

1 Samuel 3:1-21

KNOW IT: God kept calling Samuel until he responded.

THINK ABOUT IT: What is God calling you to?

LIVE IT: From time to time, use some of your prayer time to ask God what he is calling you to now.

went to him and asked what he needed. But Eli said he had not called Samuel and sent him back to bed. This happened three times, and then Eli realized it was the voice of God that was calling Samuel. Eli instructed Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you again say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'" (1 Samuel 3:1-21). The Lord called Samuel again and told him he was going to do great things through him. Samuel went on to become one of the great prophets, guiding the people of Israel with courage and wisdom.

If you listen carefully, I think you will discover that God is calling you to do something about the mess in the world. How will you respond? "Not now God, I'm busy"? or "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."

The world is a mess in many ways, but the beautiful thing is, you and I can do something about it. Deep down you know the world is not as it should be. So let's get busy doing something about that.

*Luceat
LUX
vestra*

*Let your
LIGHT
Shine*



What did Mary teach us about letting our light shine?



Discussion Questions

1. IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU THINK THE WORLD IS A MESS?

2. HOW DO YOU SENSE GOD IS CALLING YOU TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE?

3. WHAT'S ONE THING YOU CAN DO TODAY THAT WILL MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. JESUS CALLS US TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR AS WE LOVE OURSELVES.
WHOM DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR NEIGHBOR?

2. WHY DO YOU THINK SO MANY CHILDREN DIE FROM LACK OF FOOD?

3. ARE YOU WILLING TO MAKE SACRIFICES TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT
OF SUFFERING IN THE WORLD?





desire. God wants us to get beyond our shallow desires, which are often selfish or pointless, and uncover the deepest desires of our hearts.

When I am the-best-version-of-myself, I say no to the doughnuts and I have a salad for lunch instead. To the world this is a simple choice between doughnuts and a salad. But as we grow spiritually, God shows us that there are many layers and dimensions to every decision.

On one level, yes, it's just a choice between doughnuts and a salad. On another level it's a choice between doughnuts and being healthy. That's a different perspective. On another level it's a choice between doughnuts and being alive and healthy enough to walk my daughter down the aisle when she gets married . . . to be alive to see her life unfold . . . and meet the person she will spend her life with . . . and meet my grandchildren. . . .

When we embrace God and his way of life, he reveals many dimensions of everyday life that we have never seen or thought about before. God is speaking to you through your deepest desires. Seek out your deepest desires for good things and have the courage to pursue them.

The most common preface to any sentence in the Bible is "God said . . ." God said to Adam, Noah, Moses, and Abraham. God spoke to everyone. It isn't that he has stopped speaking, but that humanity has stopped listening. God speaks to us in so many ways—through prayer, the Scriptures, the sacraments; through the life, teachings, and history of the Church; through other people, events, and circumstances.


You have been designed by God for a specific mission. This is what John Henry Newman wrote, "God has created me to do him some definite service. He has committed some work to me, which he has not committed to another. I have my mission." God has assigned a mission to you. If you don't fulfill your mission it will go undone. The world is a mess because too many people have abandoned their God-given mission.

Find your mission. It will change your life in the most wonderful ways . . . forever!

Who was JOHN HENRY NEWMAN?

JOHN HENRY NEWMAN (1801–1890) was one of the central religious figures in England in the nineteenth century. A respected academic, he was originally a priest in the Church of England and a leader in the Oxford Movement. This was an influential group of Anglicans who wanted to return the Church of England to many Catholic beliefs and practices. In 1845 Newman left the Church of England and was received in the Roman Catholic Church, where he was eventually appointed as cardinal by Pope Leo XIII. Unlike most saints, his feast day is not the day of his death, but rather the day of his conversion to Catholicism, September 19.



 How can Mary help you find and live out your mission?

1. WHO DO YOU KNOW WHO HAS FOUND AND FOLLOWED THEIR MISSION IN LIFE?

2. HAVE YOU EVER ASKED GOD WHAT MISSION HE HAS FOR YOU?

3. HOW DO YOU THINK WHAT YOU WANT FOR YOURSELF IS DIFFERENT FROM WHAT GOD WANTS FOR YOU?



What does
VOCATION
mean?

