



**DISCOVER YOUR CALLING.**

## **LEADER'S GUIDE**

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

**EPHESIANS 2:10**

# GETTING STARTED

Welcome to **Live Sent: Discover Your Calling**. This coaching guide will accompany the FREE online material for each participant ([groundswell.pathwright.com](http://groundswell.pathwright.com)) and provide a few helpful tips for facilitating the sessions. If you would like to form a group cohort online to better track the progress of each participant, please e-mail [jwiest@groundswellmovement.net](mailto:jwiest@groundswellmovement.net).

This process is designed to help participants discover their calling and walk in greater obedience to the voice of God. Jesus said in **John 20:21**, "*Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you*". The Holy Spirit is stirring, and God is calling His people to *Live Sent*. Participants will begin each session by completing the online material and then gathering for a 90-minute group meeting facilitated by the leader. Groups should consider meeting every other week for each session. An overview of the material is listed below.

## **INTRODUCTION- START HERE**

This session will provide a place for introductions and offer an overview of the material and process. It is designed to answer questions, connect with participants, and share testimonies.

## **SESSION #1 - THE CALL FROM GOD**

This session will orient participants to the concept of calling by sharing biblical and modern stories of calling while emphasizing the importance of faith and obedience.

## **SESSION #2 - THE CALL FROM ABOVE**

This session will help participants understand the primary calling from God to go and make disciples of all nations.

## **SESSION #3 - THE CALL FROM OUTSIDE**

This session will unpack the global and North American harvest fields and the incredible opportunities to make an impact.

## **SESSION #4 - THE CALL FROM INSIDE**

This session will help participants learn how to recognize the voice of the Spirit and walk in obedience to His calling.

## **SESSION# 5 - THE CALL AHEAD**

This session will provide an exercise in listening prayer and help participants chart a course for the future.

# LAUNCHING YOUR GROUP

We encourage you to recruit six to twelve people for each cohort. There are three things to look for in potential recruits.

## **1. ARE THEY HUNGRY?**

Identify the people in your church or community that are “leaning in” and want to deepen their walk with God.

## **2. ARE THEY MISSIONARY-MINDED?**

This process is designed to help people discover their missional calling outside the walls of the physical church. Identify people who are missionary-minded.

## **3. ARE THEY OBEDIENT AND AVAILABLE?**

Consider those that have a track record of walking in obedience and are available. They will need to make an investment in this process.

This list of prospects could include interns, residents, ministry leaders, board members, key volunteers, emerging leaders, or anyone else!

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## **SAMPLE INVITATION**

*Dear (name),*

*The leadership team at (church name) would like to invite you to join an exclusive group of people to help pilot a possible new program in our church. This program is called “Live Sent: Discover Your Calling”, a six-session cohort that we are launching in (add time here). The purpose of this cohort is to help participants discover or refine their missional calling and we think you would be a fantastic candidate!*

*The first session will begin on (share time and date) at (location or Zoom address) and will last for approximately 90 minutes. We will coordinate future meeting times at our first session. Please consider joining us for this first event and simply confirm by replying to this e-mail.*

*When we receive your response, we will e-mail you a link to an online platform at [groundswell.pathwright.com](https://groundswell.pathwright.com) to get registered. Let us know if you have any questions! We look forward to hearing from you.*

*Sincerely,  
(name)*

# INTRODUCTION: START HERE

(This leader's guide reads like a "script" but feel free to adjust as needed.)

## WELCOME

- Introduce yourself and provide a brief biographical background including family life, hobbies, and area of ministry.
- Explain to the people in the group why they were invited into this process.

The *Live Sent* process is designed to help you discover your calling and no doubt you are here because you feel God might be stirring your heart for something more. That might be a new calling, a fresh adventure, or a new chapter in your life. In a moment, we will share introductions, but first I want to provide a quick overview of the sessions.

Each session will begin with online work to accomplish and then conclude with a group meeting to process the material, ask questions, and help one another discover their calling. Be sure to make these group meetings a priority even if you don't finish the online sessions. In this course we will explore five ways to think about God's calling (review the five sessions mentioned on page 2).

However, today we want to spend most of our time hearing from you.

