

Adult Bible Studies

Current Events Supplement March 10, 2019

A Costly Call

Mark 1:16-20; Luke 14:25-33

Ten-year-old Lilly Platt of the Netherlands has permission from her mother to leave school one hour per week to protest climate change. Lilly says, "I want to see a world that has clean oceans . . . and that doesn't have plastic pollution anywhere, and people live in harmony with nature." She started by picking up plastic at the age of seven after "counting 91 pieces of plastic waste while she was out walking with her grandfather." "I've never stopped picking up plastic," she says. "Last year we worked out it was 25,000 pieces." She adds, "Children can make a change. It's not only grown-ups who can save the planet."¹

In today's lesson about the costliness of discipleship, the student book author writes, "God has called every follower of Jesus, lay or ordained, to be in ministry."² We can add that all believers of every age are called by God to be in ministry. All believers, sick and well, old and young, able-bodied and disabled, tall and short, rich and poor, of every race and nationality are called by God to be in ministry.

Lilly proclaims to the world that children make a difference every day. Sometimes adults, and society as a whole, discount children as naïve, undereducated, and uninformed. We often place children into the category of vulnerable and voiceless. If we take the time to listen to the children in our lives, in our churches, families, and communities, we will not hear the next generation of leaders but the current generation of change-makers. And they can inspire us to greater commitment to the calls God places on our lives.

1. What have you learned from observing a child?
2. How does your faith community welcome the vulnerable to fulfill their call from God to be in ministry?
3. How can your faith community nurture children as the current generation of change-makers?

Reverend Katie Shockley is a licensed local pastor and serves as pastor of Community United Methodist Church in Copeville, Texas.

¹From "This 10-Year-Old Is Fighting Climate Change by Ditching School," by Naomi Larsson, *The Huffington Post* (huffpost.com/entry/climate-change-school-strike-lilly-platt_n_5c6c35d8e4b0867082dee135).

²From *Adult Bible Studies*, Spring 2019, by Taylor Mills (Cokesbury, 2018); page 13.

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