

Exploring the Call Within the Context of Worship

One way you can engage your congregation in discovering how God is calling them to serve is by inviting them into a time of active reflection during the worship service. This gives them time, in the moment, to notice and name how the Spirit is present to them and stirring their hearts in a specific way. The intent is to capture the moment in a more intentional way than simply considering what they are noticing within.

Here are a few ideas of how to draw them into a few minutes of inner reflection:

1. At some point near the end of the sermon, invite them to reflect on these three questions as a Calling Meditation:
 - a. What are some ways in which you are currently responding (or have responded in the past) to God's call to serve?
 - i. [this could be some ministry within the church, a place you give time or financial support, in your workplace, in the community? Expand your imagination of the places and ways in which you are the hands and feet and heart of Jesus]
 - ii. Give them 1-2 minutes to write a few notes down.
 - b. What are some of the ministry environments, skill sets, or services you've participated in that brought you the most joy?
 - i. These are experiences that bring you deep joy, make you feel expansive, and more of yourself.
 - ii. Give them 2-3 minutes to reflect and write a few notes.
 - c. 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 during this service today?
 - i. What is God inviting you to do next with this invitation?
 - ii. Give them 2-3 minutes to spend time in a brief conversation with God about what is coming up within them.
 - d. Once you've guided them through this Calling Meditation practice, you may have another word for them to close out your sermon, or this could be a good place to lift them up in prayer as they continue to explore how and what God is calling them to do and be as a member of the body of Christ.

2. Use a portion of the service to include personal testimonies of how people have heard God calling them to serve in some way.
 - a. You could invite someone who has found a deeper connection to God, self, others, and creation through their service and how they have experienced those connections through this particular calling.
 - b. The Calling Kit has several Call Story videos that you are welcome to use within the service. These call stories cover many different paths to serving.
 - c. You could create your own call story videos to share during worship and on social media as a way of inspiring others in your community by hearing the stories of people they know personally.
 - d. If you use this in the context of worship (before the offering), give them 1 or 2 minutes to check in with themselves and reflect on what touched them the most about the story. Was there an invitation from God to them as they listened to the story? If so, spend some time reflecting on that invitation and asking God what you need to know about it.

3. Lectio Divina

This practice can be used in two ways: instruct those listening to be attentive to what word or phrase stir their hearts toward action or contemplation and ask them to engage with God by asking “What do you want me to know about this word or phrase? How does it relate to where and how you are calling me to serve?”; or invite them to use their imagination and place themselves in the story and respond to the question below at the end of the story. Give them time to write or consider internally their response. It is best to choose one of these ways of leading them rather than asking them to choose.

Call Story Scriptures (these are only two of many) and Questions

- a. Jeremiah 1:4-10 (call of Jeremiah).
As you listen, ask yourself: How do I react to God’s call in my life?
- b. Luke 5:1-11 (call of the disciples by the shore).
Listen to Jesus telling Simon Peter, and you, “Do not be afraid.”
Ask: Where do I experience God calling me in the midst of my daily life?