- Go around the room and have people share a five-minute introduction that includes their name, family, information, vocation, why they are here, and how God might be stirring their heart. (Consider setting a timer)

## ORIENTATION

*If you are meeting via Zoom, consider doing a share screen to help participants navigate the online platform. Show them each step of the "Start Here" section and why it is important to complete all the online work. If you are meeting in person, provide a demonstration of the online material on your laptop or another computer. Answer any questions.*

*It will be important that participants are comfortable with the online platform before leaving this session. Be sure everyone has been invited to the group and is onboarded before your next session.*

## NEXT STEPS

- Participants should complete the Introduction and Session 1 before the next meeting.
- Finally, be sure participants know how to purchase the books "More" and "Whisper".

# SESSION 1: THE CALL OF GOD

## THE CALL OF GOD

The Bible is filled with stories of God calling His people to accomplish His purposes. In the session this week you read how God called Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Hannah, Samuel, Isaiah, Mary, Jesus, Peter, and Paul. You also watched three modern-day stories of people answering the call of God.

- Take 3-5 minutes and share a story of God's calling in your life. This could be your personal testimony or a time when he called you to do something specific.
- How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the biblical and modern stories of calling?

## FAITH AND OBEDIENCE

In this session you watched a clip from the movie "The Matrix" where Neo decides to swallow the red pill. Fear often plays a big part in holding people back from walking in their calling. Taking the red pill is a symbolic step of faith and obedience that allows us to walk in God's calling for our lives.

- What are a few fears that might stand in the way of walking in obedience to God's calling?
- What are a few sacrifices you may need to make to walk in obedience to God's calling?

There are hundreds and thousands of people who never walk in their God-given calling because they are too afraid or they reject God's call out of disobedience. Read Mark 10:17-22.

- What stands out to you from this passage?
- What are some things that prevent people from obeying God?

We need to commit that whatever God says over the next few sessions, we will be obedient. Jesus said in **John 13:35**, "If you love me, you will obey my commands".

## NEXT STEPS

- Complete Session #2 and finish reading the book "More" before our next meeting.

# SESSION 2: THE CALL FROM ABOVE

## THE CALL FROM ABOVE

In this session we want to talk about the call to make disciples and unpack a few simple approaches to disciple making and how you can make disciples in your context.

Disciple making is helping people learn how to trust and follow Jesus, and the best disciple makers reproduce themselves in others. The goal of disciple making is not to create dependence on a person but rather to teach people to learn how to spiritually feed themselves.

In the book "More", the author writes, "On one side of the discipleship coin is becoming a disciple and having the fullness of Jesus grow in us. On the other side is making disciples and sharing Jesus' fullness with others" (pg. 121).

- Why are both sides of the coin (being and doing) important? What happens when we only focus on one or the other?
- Who was someone who discipled you? What did that process look like, and what were a few things they did intentionally?
- What have you found to be challenging when it comes to making disciples? Why are people often hesitant to make disciples?

## MAKING DISCIPLES

The biggest challenge in disciple making is often knowing how to get started and building relationships with people.

- When you created your network of relationships in the online network, who is God leading you to disciple?
- When you looked at the BLESS acrostic (begin with prayer, listen, eat, serve, share), what might be a next step for building relationships?

In the online work we presented three methods for making disciples (discovery groups, discipleship groups, mentoring).

- Share a few of the pros and cons of each approach. What other tools or methods have you used to disciple others?

*(Leaders, if you have time feel free to invite people to share insights from the book "More".)*

## NEXT STEPS

- Complete Session #3 before the next meeting and begin reading the book "Whisper".

# SESSION 3: THE CALL FROM OUTSIDE

## THE CALL FROM OUTSIDE

God has called us to “Live Sent” and discover our missional calling. Discovering your calling means responding to the call from above to make disciples and then determining where we are to go. The call from outside will help inform that decision. To start our session, let’s talk about your heart for the lost and the needs around you.

- Are there any groups of people, categories of people, or geographical areas you feel drawn to reach?
- Are there any people you know who are far from God? Who are they?

## THE GLOBAL HARVEST

- Read Acts 1:3-8 and talk about the four harvest fields mentioned in the online work (here, near, far, hard). What stand out to you from this passage?

We also learned a few definitions. A “people group” is the largest group within which the Gospel can spread as a church planting movement without encountering barriers of understanding or acceptance.

- Share the difference between an unengaged and unreached people group.
- Are there any refugees, immigrants, or other internationals in your community? Share any countries you’ve visited on a missionary trip and what that experience was like.
- What stood out to you from the global and national demographic information? Did anything surprise you?

