**FAITH 365 WEEK FIVE 2019**

**DISCOVERING YOUR CALL WHEN YOUR LIFE COMES TO AN END**

**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 session, ask if anything from last week’s gathering stayed with them through the week.**

**Session Four Overview**

* **Today our theme is discovering your call when your life comes to an end.**
* **Today’s final gathering is challenging; it is not an easy topic: finding meaning as one comes to the end of life. It is challenging because it is a topic many do not want to talk about, sometimes thinking about it is too hard, or too upsetting.**
* **But we are people of faith. As we come to our final session, we are now close to Holy Week. In Holy Week, we reflect on the final journey of Jesus and his death. It is the week in which we remember our belief that the death of Jesus gives meaning to our own life and our own death. In his death we discover our call.**
* **This week, we listen to a song called Let My Love Be Heard. Based on a poem by Alfred Noyes, the composer Jake Runestad set it to music for a choral group. Another choral director came upon the song in 2015 when one of his choir members was killed in the terrorist attacks in Paris. The director used the song as a way of helping the choir in their hour of grief and to honor the memory of their friend who had died. It was recorded, and soon became well known, performed by numerous choral groups, including the Wartburg Choir of Iowa who we will hear sing it. Of his piece, the composer says he *is honored that this piece has helped provide hope in the darkness of our world.***

Angels, where you soar

Up to God’s own light,

 Take my own lost bird

On your hearts tonight;

And as grief once more

Mounts to heaven and sings,

Let my love be heard

Whispering in your wings.

**Week 5:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZELnYe7abls>

**Faith Sharing**

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

**“Borrowed time” are two words that have defined Julie Yip-Williams life since she was born. She had already surmounted difficulties beyond imagining as a child. Then, at age 37, she was diagnosed with stage IV colon cancer. The video is an interview as she prepares to die, and the lessons to the two young daughters she leaves behind.**

**(YouTube: A Woman With Cancer Faces Her End.)**

**Week 5:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_hW5Fnwp4kk>

* **Show video; and then after it is over:**

**Julie died on March 19, 2018; this interview was broadcast a week before she died. Her book The Unwinding of the Miracle was recently released .**

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

**Questions for Discussion**

1. **Julie said living on ‘borrowed time’ are words that have defined her life. Think for a moment; what words comes to you that define your life. How do they define it?**
2. **Of a doctor who helped improve her vision, Julie says, “what he gave was enough.” Do you ever feel, despite challenges, that you have been given enough; or is there something else you still long for or need?**
3. **Julie was driven by anger to make something of her life. What place does anger have in our lives? Have you experienced in your life a positive influence of anger?**
4. **Facing death, Julie knew she was called to talk about it. Why don’t we talk about death more? Have you had an experience of talking about death that was helpful or hard?**
5. **Many of us have walked the journey of dying with someone. Looking back at that experience, to what were you being called?**
6. **How has faith in Christ helped you face death or at least talk about it? Has your faith been challenged by death; has it gotten stronger?**
7. **When facing death, is it hard to turn to the Lord? What helps you turn toward Him?**
8. **Julie says love gives us the capacity to get through anything. In many ways, that is the message of Jesus. Has that been your experience?**
9. **Some people think having faith means one should not have any hardship. Some may abandon faith in moments of struggle and hardship. Has that been your experience? How can faith help us move forward even when life is disappointing or our hearts break?**
10. **The video suggests that hardships and even death might be opportunities for a new vision – that we are called to something in those moments? How do you respond to that?**
11. **What place does gratitude have in dealing with loss and hardships?**

**CONCLUSION: Before praying the Lord’s Prayer, invite the group to silently or aloud, include an intention they have for the week. In this time of prayer, ask the group to think about the theme of “calling.” Have there been any new insights, challenges or learning over these weeks.**

**As a way of concluding these weeks, (if there is time) you might play the song “Let My Love Be Heard” one more time. Ask all to think about the call we receive in all the stages and experiences of life to “Let my love be heard.”**

**LET MY LOVE BE HEARD**

*Poem by Alfred Noyes*

*Music by Jake Runestad*

*Performed by Wartburg Choir, Wartburg College*

Angels, where you soar

Up to God’s own light,

Take my own lost bird

On your hearts tonight;

And as grief once more

Mounts to heaven and sings,

Let my love be heard

Whispering in your wings.

**1 CORINTHIANS 13: 4-13**

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, love is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. For we know partially and we prophesy partially, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. So, faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love

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