

AUGUST
18/19

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE

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SENIOR
PASTOR

INTRODUCTION

In the first week of the series *Welcome Home*, Pastor John shares part of PLC's mission statement in his message "No Matter Who You Are." Using Luke 5, he talks about how we matter to Jesus, we matter to PLC and we matter to others. We have a mission that extends beyond us to reach Iowa by serving inside and outside the church in our little Iowas .

DISCUSSION

1. Read about the calling of Peter in **Luke 5:1-11**. What was Peter's initial response to Jesus when asked to follow Him? Why do think Peter felt "sinful"? Are there times in your life when you felt unworthy to follow Jesus? Share with the group how you overcame that situation.
2. Read about the healing of the leper and the paralytic in **Luke 5:12-26**. What are some examples of "untouchables" in our society? What can we do to help them see Jesus through us?
3. Pastor John said, "We get identified and therefore valued or not valued based on the identity that's been attached to us." What labels were attached to you as a child, teen, young adult, etc.? How did these labels affect your faith life? How can you use these experiences to help other people overcome their labels?
4. Looking at your answers to question three, brainstorm people groups who could benefit from your experiences. Give each person in the group feedback in areas where you could see him/her use their gifts and experiences to reach people for Jesus.

DO SOMETHING

1. Follow up with Discussion Question #4, and find a way in the church or your community to serve others.
2. Prayerfully consider volunteer opportunities at your campus or church; if you are currently serving in your church, how can you take another step in that ministry? [mentor a student, lead a small group, become a team leader, get additional training, etc.]
3. Fall is a good time to reevaluate your spiritual rhythms. Be sure to include time with God in your daily schedule. Listen to podcasts or audio Bibles while you work out, walk your dog or do the dishes, or get up earlier to spend quiet, reflective time with God before the daily rush.

RESOURCES

1. In *The Case for Grace*, Lee Strobel uses his journalistic skill to tell true stories of lives transformed by the grace of God, including his own.
2. *The Story of Your Life* In 2010, Grammy-nominated recording artist Matthew West recorded an album inspired by the lives of more than 10,000 listeners who sent him their stories. It transformed his life; in response, he created a five-session series on his experience.
3. *Get Back on God's Path* is a short video by bestselling Christian author Stormie Omartian.