

**INTRO**

- 2020 marks a new decade — what hopes and dreams do you have for the next decade?

**READ, REFLECT & RESPOND**

We are exploring God’s amazing grace and today we reflect on how that grace enables us to walk through the ups and downs of our lives.

**Read Heb 13:15**

*Qu: what does it mean to offer up a “sacrifice of praise”? Why should what we bring to God be costly for us?*

Giving thanks at all times is not easy. There can be much to discourage or defeat us if we focus too much on our circumstances. Or perhaps we feel inadequate and lack what we need. Moses felt the same when God was calling him to a big task of leading his people. But look at what God asks Moses....

**Read Ex 4:2**

Moses had a regular shepherd’s staff. Yet, it was enough for God to use powerfully.

*Qu: How might God be encouraging you not to despise what you already have? How would you answer God if he asked you “what’s in your hand?”*

Grace enables us to see everything we have as a gift from God. As we place all that we have and are back into God’s hands, there is no limit as to what God can do with our surrendered lives.

**Read 1 Cor 1:26-29**

As Christians, we can sometimes make too much or too little of ‘our calling’. Nonetheless, the scripture exhorts us to “consider your calling”.

*Qu: Do you have a sense of what God’s calling is upon your life? What are all Christians called by God to be and do?*

We never feel qualified or adequate when we consider God’s calling for us; that’s why we need to have a firm understanding of God’s grace.

*“Divine grace is God acting in our life to accomplish what we cannot do on our own. It informs our being and actions and makes them effective in the wisdom and power of God. Hence, grace is not opposed to effort (our actions) but to earning (our attitude).”*

— Dallas Willard

If you’re struggling to identify your calling, start here: Christians are called to:

- Love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength
- Love our neighbour as yourself
- Make disciples wherever we are
- Extend God’s kingdom

1 Cor 1:26-29 goes on and tells us God uses the foolish, weak, and low so that we don’t boast in our own effort, and God gets his glory.

*Qu: how does 1 Cor 1:26-29 challenge and encourage you as you consider your own life?*

*Qu: what would you like to see God do in and through your life in 2020?*

**PRAY**

- In light of the above question, spend some time in prayer together and for one another.