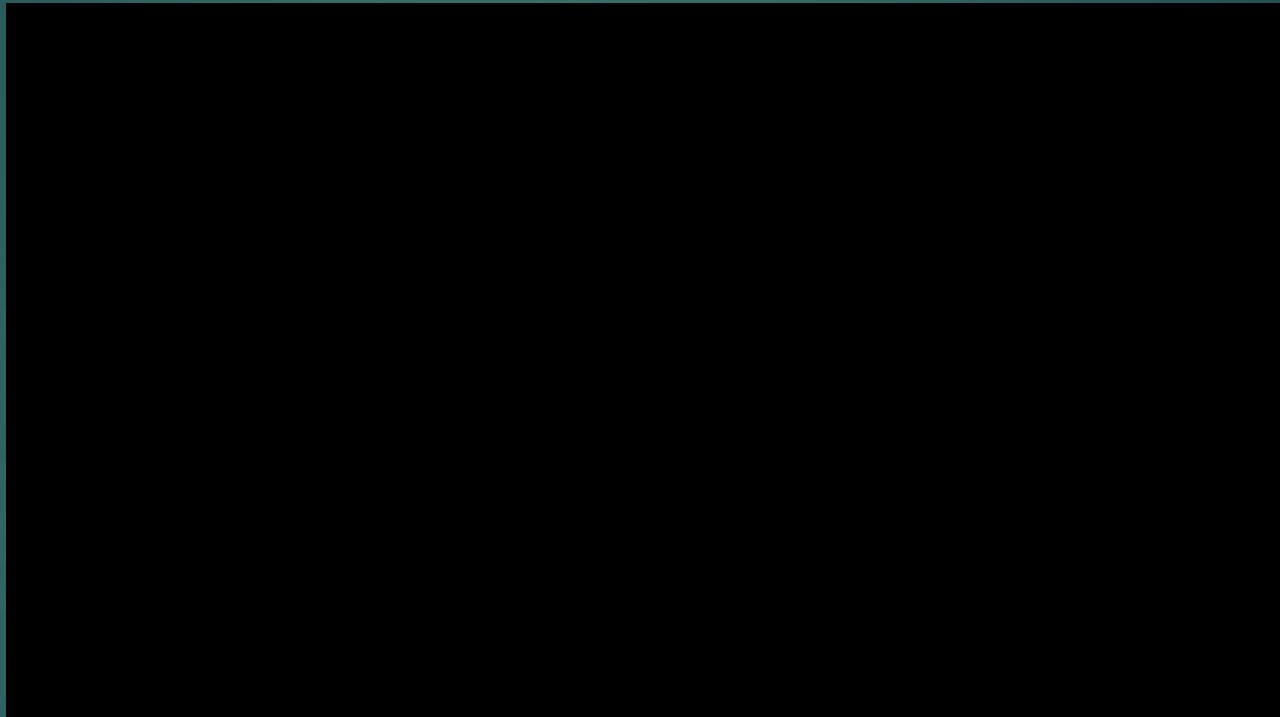
THE EXAMEN

- ▶ 1. **Presence:** Recall that you are in God's presence in a special way.
- ▶ 2. **Gratitude:** Recall two or three things that happened today for which you are grateful. Savor them. Thank God for them.
- ▶ 3. **Review:** Review your day from start to finish, noticing where you experienced God's presence. Notice everything from large to small: from the enjoyable interaction with a friend to the lush fall foliage. When did you love? When were you loved?
- ▶ 4. **Sorrow:** You may have sinned today or done something you regret. Express your sorrow to God and ask for forgiveness.
- ▶ 5. **Grace:** From what you noticed about today, what grace or blessing would you ask from God to help you live tomorrow better?

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- ▶ Over time, as you pray this way, you will come to notice God's presence more readily in the moment, rather than just at the end of the day.
 - ▶ You will see that your whole day can be a kind of prayer.
 - ▶ This is what some call "contemplation in action".
 - ▶ You will become more alert to God's real presence in your life.



DISCERNING GOD'S CALL





▶ **What gives you energy?**



▶ **What catches and
keeps your attention?**



▶ How do you choose to
use your free time?



▶ **What are you doing
when you feel
“fully alive”?**



▶ How would your friends
or others you trust answer
this question for you?

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- ▶ **When were you last amazed with joy, or overwhelmed with gratitude?**



▶ **What breaks your heart?**

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- ▶ “Nothing is more practical than finding God, than falling in Love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will decide everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, whom you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in Love, stay in Love and it will decide everything.”

Do I have just one call?

- ▶ No. A person can have several different calls in life.
- ▶ Our story and our connection with the story of Jesus unfolds throughout our lives.
- ▶ Calls for a regular attention to the story of Jesus (Scripture, sacraments, Church) and a reflective awareness to my own story.

ARE ALL CALLS THE SAME?

- ▶ Twelve Apostles: a calling of people chosen from among larger community of disciples
- ▶ Community of Disciples: a calling for a dedicated group who follow Jesus; their being together in midst of world show something new has begun
- ▶ Others called to change their life but not called to discipleship: Zaccheus (Lk 19:1-10)



I am called:
by God
to follow
as I am
from grief
for service
in suffering
through others
within God.

