

# Adult Bible Studies

## Current Events Supplement March 31, 2019

### Called to Discipleship Matthew 4:12-22

*The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016*, says:

The heart of Christian ministry is Christ's ministry of outreaching love. Christian ministry is the expression of the mind and mission of Christ by a community of Christians that demonstrates a common life of gratitude and devotion, witness and service, celebration and discipleship. All Christians are called through their baptism to this ministry of servanthood in the world to the glory of God and for human fulfillment. The forms of this ministry are diverse in locale, in interest, and in denominational accent, yet always catholic in spirit and outreach.<sup>1</sup>

We believe that all baptized Christians are called to the love and service of God and neighbor. While those ministries may look different, they are intertwined through the love of Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the call of God to reach those who do not yet believe.

The student book author writes, "For every Christian, the vocation is the same: to be a disciple of Jesus Christ."<sup>2</sup> To be a Christian is to be a follower of Jesus Christ. We are to be lifelong learners of Jesus' teachings, applying those teachings to our everyday lives. No disciple is perfect, but disciples we are and must be.

Ministries inside and outside the church are indeed diverse, but they have something in common: the love of Jesus Christ. I like the phrase in *The Book of Discipline* that says, "always catholic in spirit and outreach." The word *catholic* here means "universal," as it does in the Apostles' Creed. Ministries are not in competition with one another. Rather, we need different types of ministries to serve the different needs in the world and to put differently gifted Christians to service according to talent and passions. All Christians are called to service by God in the love of Jesus Christ, with a spirit of harmony and an outreach of invitation to faith.

1. How do you define the word *disciple*?
2. How is being a disciple a vocation or a calling?
3. How does your faith community effectively connect believers with ministries to which they are called?

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<sup>1</sup>From *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016* (The United Methodist Publishing House, 2016); ¶ 126.

<sup>2</sup>From *Adult Bible Studies*, Spring 2019, by Taylor Mills (Cokesbury, 2018); page 36.