**FAITH 365 WEEK ONE 2019**

**THE CALL IN A TIME OF NATIONAL/GLOBAL CRISIS**

*The first part of this session will differ slightly from the others, to allow the group to get to know each other and focus on the intent of these five gatherings. Depending on how well people in the group know one another, this session might be a bit longer. Let the group know this, but assure them in the coming weeks you will keep your eye on the clock so that we start and finish on time. Make sure also, that you have the correct emails and best phone numbers to use if needed.*

**Preparation**

* **Have handouts ready for each participant**
* **Make sure CDs for music and video are ready**
* **Take time to make sure that all AV equipment is working before people arrive**
* **Place a candle in the center of the room/table**

**Welcome**

* **Invite people to be in the moment, put aside the cares of the day, and turn off cell phone**

**Focus**

* **We are beginning a five-week journey**
* **During this time, we hope to learn a few things, but most important come to know better how the Lord is working in our lives**
* **This Lent all our sessions will focus on the idea of being called. As you know our parish is involved in a project, the C3 Project, along with other faith communities around the country, focused on creating a culture of calling. As disciples of the Lord, we know that He calls us to follow him. The challenge, however, is to realize the call comes not once when we are young, but throughout every stage of life. That call comes to us in ordinary moments of life, in times of joy and times of sorrow. It comes to us in illness and in health, in triumph as well as tragedy. So, each week our video will focus on a call that takes place in someone’s life. And the challenge will be to reflect on how that call comes to us in similar ways.**
* **It is important to remember that everyone shares at his or her comfort level. No one will be forced to speak or be put on the spot. But we do learn much from one another, so your willingness to share is more helpful than you realize.**
* **As a way of introduction, let’s go around the room, and answer (briefly!) the question: what is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word: CALL or CALLING. Note: depending on the group, you might also ask if anyone can recall a time in their life when they experienced “being called;” e.g. to help in a situation or to pursue a career goal. However, be sure to have the responses be simple statements (*when a relative of mine got sick, I experienced a call that I was to be a caregiver to that person.*) and not a long story.**
* **After sharing: ask participants to note and remember what came to mind when hearing the word CALL. At the end of the five weeks, we will revisit those answers to see if there are any changes or new insights.**

**Format explanation**

* **Depending on the group, it may not be necessary to go through the format explanation. Many may have been in a group previously. Make sure, however, you pay attention to anyone who is new to Faith365. The handout provided (Participate, Prepare, Be Present, Be Comfortable, Be Personal, Be Confidential, Be Gentle) can be gone over as needed.**

**Session One Overview**

* **Today our theme is centers around the idea of being called in a time of national or global crisis**
* **We have, sadly, witnessed too many occasions of tragedy on a large scale. It might be the Newtown Massacre, or the terrorist attacks in Paris. It’s the devastation of a hurricane in Puerto Rico. These are a few of the many crises that have dominated news cycles over the years.**
* **We may watch these new stories, but unless we are personally affected, we have the ability to change the channel. And while we may lend our time or resources to help in relief efforts, there can be the feeling that this is happening to “them” not me.**
* **As disciples of Jesus we believe God calls us in many different moments. The challenge is to ask: to what is God calling us in times of global struggle and national crisis?**
* **As we begin the season of Lent, our first session is to help us listen and see these moments as a personal call.**
* **This week, we will use a song to settle us and open our hearts. This song is called Different. It is sung by the artist Micah Tyler**

I don't wanna hear anymore, teach me to listen  
I don't wanna see anymore, give me a vision  
That you could move this heart, to be set apart  
I don't need to recognize, the man in the mirror  
And I don't wanna trade Your plan, for something familiar  
I can't waste a day, I can't stay the same

I wanna be different  
I wanna be changed  
'Til all of me is gone  
And all that remains  
Is a fire so bright  
The whole world can see  
That there's something different  
So come and be different  
In me

And I dont wanna spend my life, stuck in a pattern  
And I don't wanna gain this world but lose what matters  
And so I'm giving up, everything because

I wanna be different  
I wanna be changed  
'Til all of me is gone  
And all that remains  
Is a fire so bright  
The whole world can see  
That there's something different  
So come and be different; oh-oh

I know, that I am far, from perfect  
But through You, the cross still says, I'm worth it  
So take this beating in my heart and  
Come and finish what You started  
When they see me, let them see You  
'Cause I just wanna be different, ye-ey

I wanna be different  
I wanna be changed  
'Til all of me is gone  
And all that remains  
Oh is a fire so bright  
The whole world can see  
That there's something different  
So come and be different  
I just wanna be different  
So could You be different  
In me

**Week 1:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q398zYE0kzU>

**Faith Sharing**

* **We will now listen to a passage from the Gospel of Luke**
* **Give out the sheet with the passage. Ask the members not to read along, but listen to the words and feel what is happening, or pay attention to the message it conveys.**
* **After the passage is read, we can be quiet for a minute or two so that all can look at the passage.**
* **Read the passage; quiet, and then begin a conversation with these three questions:**
* **WHAT DID I HEAR?**
* **WHAT DO I THINK IT MEANS FOR US?**
* **WHAT CHALLENGE DID IT OFFER?**

**Film**

* **After the terrorist attacks on 9/11 Nick Branham drove from his home in Kentucky to New York City; a place he had never visited. Nick believed he was called to go there and volunteer with relief efforts. The first part of the video is his appearance on the Oprah Winfrey show a few weeks after the attacks. The second part of the video is 14 years later, as part of a segment Winfrey’s show called, “Where Are They Now? (YouTube: From Good Ol’ Boy to One of the Unsung Heroes of 9/11/Where Are they Now/OWN)**

**Week 1:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZabddunNZTk>

* **Show video**

**Questions for Discussion**

* **Remember that all the questions do not have to be answered; nor do you have to discuss them in the order listed here. The questions are offered to help facilitate the conversation.**
* **Be conscious if individuals seem to dominate the conversation; gently suggest that others might want to weigh in.**
* **Remind the group that we want to speak about our personal experiences, and not relay the experience of other people.**
* **Every week, start with the question, What image or phrase stood out for you in the video? How people respond might direct which question you turn toward first.**

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

1. In the video, Nick said that as he watched the horror of 9/11, he kept praying and every answer was to go. He said it was the strongest feeling he ever had. Have you in prayer ever experienced the strong sense of being sent?
2. In the video, Nick was called ***from*** his life ***to*** something. Have you ever been called from your life to something? Where did the call lead?
3. Has there been a national or global tragedy that affected you, challenged you? How did faith help or guide you in that moment? Did you experience a sense of call, either in the moment, or in the days that followed?
4. Nick realized he had done a lot of wrong in his life yet found redemption in answering the call to serve. Have you ever had an experience in which you found grace and redemption through service?
5. At various times, working on the pile, everyone had to stay quiet and listen. What makes it hard to stay quiet and listen during times national or global tragedies?
6. Has your faith ever pushed you in a different direction, or to see how you are a part of something that might at first glance have little to do with you?
7. What does it take for you to look at your life and see what is missing?
8. In large tragedies that we watch on TV or read about on the Internet, how can we move to look more deeply at our own lives, and what we have done with our lives? Often news stories have a short shelf life; how do we keep the challenges they offer fresh in us? How can they stick with us forever, as Nick promised they would in the days after 9/11?
9. Mother Teresa once said, “The fruit of Silence is prayer. The fruit of Prayer is faith. The fruit of Faith is love. The fruit of Love is service. The fruit of Service is peace.” How can we be instruments of peace?
10. What do you believe is the message Jesus has for us in these moments? To what are we called, and what makes it challenging to answer that call?

**CONCLUSION: Before praying the Lord’s Prayer, invite the group, silently or aloud, to include and intention they have for the week. Ask the group to be aware of news stories in the coming week, and to ask if there is a calling in that story for them?**

**DIFFERENT**

*written by Micah Tyler Begnaud and Kyle Lee*

*sung by Micah Tyler*

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**LUKE 21:20-33**

When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, know that its desolation is at hand. Then those in Judea must flee to the mountains. Let those within the city escape from it, and let those in the countryside not enter the city, for these days are the time of punishment when all the scriptures are fulfilled. Woe to pregnant women and nursing mothers in those days, for a terrible calamity will come upon the earth and a wrathful judgment upon this people. They will fall by the edge of the sword and be taken as captives to all the Gentiles; and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens**[\*](http://usccb.org/bible/luke/21" \l "50021026-1)** will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.”

He taught them a lesson. “Consider the fig tree and all the other trees. When their buds burst open, you see for yourselves and know that summer is now near; in the same way, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. Amen, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

**WHAT DID I HEAR? WHAT DO I THINK IT MEANS? WHAT CHALLENGE DID IT OFFER?**