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- ▶ “no one may reject the specific call that comes to him/her. It is not only that in such a case one fails to enter into the broad space God wants to open to that person. Rejecting the call also closes the space to others and places obstacles in the way of possibilities for growth for the people of God.”
- Gerhard Lohfink

Where do we go from here?

- ▶ “God Sightings”: Noticing God present in your life.
- ▶ Do you find that strange?
- ▶ Opportunities to share such “sightings” at parish gatherings.
- ▶ GIFT: Discovering your story in the story of Jesus as celebrated in the liturgical year

DOES IT SPARK

Joy?



our desires indicators of God's own desires for us

If we swept away the surface *wants* and looked deeper within ourselves we would discover the desires that lead us closer to God.

And if we follow those desires we'll find great joy and peace in them.

Those things could be deep desires for healthy love, to foster a particular talent, or to live a more virtuous life—all good things that lead us to God.



CRONIN PHOTOGRAPHY











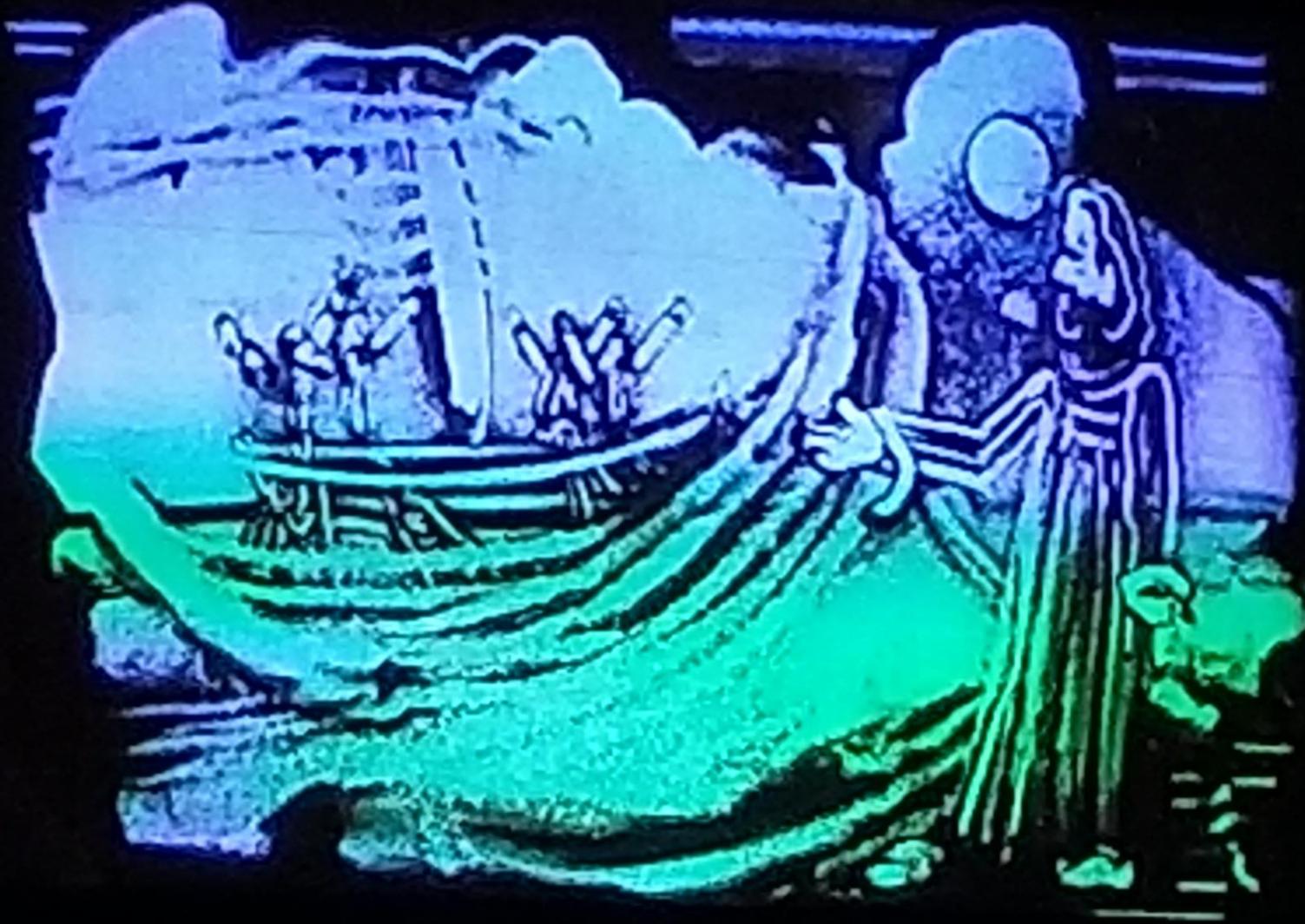






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Subject: joy



**"Come,
follow me,"
Jesus said,
"and I will
send you out
to fish for
people."**