

Discipleship Moment

After the joy of worship, it can be hard to connect our faith and our daily life Monday to Saturday. The work of recognizing and receiving God's love and promises in our daily life is called *discipleship*. The Discipleship Moment email is for you to explore this connection during the week. Each week you will want to read your Discipleship Moment to stay up to date with the church calendar, find ways to deepen your spiritual conversations with friends and family, and hear directly from one of our pastors on how Christ is impacting them through our weekly Scripture. Expect this email every Monday morning (unless there is a holiday), automatically as a member, and feel free to let us know if someone who isn't an official member yet would like to be added to the list.



If you had to miss the weekend services, you can catch up by listening to the sermon on our website at:

www.nllutheran.com/2018-sermons



Sermon Text: Mark 1:4-19

In the mid-90 to late-90's, there was a television series called *Beast Wars: Transformers*, it was part of the *Transformers* universe and took place on a prehistoric Earth, before the original *Transformers* came to earth. I was obsessed with this show. I had almost all of the *Beast Wars* action figures, I loved the idea of transforming an animal into a robot, and a robot back to an animal. This same interest drove me to geek out about the fictional character Beorn in J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*. He was a large man, a warrior, and could shape-shift into a bear. My childhood was filled with going into the woods near my house and playing *Lord of the Rings* and pretending to be Beorn, the shapeshifter. I always loved the idea of "transforming" or "changing-form."

Now that I have thoroughly convinced you that I'm a nerd, have you ever wondered what drives us humans to want change? I can't think of a single person I have met who hasn't wanted *something* to be different in their life. It might be as simple as the home, they wish they had a nicer house, or updated decorations. Or the desire for change could be significant, like want to live in a new community, or their spouse behaving differently. Have you ever daydreamed about a new job, new house, new clothes, or new car? If you have, then you, too, have wanted and desired change. You have desired transformation.

What makes us want transformation? In Ecclesiastes 3:11 the writer tells us that God has "placed eternity in [human's] hearts, without enabling them to discover what God has done from beginning to end" (Common English Bible). There is an innate desire in humans, to experience fullness of life, life without conflict, life without pain or suffering or tears, life where we work hard and find it rewarding, where relationships are open and honest. This is the "eternity" that God has placed in us. When He created all things in the beginning, He created a perfect, innocent world, and has placed that "eternity" in our hearts. Now that humans have sinned, and we live in an imperfect world, we all desire to have to have good relationships with God, ourselves, and our neighbors.

When Jesus stood on the shore and called to the fishermen, "follow me." This natural desire for wholeness, for healthiness, for *transformation* compelled them to follow Jesus. "Come, follow me, and I will make you fish for people" Jesus said. This is not a call to buy and sell people, but a call to transform what these fishermen knew into something that would transform others. Jesus was inviting them to do something more, something better. He was inviting them not only to transform their own lives, but to transform others.

This is the call Jesus gives all of us, *be transformed, and help me transform others.*

Let us join Jesus in this mission!

Pastor Erik +



Use this resource to start conversations about this week's sermon for your personal devotions, with your family, or with your Life Group. You can use one question per day or all at once.

1. Is there something in your life that you want to be better? What is it? Why do you want it to be better?
2. Why do you believe in Jesus and follow him? Is it because you grew up in church? Is it because you felt this need to be better? Have you given the things you want transformed in your life to Jesus? Ask him to transform your life, be specific.
3. Do you have a favorite author, speaker, podcaster, or pastor? Why do you like them? Is there something about how they live that you want to imitate?
4. Read Mark 1, what do you think made Jesus so compelling? What kind of transformation was Jesus offering to people?
5. Using the Prayer Request card from the bulletin, pray for each person on the requests list, even if you don't know them. If you do not have a Prayer Request card, pray for those you know who are suffering.
6. What transformative experiences have you experienced? Have you been freed from an addiction? From anger? From sin? From an abusive situation? How did God transform you?