



CONNECT

Sensory activity suggestions for the week leading to Kampungku BEC Reflection (AUGUST). Connect with God's awesome creation and get our senses ready to feel his presence.

- **Be still and calm your mind and empty it of any worries, fears or anxieties**
- **Look at the wonder of the sky, clouds, sun, rain, moon, birds – take in the beauty of nature – freely given for you to enjoy**
- **Look into the bible for a verse that touches you today.**
- **Say a prayer of thanks to the Lord for the blessings you have (be it family, health, friends)**

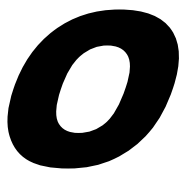


CDM Kampung-ku Connection

August 2021

Theme: Living in hope

Living your calling (taking steps to live a purposeful life)



Opening prayer: Father almighty, we thank You for our virtual gathering today. As we put ourselves in Your presence, we ask for Your guiding light to be upon each of us, so that whatever message and promptings You want to impart to us, will be well received and correctly executed, according to Your will. Bless us with Your love and peace as we gather in Your name. We ask this in the powerful name of Jesus AMEN.

Last month, we reflected on how to KNOW our calling – to listen, to look at God’s work in our lives and His gifts to us, and to look for God in others/in the community. Equipped with this knowledge, we need to take the next important step, that is, to start **LIVING** our calling. So today let’s dig deeper and see how we can LIVE our calling!

When Paul wrote to the church in Rome, he began his letter by saying that he was “a servant of Christ Jesus, ‘called’ to be an apostle.” The word ‘called’ in this verse carries a sense of purpose, intent and direction. A Priest or religious’ **calling** is to share the Gospel, see people come to Christ and teach the Word of God, so people can be transformed by the power of God.

What is a calling ?

*“Callings” are vocations (from the Latin word vocatio, which means “calling”) At its core, work is a calling, designed by God, to fulfil a **purpose** that is outside of oneself - **a purpose that brings glory to God and blesses others**. Even before God gave Adam a spouse, he assigned him a vocation, a calling. He was to tend the garden and name the animals.*

Some of us go into our ‘calling’ with no hassle and yet many of us don’t. Some of us just ‘ride the tide’ accepting what is thrown at us and settle for that as our ‘calling’ – **without** examining if it really has a **purpose**! We often hesitate to make a bold step, take a risk, serve others, save a life, or commit to anything out of our comfort zone. Why do we often hold back?

*Is it because we don’t feel : *Empowered *Qualified *Comfortable?
Do we lack *Courage *Strength *Wisdom *Money *Experience *Education *Organization *Backing
*Motivation or just plain *Indifference?*

Are we like Moses when, from out of the burning bush, God called him to speak for Him before Pharaoh—the highest leader in the land - and Moses answered, “*Pardon your servant, Lord. I*

*have never been eloquent. I am slow of speech and tongue.... Please send someone else.”
(Exodus 4:10,13)*

We can sound just like that when God calls us. Not me, God. I’m afraid; Weak; Poor; Incapable; Unqualified; Daunted; and the list goes on (*Question to self : Are we on this list?*)

**We are created ON Purpose, FOR a purpose
To love God and to have a destiny that impacts the lives of others**

Signs that we MAY NOT BE LIVING GOD’s calling or purpose:

- (a) Lack joy and excitement
- (b) No fulfilment or satisfaction in life
- (c) Feeling ‘stuck’ or ‘bored’
- (d) No direction
- (e) Living in sin/guilt
- (f) A dull routine with no purpose

If we acknowledge even ONE of the above it is enough to mean that we are not living our ‘calling’! **So what’s our ‘calling’?**

**Our Calling is Where OUR Dreams and GOD’s Intersect.
We cannot Fulfill God’s Dream for our Life in our Own Strength**

‘Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.’ (John 20:21-22)

We are created on purpose for a purpose. For those of you who took the ‘test’ in last month’s sharing, you may have a clearer idea of what direction your calling is taking you. For those who have not or still unsure, here’s a little recap of the steps that may help you to find your calling:-

Go to God in prayer : *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him”- James 1:5.*

Dig into God’s Word : *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”- Psalm 119:105*

Utilize fully our gifts and strengths : *“Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly; if your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith’-Romans 12:6”*

LIVE our passions : *“For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you” - 2 Timothy 1:6.*

Bring others into our Life : *“Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counsellors there is safety.- Proverbs 11:14.*

In the end, TRUST God : *“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who approaches Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him” - Hebrews 11:6.*

Equipped with the above, we should be able to respond to God’s call in our lives be it whether a married life, single life, religious life, working life, or even as a home-maker, to conform according to God’s mission or vocation for us. His mission or vocation for us is already there as He calls, chooses, prepares and sends us to live it. And we can live it by

mirroring Jesus in our lives. Once we are set in our ultimate goal to follow Jesus, then we should do this with all our heart.

Perhaps, below examples can help us kick-start:

Be still and listen to His promptings:

Passion to teach? – We need to accredit ourselves with the needed qualifications for this and then apply for posting correct? On the other hand, why not start by teaching Catechism to children or volunteer to help with the Children’s liturgy?

Gifted with a good voice? – Don’t just be a bathroom singer - lend your voice to further enhance our Eucharistic celebration by joining the choir.

Good with computers/IT-savy? – We have been blessed with virtual Masses, trainings, formations, etc at this time of the pandemic. This knowledge we have will not just benefit us but the multitude out there. Lend a hand here?

Love to serve others? – For the young, how about serving as altar boys/girls? For the ‘young at heart’, perhaps our hospitality ministry, ministry of poor, etc
(a perfect example of fine-tuning our calling at different stages of our lives, agree ?)

The above are but a few examples that we can start to do immediately once we start using the gifts we have or pursue our passion or answer our calling. Can you think of any more to share?

Trying to discover our life’s calling **and** living it can be confusing, frustrating, stressful and overwhelming. We want to move forward, but we are not sure how. We want to find our purpose, but we feel like we are aimlessly wandering. **But we can trust God to lead us where He wants us to go.** He is our Maker so He certainly is not confused!

As *Psalm 23:2-3* says, “*He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.*” Do not let fear and intimidation steal our calling. Let God enlarge our dreams. And instead of shrinking back, receive a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit for what is ahead. Obedience may be costly, but the reward is priceless. The prize is unity and intimacy with the Holy Spirit now. It is in the lives of people touched for eternity and a legacy to pass on to the next generation.

<https://youtu.be/arfLVTPp4c0>

Based on above video interview with Tauren Well)

Pause, ponder and share: “Are we living out what God wants us to be doing?”

- ❖ *Who are YOU – what is your **identity**? (stripped of your job, title, single or married, etc)*
- ❖ *What does God say YOU are? (what skills/passion has God given you?) Your **calling***
- ❖ *What is your **assignment** in this life? (an assignment is connected to your **calling**, invested in your identity in something God wants YOU to do)*
- ❖ *What could God be calling you to do in this present pandemic, to go beyond your comfort zone?*

Remember : God doesn't call the qualified. He qualifies the called.

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Losing Prayer Heavenly Father, as we conclude this sharing, we ask that Your peace and blessings be with us to fulfil Your kingdom on Earth. May each of us remember that everything is possible when we place our complete trust in Your plan for us. May Your plan be revealed to each of us through the gifts You have given us and through the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. **AMEN**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EcxOkht8w7c>

Here I am Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin, My hand will save. I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear My light to them?

Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard You calling in the night. I will go Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them, My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide, Till their hearts be satisfied. I will give My life to them,

Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard You calling in the night. I will go Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart