

5 Cups of Coffee

Discussion starters for asking questions about calling and discipleship

By Rev. Ashlee Alley

Everyone wants to spend their lives doing something that has meaning, uses their gifts, and is something that they enjoy doing. God's call for all people is, first, to be in relationship with God, and second, to work in the world. Frederick Buechner speaks of the second type of call this way:

"The place where God calls you is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

Asking questions can help us unlock our deep gladness and how we experience the world's deep hunger. Do you know someone struggling to know what God's call is in his or her life? Invite them to join you for a cup of coffee and share with them in each of these 5 important conversations. You'll both walk away with more than just 5 cups of coffee. You may both end up with clarity about calling and discipleship.

1 The God Conversation

- What do you believe/know/hope about God?
- How do you experience God in your life today and/or in the past?
- How does belief in God shape how you understand yourself and others?
- How does your knowledge about God motivate you to action in the world?
- In Moses' story, God speaks through a burning bush. What does God's voice sound like to you?



Exodus 3:1-15

2 The Gift Conversation

- Do you have a sense of your spiritual gifts and natural talents? What are they?
- Who has affirmed these gifts and talents in you?
- How have you used these gifts and talents to benefit yourself?
- How have you used these gifts and talents to benefit others?
- What do you want to do with your gifts and talents?



1 Corinthians 12

3 The Passion Conversation

- What is something that you do well and enjoy doing?
- What are some things (social injustice issues) that really "fire you up" or bother you?
- What are some things that you could talk about/write about /think about/do for long periods of time and never get bored?
- Has anyone ever commended you for your enthusiasm about something? What was it?
- If you could give a million dollars to someone/something, what would it be? Why? What would you want them to do with the money?



Micah 6:8

4 The Spiritual Growth Conversation

- In the Wesleyan tradition, we speak of "acts of piety" (Bible study, prayer, fasting, worship, sharing your faith, sacraments, accountability, etc.) as ways to grow in our relationship with God. What acts of piety do you practice?
- What would it look like for you to connect with God daily? How do you make that happen? How would you spend that time?
- Who in your life could you commit to staying accountable with in spiritual practices?
- What do you want from God in your spiritual life? What does offering your life as a "living sacrifice" mean?



Romans 12:1-2

5 The Opportunities Conversation

- Has anyone ever given you an opportunity that allowed you to use your gifts in leadership and service? Why did they offer it to you?
- Who do you know that has your "dream job"/"dream service opportunity"? What would you say to them if they were here now?
- What kind of opportunities are available for you in using your gifts, talents, and passions in the world in the month/months ahead?
- What could 2 or 3 people in your community do about the injustice issue that "fires you up" in the 2 months ahead?
- What are you willing to do to open up more opportunities?



Colossians 3:17

The Bonus Conversation

After you've had 5 Cups of Coffee and enjoyed some conversation, what do next steps look like for both of you? Mentor, is there a way that you can continue to support and encourage your mentee? Mentee, what does it look like to step out in faith?

We want to hear about how God is at work in your lives as you both live out your call as a disciple of Jesus!

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