

My Faith Story

I am JoAnn and would like to share the answer to my question - ***Why Me, Lord?***

Many of you may remember these words from an early 1970's Kris Kristofferson song. I remember singing it many times as a child. Those words rang true to me. I have always wondered and asked God the question, "*Why Me?*" I grew up attending church & Sunday School every Sunday. Folks around me seemed to be so knowledgeable. They knew scripture well, were quick on their feet, and eloquent when they spoke. I never felt that way. In fact, I wondered if God could ever use me. What did I have to offer?

Fast forward to 2017/2018 when I attended a leaders meeting at the beginning of the Small Group Initiative. Those in attendance were asked if we would be willing to lead a group, where, when, etc. Again, I wondered, *why me?* Why am I attending this meeting? **What do I have to offer?** Do I have what it takes to lead a group in discipleship? When my time came, I thought I had it all figured out, I'd pick a day & time that no one would be able to fit into their schedules. But God had a different plan.

I found myself leading a group of eight wonderful ladies. Time has passed and a lot has happened in all of our lives. We have shared laughter, tears, fears and prayers. I remember once, when I was questioning my contribution as group leader, I received a note from one of the ladies in my group thanking me for all that I was doing and how this group was such a blessing to her. I was so touched, but I also knew that God was working through, yes, even me.

Most recently, during a stressful time in my life, text messages and prayers came from this group of very faithful ladies. **There was a quiet calmness that only God could provide**, in response to the request from those who were interceding for me. You see, we not only meet as a group once a week to study "*Crucial Conversations*," we also share life together throughout the week. Texts are sent, phone calls made, and prayers offered. God is working and changing us to be more and more like Him! Making Disciples of us!

If you ever ask "*Why Me, Lord?*" be encouraged that if you humble yourself and seek the Lord with all your heart, He will bless you and those around you. ***As Psalm 105:1-4 (NIV) says, "1Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. 2Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. 3Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. 4Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always."***