



# The Calling Kit

for *worship, conversation, and response*

## Exploring the Call through Small Group Guided Conversation

*“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” — 1 Peter 4:10*

### **Note to Facilitators:**

This guide is designed to assist small group, and faith formation, leaders in facilitating group conversation around God’s call on our lives as individuals, and then to consider who else in your community needs mentoring in discerning their call.

This guide can be used in any type of adult group format (i.e. Sunday school, small men or women’s Bible study, etc.). You are encouraged to begin with the entire group and then split into smaller groups (2-5), for the purpose of allowing the participants to have a deeper and more personal experience.

The conversations that unfold will most likely be a starting point to which you may invite participants to return to from time to time, as needed. As you prepare to facilitate this conversation, spend some time in prayer asking God to guide you in opening people up to this conversation. This guide is an idea that can be adapted to your needs and community. Let the Spirit guide you with additional questions and ways to engage others in the conversation. May you be blessed in this process of exploring God’s call.

### **Introduction:**

Each one of us is called to serve in some capacity with the resources God has granted us. Discovering where and how God is calling each one of us may be easy to discern, or it can be a long journey or adventure. Our call can also change over time.

The invitation in this moment is to pause and begin an intentional inward journey to discover what the Spirit is stirring within you and what that stirring might be leading you towards. Theologian Frederick Buechner says “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”

[If you begin with the entire group, you are encouraged to invite each person to let their voice be heard in sharing responses to this first question. You'll want to gauge how much time to allow for each of these questions. Giving them some time frame and notice will help give everyone time to respond. People should also be welcomed not to respond if they so choose.]

## **Questions:**

1. What is one way in which you are currently responding (or have responded in the past) to God's call to serve? How has that deepened your connection with God and to yourself?
  - This could be a ministry within the church, a place in which you give time or financial support, in your workplace, or in the community. Expand your imagination of the places and ways in which you are the hands and feet and heart of Jesus.
  - Give each person an opportunity to speak into the group by sharing one example and a sentence or two about how it has deepened their connection with God and to themselves.

[After that opening question, this is a good time to move into smaller groups for deeper conversation. Again, give them some time frame and invite them to be mindful of giving equal time to each person. No one is required to respond.]

2. What are some of the ministry environments, skill sets, or services you've participated in that brought you the most joy?
  - These are experiences that bring (or have brought) you deep joy, make you feel expansive, and more of yourself.
  - Give them 2 minutes per person to reflect and share with each other.
3. Is there an area of service God is currently calling you toward - something that "won't leave you alone"? What idea, or reminder of a place or way to serve, has been stirred up within you recently?
  - What is God inviting you to do next with this invitation?
  - Give them 2-3 minutes to spend time in a brief conversation with God about what is coming up within them.
  - [If time allows, invite them to share some reflection of what this area of service is within their small group.]
  - There may be folks who have a sense of what God is calling them to do but don't know where that service is needed. This is a great invitation to invite them to share what they are looking for and see who knows where that might

be needed. This is a search for “the world’s deep hunger” where I have a deep desire to serve with particular gifts but don’t know where that is needed. (You may rather do this with the full group as a larger resource.)

4. If you are struggling to identify a clear path of service or calling, is there anything you’ve shared today, or heard someone else share, that is still lingering with you?
- Remind everyone that this is a process - a journey - and to be patient with themselves as they seek to discern what their invitation to serve is today.
  - Give people a chance to share with each other in the group.
  - Invite people to spend more time in conversation with God.

A question to help them get started: “God, what do you want to do through me?”

[This is a good time to bring the group back together, if they’ve been divided up.]

We’ve spent time considering our own call, and now let’s take some time to find ways to support others in their discernment process.

1. Identify who in your community needs mentoring in their own call discernment process, or who would be the resource person for discovering who they are.
2. How can we support them? What do they need from us?
3. What are some ways we can collaborate with others, especially young people, to experience a variety of service areas together as a way to explore a wider scope of possibilities? What are some next steps to bring this to action?

Additional Resources are available at <https://arumc.org/thecallingkit>.

### **Closing:**

Spend a few minutes inviting the participants to check in with themselves and offer one word that describes their awareness of God’s invitation to them about where and how to serve.

Let this conversation become an active and regular part of your checking in with each other. Keep open the conversation of how each person is called as a way of encouraging one another to discover how God has created them to serve and to respond.

Close by offering a prayer that God receives their words and continues to guide them with clarity toward actions that bring life to God’s invitation specifically for them.