**FAITH 365 WEEK FOUR 2019**

**HEARING THE CALL IN A TIME OF ILLNESS**

**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**

* **This Lent all our sessions will focus on the idea of being called.**
* **At the beginning of sessions, ask if anything for last week’s gathering stayed with them through the week. Was anyone conscious of hearing “call” conversations in the grocery store? Or any other place?**

**Session Four Overview**

* **Today our theme is hearing the call in a time of illness.**
* **Often in times of illness, our spirits and even faith can be low. The idea that we are being called to something in those moments can be confusing. It could lead us to thinking “is this a test?” or couldn’t God find a better way to call me?**
* **In each gospel Jesus stands with those who are ill, whether that illness was physical or psychological. The prevailing thought of Jesus’ time said illness was punishment from God. And so, the sick were marginalized and shunned. But in his encounters with the sick, Jesus helped them see their lives in a new way; to realize God is truly present to them, and that even in the time of illness, they are called to discipleship. Those calls are not ancient history. They come to us when we have the flu or when we face more serious and chronic illness.**
* **This week’s theme can be challenging because it is asking us to understand calling in a moment or situation we might never have considered; especially when emotional, physical and spiritual strength is low.**
* **This week, we listen to a song is called Disappear. It is sung by two characters in the musical Dear Evan Hansen. One of them comes to understand that his life does matter, and he is called to believe that truth, despite his emotional and psychological wounds.**

No one deserves to be forgotten  
No one deserves to fade away

Even if you've always been that  
Barely-in-the-background kind of guy

And even if you're somebody who can't escape the feeling  
That the world's passed you by

If you never get around to doing some remarkable thing

That doesn't mean  
That you're not worth remembering

Think of the people who need to know

They need to know

So you need  
​to show them

I need to show them

That no one deserves to be forgotten

No one deserves to fade away

No one should flicker out or have any doubt  
That it matters that they are here

No one deserves

No one deserves

To disappear

To disappear

Disappear

When you're falling in a forest  
And there's nobody around  
All you want is for somebody to find you  
When you're falling in a forest  
And when you hit the ground  
All you need is for somebody to find you

No one deserves to be forgotten

No one deserves to fade away

No one should flicker out or have any doubt  
That it matters that they are here

No one deserves to disappear

To disappear

No one deserves to be forgotten

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**Week 4:**

<https://vodeocatalog.com/en/video/ObE5GVCUF50>

**Faith Sharing**

* **We will now listen to a passage from the Letter to the Romans**
* **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**

**The video we are about to see was a news story from Omaha. It’s about Jon McAlpin who works at an Omaha cancer center. McAlpin felt hopeless after his own diagnosis with cancer, but discovered in the most challenging time of his life a new calling. (YouTube: Hospital Greeter Finds Purpose After Cancer Diagnosis)**

**Week 4:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIKIYcV_H2E>

* **Show video**

**Start with the question, What image or phrase stood out for you in the video?**

**Questions for Discussion**

1. Have you ever experienced illness as a calling; do you know someone who found a calling in his/her illness?
2. Have you discovered God’s presence in a time of illness; what makes it hard to experience that presence; what helps?
3. “The healing power of kindness.” Have you experienced healing through someone’s kindness? Has anyone experienced healing because of your kindness?
4. In difficult times we often hear the question, “why do bad things happen to good people?” How do you as a person of faith answer that question. In light of today’s video, how might “finding a purpose” be a part of that answer?
5. “Exercise hospitality.” How are we called to exercise hospitality in our lives? What difference does it make?
6. Have you ever encountered someone so positive that it changed you or called you to relook at your life?
7. In one of his letters, St. Paul tells the early Church that they must have the attitude of Christ. What is the attitude of Christ? What makes it hard to have that attitude; how can we have it in difficult times like illness.
8. St. Paul also wrote that there are many gifts but the same Spirit. Why are some people’s callings thought of as more significant that others? (i.e. surgeon vs. hospital greeter.)
9. Is it an option for follower of Christ to simply disappear, rather than be seen by others as a disciple?

**CONCLUSION: Before praying the Lord’s Prayer, invite the group to silently or aloud, include an intention they have for the week. For the coming week: as the group to be aware of people who are ill; and to reflect by themselves on what calling those specific people might reveal to us.**

**DISAPPEAR**

*written by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul*

*from the musical Dear Evan Hansen*

*sung by Taylor Trensch and Alex Boniello*

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**ROMANS 12: 9-18, 21**

Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good;love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor. Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones; exercise hospitality. Bless those who persecute [you],bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation. Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, on your part, live at peace with all. Beloved, do not look for revenge but leave room for the wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” Rather, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head.” Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good.

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