



Our Calling

A Bible study for the WELS National Broadcast by the Rev. Jonathan E. Schroeder

Session 3 - Leader's Guide

Preparation

The class will begin at 7:30pm Eastern, and will run again at 9:30pm Eastern. The channel will go live fifteen minutes before the class begins. When you open the channel during that fifteen minutes, you will see an opening slide and hear some music playing. This will help you adjust video and audio settings before the beginning of class.

Print copies of the student guide in advance of the class.

Class procedure

The class will be taught with two lecture sections, two discussion sessions, and one wrap-up segment. A estimated schedule will be:

1. Intro and lecture (15 minutes)
2. Discussion (10 minutes)
3. Lecture (15 minutes)
4. Discussion (10 minutes)
5. Wrap-up (10 minutes)

The schedule may be modified to meet the lesson needs.

Congregations meeting as groups with their pastor or lay leader will use the discussion sections as time to explore and expand on the questions.

Participants who are not part of a larger group will use the discussion sections as time for reflection and study. Questions can be directed to Pastor Schroeder by means of the chat tool.

Questions

Questions can be submitted using the chat tool. Try and enter your questions before the ending of your discussion period, so the presenter has a moment to read and prioritize them.

The student guide is on the following page.

Looking forward to it--JES



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Our calling to be the Church of God

Rev. Jonathan E. Schroeder, Faith, Sharpsburg, Georgia.

God called us from eternity to be his children. God calls us in time to live as his children in the roles and stations where he placed us in the world. But we have another calling, too. This calling again is one of pure grace; and again, it is a calling to fulfill the purpose God has for us. He calls us to be his Church—that is our calling for the world. Marvel at one of the incomprehensible aspects of God's salvation plan: from the very beginning he planned to let his people participate in it. We have a purpose in God's plan; that is our calling—to be the Church of God.

Presentation Notes

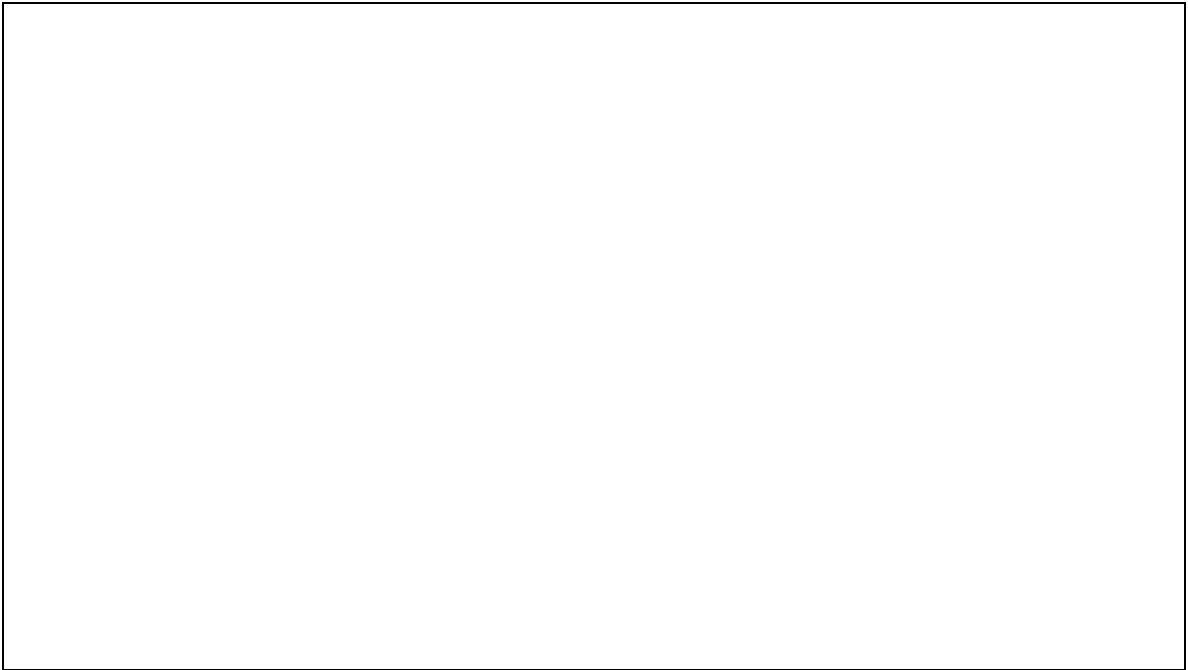
Discuss



Two minute drill: Talk to the people nearest to you and find out who has been part of the smallest congregation and largest congregation. Share a blessing you found in a church that size. Tell the whole group what you've learned. You have two minutes.

1. Compare the words of Jesus to his disciples in Matthew 28:18-20 with God's words to Abram in Genesis 12:1-3, and explore the similarities and differences between the people of Israel and the Holy Christian Church.
2. The people of the Old Testament were carrying out God's plans for them as the people of God—even when they didn't know it. How has God done the same thing with you or someone you know?
3. Defend this statement: The angels wish they had your job of being messengers of the Gospel to the world. How does that expand your understanding and appreciation of your calling as the Church of God?

Presentation Notes



Discuss

1. Which is more important for a congregation: holding on to and preserving true doctrine or holding on to and preserving the people who are members?
2. Agree or Disagree? A doctrinally sound congregation will not be likely to grow.
3. Review the mission of the Church, as given by Jesus. Your congregation is not the Holy Christian Church, but your members are a part of it. Does that distinction make a difference in the mission of your local congregation compared to the mission of the Church? Should it?
4. God traded fiery mountaintops, prophetic visions, and thundering voices from the sky for the mouths of the Christian men and women involved in this Bible study. Today he speaks through you. Why would God make that trade? What implications does that have for our calling as the mouth of God? What comfort? What encouragement?

Wrap-up

Questions can be submitted for Pastor Schroeder via chat.