

The Ministry of ALL Christians

READ through the Bible passage. WRITE your thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life experience. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.

Monday, 6/16/08 – Read Ephesians 4:1-6

My Observations _____

A Question to Answer: All Christians, by their baptism, are called to be in ministry to bring about God’s unity and peace for humanity and the world. We are called by God to “lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.” What do you feel God’s call is for your life? The word “ministry” refers to the serving of others. What is *your* ministry?

Tuesday, 6/17/08 – Read Ephesians 4:1-7

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: This passage also encourages us to realize that even as we are individually called “to the one hope of (our) calling,” we need to work collaboratively with one another to achieve God’s ultimate goal of unity and peace. This takes humility, gentleness, bearing one another in love, and focused effort. When have you felt you were living your call alongside others who were living theirs? What difference did it make for you? For others? For the community?

Wednesday, 6/18/08 – Read Ephesians 4:11-13

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: We have each been graced with spiritual gifts that we are to bring to bear in living out God’s call for our lives. Some among us have a calling to ordained ministry to “equip the saints for the work of ministry,” to help others discover and live out their calling. This is a primary function of the church in people’s lives. How has the church “equipped” you to live God’s call for your life? What difference does being a person equipped for Christ’s work in the world make in your workplace? In your family? In your community?

Thursday, 6/19/08 – Read Ephesians 4:14-16

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Paul uses the metaphor of children who must “grow up in every way into him...into Christ.” It is in a community of faith that we are encouraged to learn and grow into God’s calling for our lives. The church is where others witness to the expression of our call and spiritual gifts, and support us in becoming spiritually “mature.” We do the same for them. Reflect on how your faith has matured over the years. Who along the way helped you gain new insight and new confidence in your relationship with God? How have you served others out of a maturing faith? What is next for you?

Friday, 6/20/08 – Read Mark 10:42-45

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Today’s scripture reads, “For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve.” The primary form of Jesus’ ministry is that of service, *diakonia*, in the world. By virtue of our baptism (so kid’s are included too!), we are all called in Christ’s name to ministries of love, justice, and service within local congregations and the larger communities

in which we live. In what ways, large and small, do you serve?
For what purposes? What difference has your service made?

Saturday, 6/21/08 – Read Matthew 20:20-28

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: In verses 25-26, Jesus reveals that the form of leadership we are all called to is *servant leadership*. We are greatest, the first, in the eyes of God when we unconditionally serve others, This is radically counter-cultural and contrary to the hierarchical, power-over-others form of leadership that is touted in our society. Where do you see servant leaders today? Have you ever been “led” by a servant leader? When have you expressed your servant leadership? In what ways is being a servant leader challenging for you?

Sunday, 6/22/08 – Read Genesis 12:1-4

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Today’s scripture tells of God’s call of Abram (Abraham). Abram was an old man when God made a claim of great purpose on his life. God’s call for our lives has nothing to do with how old we are, how ready we are, or how available we are. Many of us can tend to compartmentalize faith and separate it from the other aspects of our lives. But once we become more aware that we have a God-given calling and gifts, it becomes possible to live daily life in relationship with God and have that relationship be foundational and guiding in all that we do. This next week, pay attention to how God is present with you all during each day. Make a daily journal entry of what you discover.

My Faith Journal, June 15, 2008
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What do I want to remember out of today’s message?

What action do I intend to take as a result of today’s message?