Vocation means "call." It's an invitation from God. There are many ways to live your life, but God has given you a unique blend of talents, abilities, and personality to carry out a mission that he has not assigned to anybody else. God may call you to the vocation of marriage, he may call you to live a single life, or he may call you to live as a priest or religious. Finding your vocation is like coming home after a long journey. It brings with it an indescribable joy.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy are:

- To instruct the ignorant
- To counsel the doubtful
- To correct sinners
- To bear wrongs patiently
- To forgive offenses willingly
- To comfort the afflicted
- To pray for the living and the dead

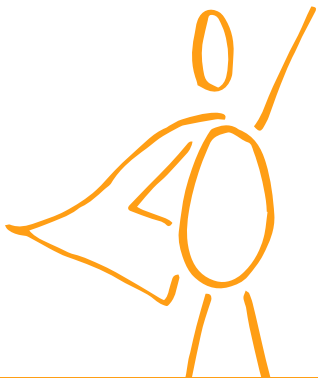
How would the world be different if everyone practiced just one work of mercy each day? How would the world be different if these works of mercy defined the way we live our lives? There is genius in Catholicism, but sadly it is little known and little practiced.

So here is my challenge for you. Each day for the next thirty days I want to encourage you to intentionally practice one of these works of mercy. You will be amazed how this thirty-day challenge can change you, the way you see the world, and your life.

You are so young and your lives are before you, so I want to beg you not to waste your single years waiting for life to happen. You will never have a better opportunity to serve than while you are young and single. Too many people spend their single years trying to wish them away. Singleness, like everything else, has a purpose. It is a time to discover who you are, what you are here for, what matters most, and what matters least. Nothing will help you develop this kind of personal clarity like service.

So, get outside yourself. Stop thinking that it is all about you. Find meaningful ways to serve. You will be so glad you did.

**FIND YOUR
MISSION**



Discussion Questions

1. WHO DO YOU KNOW WHO IS GREAT AT SERVING OTHER PEOPLE?

2. WHAT DOES THE STORY ABOUT THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS MAKE YOU THINK ABOUT?

3. DO YOU THINK YOU WILL BE HAPPIER IF YOU FIND AND FOLLOW YOUR MISSION?



DO small THINGS with GREAT Love

MOTHER TERESA

VIRTUE IN FOCUS

Gen·er·os·i·ty

[jen-uh-ros-i-tee]

Going beyond your own selfishness to give of your time, talent, and treasure to benefit others

Who is the most generous person you know?

Are generous people happier?

How can you be more generous?

11.5 DECISION point

I cannot tell you what you should do with your life. I wish I could. Your parents, teachers, and friends cannot tell you either. We can all advise you, but ultimately God has created a unique journey for you, and it is only by listening to his voice that you will discover the indescribable joy that comes to us when we finally discover our mission in life.

This joy I have experienced. It is not just an idea. There are two very concrete examples of it in my life. The first is with my work as an author and a speaker. There are many things I could be doing, but I know this is the thing that God wants me to be doing—that he created me for. How do I know? It's hard to describe. When you find your thing, you just know. There is a joy and a timelessness that you experience. You love doing it, even though it isn't always fun; you lose track of time when you are hard at work; and you have a deep peace within you, which comes from the sense that this is the thing for you to dedicate your life to. I want you to discover and experience that.

The other area of my life where I experience this joy is in my marriage. I have lived away from Australia for almost twenty years now. But every time I fly into Sydney, and see the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House, I still get the same feeling. It is the feeling of arriving home. I travel a lot for work, and there is something wonderful about coming home. When I met Meggie I had that feeling. When I married her I had that feeling, the feeling that I was finally home. Whatever vocation God calls you to, I want you to experience that same feeling of arriving home after a long journey.

I can't tell you what your mission in life is, but I can tell you two things that will flawlessly help you to discover it.

1) While you may not know the specifics of your mission, you do know your mission in a broad sense, because it is the same for us all. Your mission is to make the love of God known to the world. In your own place and time, in your own ways, you are here to bring the love of God to every person who crosses your path.

2) Do the next right thing. The surest way to discover your mission is to do what you know to be the right thing, right now. If you do the next right thing often enough for long enough, you will live your way into the incredible life that God has designed just for you.



JOURNAL QUESTIONS

1. WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

2. ONE DAY, WHEN YOU ARE DYING, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE WHEN YOU LOOK BACK ON YOUR LIFE?

3. HOW AVAILABLE ARE YOU TO GOD?

