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GOD'S HOPE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE

Session 3: BE CALLED

Message by Pastor Michael Vuorensivu
Cedar Grove Church | October 1, 2017



WATCH FOR LEADER'S TIPS

LEADER'S STUDY GUIDE



Getting to Know One Another

LEADERS: Please have everyone pair up to share their answers. If there are any retired people or stay at home parents in your group ask them to share whether they feel they are called by God to do what takes up the majority of their time.

- How long have you been working at your current job, career, ministry or activity that takes up the majority of your time?
- Do you now or have you ever felt God's calling in work or ministry?

God Wants You to BE CALLED

1. My calling is **a gift** from God.

... who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.
1 Timothy 1:9 HCSB

2. I am called for **God's Purpose**.

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
Ephesians 2:10 NIV

3. God **chose** my calling before I was born.

I am your Creator. You were in my care even before you were born. Isaiah 44:2 CEV

4. My **sins and my mistakes** don't change my call.

12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry,

13 although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 1 Timothy 1:12-13 NKJV

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 NIV

5. My calling is **connected** to others.

The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. Genesis 2:18a NIV

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; Ephesians 4:4 NIV

... holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling... Hebrews 3:1 NIV

Are you **committed** to answering God's call?

Embracing Your Calling

I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Ephesians 4:1 NIV

Lifestyle is defined as **the way in which** a person or group lives.

L.E.A.R.N.:

- **Listen** to God's Word every day.
- **Enlist** friends who challenge me.
- **Ask** questions and accept correction.
- **Remember** and reinforce what I learn.
- **Notice**. Do the good things and perform the works that God encourages your heart to do!

With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. 2 Thessalonians 1:11 NIV

1. God **empowers** what He calls me to do.

The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.
1 Thessalonians 5:24 NIV

2. There's a **prize** for living out my calling.

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 3:14 NIV

If you're faithful in little then you'll be faithful in much.
Matthew 25:23

Live the kind of life that pleases God, who calls you to share in his own Kingdom and glory. **1 Thessalonians 2:12**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Note: Open your group with a prayer. This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss.

The Bible is filled with the stories of God calling people, how they answered, and what God’s purpose was for them. We all have a calling; a purpose that God has for our lives. Your calling is not your job, which is temporary. Your calling is a permanent purpose that God gave you even before you were born. It is connected to others in the body of Christ. It is not something done by your own power, but through the skills, resources, and power that God gives you. Your calling will always glorify God. As we begin this series, we first discuss the truth that God has a calling for every person.

1. *“Before I shaped you in the womb, I knew all about you. Before you saw the light of day, I had holy plans for you.”*
Jeremiah 1:5 (Message)

How does knowing God has holy plans for you help you discard your own plans and turn your life over to Him? Individually share what good works God is calling you to do.

2. *“I am your Creator. You were in my care even before you were born!”* Isaiah 44:2

You are deeply loved; so much so that God cared about you even before you were born. Going forward, how will you live life differently knowing God created you for a unique mission, one that only you can accomplish?

3. *By calling me into his service, Jesus has judged me trustworthy, even though I used to be a blasphemer and a persecutor and contemptuous. Mercy, however, was shown me, because while I lacked faith, I acted in ignorance.*
1 Timothy 1:12-13 (NJB)

Paul was a terrorist - a persecutor - yet God chose him to become a champion of the faith, even to the point of writing most of the New Testament. How does the story of Paul challenge you to answer God's call to service? Knowing that God never wastes what happens in our lives, what excites you most about God's call in your life?

4. *The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.*
1 Thessalonians 5:24 (NIV)

What difficult task are you facing in your life that seems impossible? How does knowing God will empower you to complete this task change your perspective on it? Share how a past challenge has nurtured you and developed your faith.

5. *“Live the kind of life that pleases God, who calls you to share in his own Kingdom and glory.”*
1 Thessalonians 2:12 (TEV)

Where are you using your influence for the glory of God? Everything God has done for you, including redeeming you from your sinful failures, will bring glory to him. As a group, spend some time encouraging each other to more fully live out a personal calling from God.

PRAYER TIME



Note: Please have everyone pair up for prayer and then you should close. Allow 7–10 minutes.

- Your calling is connected to others. It cannot be fulfilled alone. Who are the people who have encouraged you in your calling? Thank God for them and ...
- What areas of your life do you see as a hindrance to accomplishing your purpose? Pray 2 Thessalonians 1:11 and fast about these areas, asking God to empower you to overcome them.
- Pray that God will work through you as you step out in faith wherever you are called.

**Adapted Bible Study provided by Rick Warren called Live your Calling: What On Earth Am I Here For? January 2013*