

A TIME OF MINISTRY (serving others)

A commitment to follow Jesus is not disconnected from responsibilities to participate in a local fellowship of believers (a congregation).

During the next week find a way to help or encourage someone in our congregation.

A TIME OF EVANGELISM (sharing Jesus)

A commitment to follow Jesus is not disconnected from reaching out to others with the Gospel.

Continue to plan an activity whereby your home group gets involved in helping someone in our community—in the name of Jesus.

CLOSING PRAYER

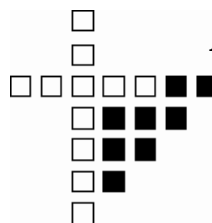
In your closing prayer please pray for an ever greater measure of the Holy Spirit throughout the Church to build us up in commitment to Jesus.

CYBER CONVERSATION ABOUT UNCOMMON PEOPLE

All are invited to join in an online conversation about the book [The Call](#) by Oz Guinness. This book will help you explore the unique call that God has given each one of us.

Copies of the book should be available at local book stores

Go to our web site for more information.
www.stlukehas.com/chat



An Uncommon People

St. Luke Lutheran Church
Winter, 2009
Home Group Discussion #2

Encouragement for a More Intentional Christian Lifestyle

There is nothing outside a man which can enter into him and make him 'common'. It is the things which come out of a man that make him 'common'!
Mark 7:14 (Phillips NT)

This four part study is designed to do two things.

First, it continues our year long emphasis on prayerfulness. Each session will accent God's invitation to prayer and our response to that invitation.

Second, it leads participants into a discussion about being *an uncommon people*. In calling us to himself, God has called us to be different from the unbelieving world around us. We are to stick out, not blend in.

A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP (connected to one another)

Share how your use of the computer has changed in the last five years. At home? At work? Is your use of email going up or fading out?

What is a favorite web site? Have you found a good one for Bible study?

How could the congregation's use of computer technology be improved? (If you come up with something, email the church office.)

A TIME OF WORSHIP (pleasing God)

During 2008-2009 we are emphasizing greater prayerfulness. We want to take God's invitation to prayer more seriously.

Before you pray, spend a moment thinking, "*We are about to talk to the One who loves us more than anyone else can. We are going to talk to the One who spared no expense to save us.*"

In your time of worship please lift up prayers regarding:

- The needs of others in your group and in the congregation.
- The ministries of sister and other local congregations.
- Community medical and emergency workers.

A TIME OF DISCIPLESHIP (becoming like Jesus)

Uncommon Commitment

"Seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" Matthew 6:34

Read Mark 1:14-20 Wow. They left their family and livelihood to follow Jesus. Spend a couple minutes reflecting on how that might actually have looked and felt. For just a moment put yourself in their shoes and imagine....

In what ways have you been called to do the same? In what ways have you not been called to do the same? Read the following two passages. What do they have to say about God's call on your life?

- Luke 14:25-26
- Matthew 19:16-26

All too often Christians have divided loyalties. What commitments commonly intrude on our commitment to Jesus?

Without All the Answers! The newly called disciples followed before they had all the answers. Oz Guinness writes, They did not consider his claims, make up their minds, and then decide whether to follow—they simply heard and obeyed. The call is all. Jesus is the reason. The only way to follow is to leave everything and follow him. Here is a call that makes short work of all our questions, objections, and evasions. The Call, page 67.

How odd that they followed before they had all the answers! Discuss this statement, "God calls us to follow 'his person' not a creed." Read Romans 8:31-39. How do these verses help us to have an ***uncommon commitment*** to God's call in Christ?

An Audience of One Jesus teaches that we cannot serve two masters, both God and money. One of them ***will*** become the primary commitment of our life. Oz Guinness writes, Only madmen, geniuses, and supreme egoists do things purely for themselves. It is easy to buck a crowd, not too hard to march to a different drummer. But it is truly difficult—perhaps impossible—to march only to your own drumbeat. The question is not whether we have an audience but which audience we have. This highlights a vital feature of calling: A life lived listening to the decisive call of God is a life lived before one audience that trumps all others—the Audience of One. The Call, p.73

Discuss this statement, "Following the call of God simplifies daily life." Read Matthew 6:19-34. How do these verses help us to have an ***uncommon commitment*** to God's call in Christ?

Discuss what it would look like to have an ***uncommon commitment*** to Jesus. What difference would it make to have such an ***uncommon commitment***?