



## Year A – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time: Being Pursued and Our Response

**\*{Start with reviewing the previous meeting’s challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week’s challenge.}**

**Let’s Begin:** Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

### **Opening Prayer:**

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: **Mt 4:12-23**- <https://bible.usccb.org/> - 1/22/2023, 1/25/2026, 1/28/2029

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

*Dear Jesus, We know that You reach out to us continually. Just as You called out to Peter, Andrew, James, and John to follow You, may we hear Your call and respond in a way that allows us to fully accept everything You wish to give us. Amen.*

### **Reflection or Discussion Question:**

1. The reading from Matthew says, “At once they left their nets and followed him”. Do you find it amazing that the apostles dropped what they were doing and followed Jesus?

**YouTube Video:** God Meets Us Where We Are with Brother Isaiah and Father Mark (5.36 min) -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Cug99sILdY&list=PLexS0cAkuTPoSZU98Nf7jhF21Pqgoz9tE&index=27&t=0s>

### **Reflection or Discussion Questions:**

2. Why do you think nature reminds us of God? Do you have a story of how nature has pulled you closer to God through wonder and beauty?
3. Do you find it humbling to think that God wants to meet you right where you are currently?
4. In what ways do you think God reaches out to us when at work, school, or tending to our family? Do you think God waits until we are perfect to reach out to us?
5. Have you ever turned to God in great honesty at a time of confusion or suffering? What happened?
6. What do you think or feel about Brother Isaiah saying that God speaks to you in a language you can understand? Have you ever felt like you have to achieve some higher thinking to be able to hear God?
7. Are there things that you need to drop or let go to fully follow Jesus?
8. Are there any other thoughts/feelings from the video or our reading today that you would like to discuss?

### **Session Challenges:** {Choose one or both}

- Take time in prayer to ask God if you are holding anything back from Him or if there is anything you need to clean up. Ask God into that space. Invite Him to shine a light in that area. Pray to God that He will help you to discover the ways He speaks to you and allow you to understand Him.
- Respond to God’s pursuit by attending adoration once this next month. OLS offers adoration on the 1st Friday of every month from noon to 6:30 p.m. St. Fabian offers adoration on Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**Closing Prayer:** (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.) Choose to close your meeting with Brother Isaiah’s song “[Sweet Simplicity](#)”, the prayer below or both.

*Dear God, we trust that You speak to us in a language that we can understand. Help us to discover the ways You speak to us. Little by little, we ask that we hear Your whispers. Amen.*

**{Optional additional Readings}** Sunday Reading 1: **Is 8:23-9:3**; Sunday Reading 2: **1 Cor 1:10-13, 17**