

CALLED: Becoming the Disciples God Designed Us to Be

WEEK 1 BULLETIN TEACHING HANDOUT

“Designed for God: The Divine Strand”

Series Overview

This five-week journey explores the spiritual DNA God has woven into every believer. Just as physical DNA is made of strands that determine identity and growth, discipleship is formed by three spiritual strands:

- **Divine Strand — Designed for God**
- **Nature Strand — Shaped by Christ**
- **Action Strand — Sent to Serve**

These strands are not optional. All three must work together to form a fully functioning, mature disciple.

Week One Focus: The Divine Strand

Big Idea: Every disciple’s journey begins with turning the heart toward God. Before God calls us to do anything, He calls us to Himself.

Key Scriptures:

- **John 15:1–5** — “Remain in Me... apart from Me you can do nothing.”
- **James 4:8** — “Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.”

Core Theme: God shapes the heart before He shapes the calling.

The Four Movements of the Divine Strand

1. Presence → before performance

Discipleship begins with being with God, not doing for God. Jesus invites us to abide, rest, and draw near.

2. Relationship → before responsibility

God forms relationship before He assigns responsibility. Curiosity, longing, and searching are holy beginnings.

3. God’s voice → before God’s work

We listen before we act. Calling is revealed through hearing God’s voice, not striving.

4. Intimacy → before activity

Activity without intimacy becomes empty. Intimacy fuels Spirit-led, joyful, fruitful living.

Why the Divine Strand Matters

The Divine Strand is the **source strand** of spiritual DNA.

Without it:

- Calling becomes self-driven instead of Spirit-led
- Ministry becomes performance instead of overflow
- Busyness replaces fruitfulness
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With it:

- The heart turns toward God
- Relationship deepens
- Calling becomes clear
- Fruit begins to grow

Reflection Questions for the Week

1. Where is God inviting me to turn toward Him?
2. What part of my life needs more presence and less performance?
3. How can I make space to hear God's voice this week?
4. What practices help me grow intimacy with Yahweh?
- 5.

Next Step for Week One

Turn toward God. Commit to worship, prayer, and Scripture as the foundation of your discipleship.

Memory Verse

***“Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.” —
James 4:8***

Looking Ahead

Next week: **“Shaped by Christ: The Nature Strand”** How Christ reshapes our identity from “member” to “disciple.”