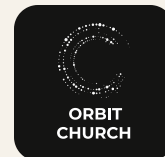


Devotion Trumps Calling

2025-04-06 • PASTOR FERNANDO MEJIA



John 20

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Mary Magdalene went to the tomb while it was still dark, carrying spices for a dead body. Think about what that means. She had no assignment to protect, no platform to gain, nothing to get out of it. She came out of pure devotion. Pastor Fernando's point is that devotion outranks calling. God is more interested in the person than the gifting. Peter and John ran to the tomb, looked, and went home. Mary stayed, and the risen Jesus met her first. The question at the end will not be what we did with an assignment. It will be what we did with our first love.

To get started

- When you were first excited about following Jesus, what did you do then that you no longer do?

Looking back at the message

The Barna statistic will land for most people in the room. Let them say it out loud.

- 1 Pastor Fernando cited research that three out of four adults are searching for their calling. How much has that question occupied you?
- 2 God is more interested in who you are than in what you can do for him. Does that land on you as relief or as rebuke?
- 3 Pastor Fernando told about preaching at a conference where every other speaker had a dramatic gift, healing, deliverance, prophecy, and all he had was his testimony. When have you felt like you had nothing to bring? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read John 20:1-18 aloud. It is worth reading the whole scene rather than excerpting it.

- 4 Read John 20:1-10. Peter and John run to the tomb, look in, and go home. What does Mary do instead?
- 5 Verse 11 says Mary stood outside the tomb crying. The miracle happens after she stays. What does that order tell you?
- 6 Before Jesus says her name, he asks Mary a question: who is it you are looking for? Why do you think he asks instead of just revealing himself?
- 7 Read Revelation 2:2-5. This church is commended for hard work, then confronted for forsaking its first love. What cure does Jesus prescribe? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

Waiting is the practical part of this message. Do not rush past it.

- 8 Pastor Fernando said waiting is not sitting still, because Mary kept moving toward the tomb. What does active waiting look like in your current situation?
- 9 Is there something you are waiting on God for that has started to become painful?
- 10 If God asked you today what you did with your first love, what would you honestly say?
- 11 What were the first things you did at the beginning of your faith? Which one could you start again this week? OPTIONAL

The group together

Devotion is easier to sustain with other people watching. Make that concrete.

- 12 Why is it easier to chase a role in the church than to keep a private devotion to Jesus?
- 13 Who in your life would notice if your love for Jesus cooled off?
- 14 How could this group help each other stay at the tomb when waiting gets uncomfortable?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What is one first thing you will do again this week, not because you are called to it, but because you love him?

You might pray about

- For anyone in the group who is waiting and has not seen anything yet
- For a return to first love rather than a new assignment
- For devotion that does not depend on being noticed