

Meeting 2 —Sharing Call Stories (Up to 90 Minutes)



The Gathering Time—5 minutes

- As people join the meeting, welcome them and create a place of hospitality. When all have arrived, open your time in prayer.

Conversation Starter—5 minutes

- When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up and why?

Sharing Call Stories—50-60 minutes

Instructions for participants (to be shared in advance for preparation): In no less than 5 minutes, but no more than 7, share your Call Story.

* While you won't be able to cover everything, spend some time considering how you might share your Call Story with this community, in this season. Feel free to share your story however you like. Here are some questions to consider as you think about your call (and you won't be able to share your response to all the questions— just choose one question or choose several!):

- Who championed you or served as a mentor, casting a vision for you in ministry?
- Have you experienced a wounding that prevented, confused, or delayed your full acceptance of your call?
- Is there a scripture or story from scripture that has framed your call?
- Share some of the highlights of encounters with God that revealed God's call for you.
- What is God teaching you about calling in this season?

*By "Call Story," we are specifically talking about our calling to vocational ministry. You can certainly include elements of your primary call—to follow Jesus—when discussing your secondary call—into vocational service.

To the leader: When your group members are sharing, set a timer for 6 minutes as a "One-Minute Warning" and then ask them to wrap up at 7 minutes. Thank each person for sharing their story—the good, the hard, and everything in between—and invite a few minutes after each person shares to offer feedback, a question, an insight, or a celebration!

After hearing all of the call stories, offer a prayer of gratitude for hearing God's voice and a heart that is obedient.

Inviting Responses—5 minutes

As you reflect on your own call story or the others that you've heard, consider the following:

- Is there anything that you've wanted to say that you've not said yet?
- Is there a way that we can build relationship outside of this group? Consider how social media ("following" one another, a "Group Me" for sharing prayer concerns, etc.) or

even creating prayer partners within the group could cultivate a sense of connection outside of this time.

Closing Invitation—5-10 minutes

Share your screen and ask each person to read several lines from John O'Donohue's blessing, "For One Who Holds Power"

- Is there a phrase that speaks to your experience?
- How can you embrace the call that God is giving you in this season?

Closing Prayer—5 minutes

Remind everyone of the Group Commitments, one being prayer for one another. Share any updates or new prayer concerns within the group. Ask one person to pray for all concerns expressed or ask each person to pray for one other person in the group.

Confirm the next meeting time and dismiss

For One Who Holds Power

John O'Donahue

May the gift of leadership awaken in you as a vocation,
Keep you mindful of the providence that calls you to serve.

As high over the mountains the eagle spreads its wings,
May your perspective be larger than the view from the foothills.

When the way is flat and dull in times of gray endurance,
May your imagination continue to evoke horizons.

When thirst burns in times of drought,
May you be blessed to find the wells.

May you have the wisdom to read time clearly
And know when the seed of change will flourish.

In your heart may there be a sanctuary
For the stillness where clarity is born.

May your work be infused with passion and creativity
And have the wisdom to balance compassion and challenge.

May your soul find the graciousness
To rise above the fest of small mediocrities.
May your power never become a shell
Wherein your heart would silently atrophy.
May you welcome your own vulnerability
As the ground where healing and truth join.

May integrity of soul be your first ideal,
The source that will guide and bless your work.