*Supplemental Text: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31*

In Jesus’s day, a rabbi never sought out his own disciples. Rather, students would apply to follow. Why is it significant that Jesus called His own disciples?

Paul’s passage in Corinthians is powerful. Why does God call ordinary and rough people to follow Him?

Churches have often started with the idea that you must “become” before you “belong.” How do these passages challenge that errant idea? Why is it important for you to “belong” before you “become?” Is discipleship, then, a journey where you follow without really knowing where you’re going and then learning as you go?

**Small Group Preparation**

**Week of August 7, 2016**

**Discipleship**

**Matthew 4:18-22**

This week we’re spending our time working through the idea of discipleship and why it is so important to who we are.

* What does being a disciple mean to you?
* What is the point of discipleship in your opinion?
* How does the text for this week relate to your previous answers? How does it challenge them?
* With the text in mind, how would you redefine discipleship and its importance in our lives?

Calling

*Supplemental Text: 2 Peter 1:5-10*

These first four called by Jesus to be disciples left everything, immediately, when Jesus called them to follow Him. Does discipleship require a radical reorientation of our priorities? Does being a disciple mean leaving behind our old lives?

John Wesley believed that we should all be reaching for Christian perfection, not waited on, but actively pursued. How does the passage in 2 Peter speak into that? Where can you see Jesus in these qualities that were listed?

Is discipleship just about memorizing and learning truths? How is growing through discipleship an active endeavor as seen through these two texts?

Following

Personal

**Discipleship, cont.**

**Thoughts**

Do you remember who you were when God called you? How would you describe your calling to follow Jesus? Why is it important to us to remember who we were when we first heard His voice?

In what ways can you make a better effort at growing through discipleship? How is God calling you to shift your priorities to make room for learning about Him with others?

Is there a person in your life that you are willing to actively pray for God, through you, to call and make a disciple? Outside of praying regularly for that person, how are you going to actively call that person to follow Jesus (think of a process here, not shouting from a distance in hopes of a quick conversion)?

Making

*Supplemental Text: Matthew 28: 18-20*

These disciples were called to fish for people. This doesn’t imply that the fish they were now to catch were bad or were to be saved from bad water. The focus is about their calling, their new vocation. Why is making disciples an essential part of being and becoming a disciple?

The great commission is the culmination of years of discipleship under Jesus. The disciples are now to emulate the teaching and the life of Jesus to the people they encounter. How are **we** able to emulate the teachings and life of Jesus? In making disciples, how do we show that they “belong” even if they have not yet become?

In light of all of the passages encountered, what exactly does making disciples look like?