

A photograph of two hikers standing on a rocky mountain peak, looking out over a valley. They are wearing backpacks and outdoor gear. The sky is blue with some clouds. The image is partially obscured by a yellow graphic element at the bottom.

RURAL MISSION SUNDAY 2019

Live The Life
Sunday 14 July

Sermon / talk ideas

Mark 1: 16-20

Since the call of the disciples is told in each of the Gospels in different ways, it is important to look at what Mark is saying rather than conflate the different accounts.

An introduction focusing on Mark's view of the disciples

For Mark the subject of discipleship is central to his Gospel and he gives an honest picture of the disciples who make many mistakes as they learn what it means to follow Jesus. Mark is keen to show the power and authority of Jesus. The call is sudden and the answer radical. There is no sign of a previous meeting as in other accounts. For many in rural congregations this may not resonate with their experience.

How might you unpack the idea of call for your congregation?

Are there people in the congregation who have had a call to be a local preacher/reader, pastoral visitor or other church office who might be prepared to talk or write about it?

Everyday faith

Being called by God to do something is not always as radical as this picture; it might be felt more as an idea to do something practical. Perhaps the church congregation is being called to do something for the community e.g. start a drop-in, have a fun day etc.

Help people to realise that being called is not just about church; people can be called to specific occupations. Those who are not working might be called to join a particular group or volunteer in the wider community. There might be people who are happy to talk about why they are a teacher for example, or why they help at the Men's Shed.

Remember...

It is important to remember that we are all called to live out our faith whatever we are doing and in small rural communities where everyone knows who goes to church this has particular opportunities and challenges. If we are going to 'live the life' we need to help and support each other.