## THE NATIONAL HARVEST

Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. He didn’t come for the healthy but the sick. We must cultivate a heart that always looks outward for people who are lost.

- Read Luke 15:1-7 and share any insight from those verses.

In North America there are typically three types of people we encounter outside the church. (nones, dones, and cultural Christians).

- Describe the differences with each.
- How would you describe the unchurched in your community using this language? What do you think it would take to reach them with the gospel?
- Why do you think there are a growing number of “nones” and “dones” in North America?

## NEXT STEPS

- Explain the “Emotional Inventory” exercise they will complete. Participants should complete Session #4 and finish the book “Whisper” by the next group meeting.

# SESSION 4: THE CALL FROM INSIDE

## THE CALL FROM INSIDE

Discovering your calling means learning how to hear God speak and being willing to walk in obedience to His voice. Following Jesus requires us to listen to His voice through the Word of God and the Spirit of God. The call from inside is the ability to be in tune with how the Spirit is speaking.

Listening to God is perhaps the greatest skill of a disciple of Christ and many of you signed up for "Live Sent" because God has been stirring your heart.

- What do you sense God has been saying to you during this journey? How do you discern His voice in your daily life?

## THE WORD OF GOD

The ability to hear (and obey) God's voice is at the foundation of learning how to live as a disciple of Christ. God speaks in a variety of ways, but the primary way is through His Word. The more time we spend in God's Word and prayer, the better we can learn to hear and discern the voice of God.

In the online work you were asked to choose a response to this sentence. "When we think we are hearing from God..." "it's best to assume it is from God and begin move forward" OR "it's best to wait until we have absolute certainty before moving forward".

- Which of the two options do you think is best? Why? What are a few next steps for affirming something is from God?
- What are a few other ways the Spirit speaks to us?

## LISTENING TO THE SPIRIT

We would like to have everyone mute their Zoom window (if you are meeting virtually) or simply find a quiet place and take five minutes to listen to God. Specifically, ask him to give you a fresh word about an opportunity that might be in front of you.

- How did God speak to you?
- When have you felt a prompting by the Holy Spirit to take a step of faith and either ignored it or dismissed it as something else? Can you look back at any "unfulfilled callings?" Why? What happened?
- What categories or images in the emotional inventory resonated with you?
- How did the narrative analysis help you learn more about your calling?

## NEXT STEPS

- Explain the "listening prayer" exercise they will complete before the next meeting. Complete Session #5 before the next meeting.



# SESSION 5: THE CALL AHEAD

## THE CALL AHEAD

God has called us to “Live Sent” and discover our missional calling. Discovering your missional calling means listening to the call from above, the call from outside, and the call from inside. It then requires walking in obedience to the calling ahead. In Session #1 we looked at ten verses on obedience.

- Give each participant a passage to read and then go around the room to read these verses together. (John 14:15, John 14:21, Acts 5:29, 1 John 5:3, 1 John 3:24, Luke 11:28, John 15:10, John 15:14, James 1:22. Luke 6:49).
- What did you learn about obedience to God’s calling as you read these verses?

Today, we want to take time to process where God might be leading us and continue to discuss the idea of calling. You may be called to global missions. You may feel called to start a new church. Others might be sensing a desire to reach a specific group of people (geographical or demographical) and to pioneer something new.

## WHERE IS GOD LEADING?

We would like to take the remainder of our time and give you an opportunity to process everything God has been saying along this journey. Here are a few sample questions to get you started.

- How has God been speaking to you since we last met?
- Where are you beginning to find clarity?
- Where do you feel stuck and why?
- Did God reveal anything to you during your extended time with him?
- What are the steps of faith or sacrifices God might be asking you to make?

*Give each person a chance to share. You will have five minutes to share where God might be leading you OR to ask questions of the group. The group can offer encouragement, insight, and other ideas to help with clarity. PRAY OVER EACH PERSON WHEN THEY FINISH SHARING.*

Go around the room and invite EVERY PERSON to share their “next step”.

## NEXT STEPS

Consider any next steps you would like to take with the entire group. Do you want to have a fellowship event in a few months to update progress? Do you want to follow up with 1-1 coaching for each group member? Thank participants for walking through this process together.

*Be sure to spend time in prayer with one another before closing.*