

*Zach Krampien, Seminary Student, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago*

*What are your initial thoughts on this conversation? What surprised you? What was most memorable to you?*

- ▶ *Zach talks about a specific moment that changed his walk of faith. Do you have specific moments you can remember that have altered the path of your walk of faith?*
- ▶ *Zach discusses finding his study of theology “not only enjoyable, but fulfilling.” What parts of your faith and your growth in faith are enjoyable and fulfilling to you?*
- ▶ *Zach reflects on finding ways to succeed in new circumstances, not just when it seems easiest or when it is most convenient, but working amidst the struggle and strife. In what ways is your faith helpful when you are struggling to succeed in the midst of struggle and strife?*
- ▶ *“I find rest and renewal through looking at the simple joys of life through a new lens, those things that are normally taken for granted.” What are the simple joys of life God has put in focus for you lately?*
- ▶ *Zach asserts that God feels distant from our world and our lives, yet at the same time, God is still very present and active. In what ways does God feel distant in your life? What are the signs of God’s presence and activity in your life?*
- ▶ *Zach describes seminary as wandering through the wilderness, seeing what he thought were his strengths and areas for growth flip as he continued his studies and grew his experiences. What experiences have you had that have significantly changed how you see yourself and your faith?*
- ▶ *What are the areas of your ministry that need growth, and what are the best ways to grow in those areas? What parts of your life do you consider ministry?*
- ▶ *Zach’s process for discernment embraces voices from God, guiding moments, inner voices, and “[the feeling] like this is where I’m supposed to be...a strong feeling out of nowhere.” Have you had experiences like this? How similar or different is what Zach describes compared to the ways you go about discernment - seeking God’s guidance in making decisions?*
- ▶ *Part of how Zach discerns his path is “feeling a kind of movement and a kind of urgency within me to follow, investigate and learn more.” When, if ever, have you had a feeling like this? Did you follow, investigate or learn more?*
- ▶ *Zach’s next step comes from following his curiosity to move ahead with interpretation and spiritual growth. What’s your curiosity about God? What’s your curiosity about how to live faithfully? What’s your curiosity about how to interpret what’s going on around you in the world?*
- ▶ *When asked about where God might be leading him next, Zach talked about feelings of where to go and embracing them excitedly. What was the last thing you “embraced excitedly” in your walk with God?*
- ▶ *“It is easy to have faith in the moments when God’s presence is certainly near and feels very close...Faith in the in between is having faith in those moments in between the times where we feel the presence of God in our lives.” How do you hold on to your faith in moments when God’s presence seems far away? What strengthens your faith so it can be strong enough to get you through the times when God seems far away?*

