## Session 6. Called *through* Each Other

​**Supplies Needed**

* Leader: Chapter 6 in *The Stories We Live*
* Participants: *The Stories We Live.* Kathleen Cahalan. Eerdmans, 2017.
* Equipment for viewing video (optional).

#### Opening Prayer (2 mins)

Welcome everyone by name as they enter. You may wish to provide nametags or table tent name cards for your group members.

Open the session with a prayer. You may wish to use this prayer or another of your choosing. Allow some time at the end of the prayer to listen.

*We have a call,*

*To be loved,*

*and to love,*

*To be shown mercy,*

*and to show mercy,*

*To be forgiven,*

*and to forgive,*

*To receive hope,*

*and to offer hope ,*

*To know joy,*

*and share joy,*

*To feel peace,*

*and bring peace,*

*To be made whole,*

*and offer wholeness.*

*We have a call,*

*Listen...*

*Listen...*

*Do you hear?*

Source: Faith & Worship: [www.faithandworship.com/Prayers\_Encounters\_with\_Gods\_people.htm#ixzz5QbVMPqpi](http://www.faithandworship.com/Prayers_Encounters_with_Gods_people.htm#ixzz5QbVMPqpi)

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#### Part 1. Introduce Called *through* Each Other (3 mins)

God works *through* others to call us. Who has God worked through to call you?

Most people say that they first experience a sense of calling through another person. Family, friends, or mentors highly influence a person’s choice in work. The discernment of your gifts and capacities for service begins when others around you notice and call them forth.

We are utterly dependent on each other to become who we are, to hear God’s callings, and to respond. People closest to you are the most significant factors in the calls you follow and the choices you make. If you are struggling to figure out what God is calling you toor for, listen to God’s call throughthe people around you.

***Who comes into a person’s life may be the single greatest factor of influence to what that life becomes.*** You are God’s agent of vocation. If your call is to be for others, then you must become a person through whom God’s call is heard and heeded.

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​(From: *The Stories We Live: Finding God's Calling All Around Us*. Kathleen Cahalan. Eerdmans, 2017.)

#### Part 2. Optional Video: Called *through* Others (15 mins)

This session has a large amount of reflection and sharing in it. You may wish to forgo watching the video in your meeting time to allow more time for reflection. You can share the video link with the class to watch on their own if you would like.

**Video (9 mins):**

Share the video of Mary Margaret and Ken’s Story (on the thumb drive in your classroom, or at http://bit.ly/MaryMargaretKen).

Mary Margaret shares a story of hearing God’s call through her pastor, and through her husband. Ken shares his sense of call through others who are experiencing similar illness to his.

**Reflect (6 mins):**

After the video, invite reflections using some of the following questions:

* **How does this story connect with your own experience? What do you find helpful or insightful or inspiring?**
* **How does Mary Margaret’s and Ken’s stories illustrate being called through others? How is God calling others through them?**

#### Part 3. Exploring a Sense of Calling *through* Others (20 mins)

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**Reflection (10 mins)**

Invite the group to recall the “Chapters of Life” activity in Session 3, (If you need to, allow a few minutes to recreate the “Chapters of Life’ activity. Instructions are at the end of this outline).

Ask participants to reflect on who was instrumental in their life during each “chapter.”

Use the following questions to reflect on your journey and the people who have been important in your life. Write your responses in your journal or on a piece of paper.

* **Who has been instrumental in each chapter of your life to help you discover God’s calling for you? Who has been an agent of God’s vocation for you? Identify the person(s) in each chapter of your life. (Think about family members, friends, colleagues, supervisors, the people we serve, and mentors.)**
* **What did the people in your life do for and with you to help you discover God’s vocation?**
* **Who is instrumental in your life right now? Who is currently an agent of God’s vocation for you? What are they doing for and with you to help you discover God’s vocation at this stage of your life?**

**Sharing (10 mins)**  
Break the group into pairs. Invite them to share with their partner about one person who was instrumental in their life, and what that person did that mattered so much to them.

#### Part 4. Reflecting on Being an Agent of God’s Calling for Others ​(15 mins)

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Who comes into your life may be the single greatest factor of influence to what your life becomes. Each of us are God’s agent of vocation. If our call is to be for others, then we must become a person through whom God’s call is heard and heeded.

Invite the participants to reflect silently on these questions.

* **For whom have you been an agent of God’s vocation? What did you do for and with these individuals? What was the experience life for you?**
* **Recall one example or story of a person you have influenced. Write about how you influenced this person.**
* **How might others be called by God through you today?**

Invite the group to share in pairs their response to the last questions: “How might others be called by God through you today?”

#### Closing Prayer (2 mins)

Close with this prayer, or another of your choosing.

*Reveal yourself*

*dear Lord, this day*

*in the special places*

*where we can be alone.*

*Reveal yourself*

*in the busy places*

*where noise is all around.*

*Reveal yourself*

*in the smiling faces*

*of friends and family*

*Reveal yourself*

*in the sullen faces*

*of people passing by.*

*Reveal yourself*

*dear Lord, this day*

*and by your grace*

*bless this beautiful*

*but fragile world with joy.*

Source: Faith and Worship: <http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_friends_family.htm#ixzz5QbW1zKa8>

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## Session 6 Worksheet. Called *through* Each Other

**Called through Others**

In chapter three of the study, we imaged our life as the chapters in a book that is still being written. If you have that exercise, you may want to refer to it here. If you don’t have access to that exercise, take some time now to briefly name the key chapters in your life that reflect stages—as a child, teenager, young adult, midlife adult, mature adult, older adult—and the transitions in your life—growing up, education and graduations, first job, changing career, first house/apartment, marriage, becoming a parent, raising children, becoming a grandparent, retirement, and more.

Reflect on the chapters of your life.

1. **Who has been instrumental in each chapter of your life to help you discover God’s calling for you? Who has been an agent of God’s vocation for you? Identify the person(s) in each chapter of your life. (Think about family members, friends, colleagues, supervisors, the people we serve, and mentors.)**
2. **What did the people in your life do for and with you to help you discover God’s vocation?**

1. **Who is instrumental in your life right now? Who is currently an agent of God’s calling for you? What are they doing for and with you to help you discover God’s vocation at this stage of your life?**

**Being Agents of God’s Calling for Others**

1. **For whom have you been an agent of God’s calling? What did you do for and with these individuals? What was the experience life for you?**

1. **Recall one example or story of a person you have influenced. Write about how you influenced this person.**

1. **How might others be called by God through you today?**