

# Lent devotions

## READ:

Mark 3:1-19([click to open link](#))

## REFLECT:

"Pick me! Pick me! Pick me!" I can remember this thought going through my head over and over and over. I was seventh grade and our PE class would be spending the next two weeks playing dodge ball. Our teacher, Coach Sergeant, had picked two the most athletic girls in class to be team captains. Each day, the winning teams would get to climb to the top of the bleachers for a photo. Looking back, it seems like a silly prize but back then, it was awesome. The junior high equivalent of placing a flag on the mountaintop – signifying your team was the best of the best. As class began, the two began choosing their teams. One by one. Name by name teams began to form. And, as the last name was called, two groups of mismatched teams formed. Teams made of some of the most unlikely members. Each, a mismatched grouping of individuals tasked to work together to reach their goal. Strengths and weaknesses combining to make it to the mountaintop.

In Mark 3:13, Jesus goes to the top of the mountain. A place he would often retreat to. A place that was seemingly special to him. But, on this day, He did not go alone. On this day, Jesus called upon others to join him. Name by name. One by one. Much like my junior high dodge ball team. And, once assembled, Jesus would ask each them to enter into a personal relationship with him. A deep relationship that would also task them with their own mountaintop to reach – to go out and preach the gospel.

Like the apostles, Jesus has called each of us by name to enter into relationship with him. And, like the 12, He asks us to go into the world and share His love with others. At times, we may feel much like a junior high dodge ball team – mismatched and ill-equipped. But, Jesus doesn't call upon us because of our abilities. He calls upon each of us because He loves us, knows us and believes that, no matter our background, we are ready to work by His side.

## RESPOND:

Jesus doesn't call us because of who we are. He calls us because of what he knows we can become by entering into relationship with him. Today, spend some time in prayer and conversation with Jesus. While you pray, ask for the courage to serve Him with a generous commitment. Then, take some time to write down how you will complete the task he has set aside for you.