

The Call of God

Meditations and prayers for groups or individuals

This leaflet includes seven outlines for meditation, reflection, discussion and prayer. You can use these on your own or with a few friends.

If you are using them on your own you can use one each day over a week.

If you using them with other people you will probably want to space them out more.

In a small group:

Read the set passage

Discuss it - what strikes you as interesting or important in this passage?

Look at the question in a time of silence

Share your answers

After another short time of silence conclude with prayers

1. God's call to Abraham.

From Genesis 12 1-4

The Lord said to Abram, "Leave your own country, your kin, and your fathers house, and go to a country that I will show you. I shall make you into a great nation; I shall bless you and make your name so great that it will be used in blessings." Abram, who was seventy-five years old when he left Haran, set out as the Lord had bidden him, and Lot went with him.

Question

Can God ever call us to leave good things to achieve a greater good?

Prayer

Lord God who calls,
give your people grace to hear your voice:
help us to trust you in the known and unknown,
so we may journey towards your vision
in the power of Jesus Christ our Lord.

2. God's call to Moses

From Exodus 3 1-12

While tending the sheep of his father-in-law Jethro, priest of Midian, Moses led the flock along the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There an angel of the Lord appeared to him as a fire blazing out from a bush. Although the bush was on fire, it was not being burnt up, and Moses said to himself, "I must go across and see this remarkable sight."

The Lord called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" He answered, "Here I am."

God said, "Do not come near! Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." The Lord said, "I have witnessed the misery of my people in Egypt and have heard them crying out because of their oppressors. I know what they are

suffering and have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians. Come I shall send you to Pharaoh and you are to bring my people Israel out of Egypt." "But who am I," Moses said to God, "that I should approach Pharaoh and that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" God answered, "I am with you: This will be your proof that it is I who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will all worship God here at this mountain."

Question

How does God call us in response to other peoples needs?

Prayer

Lord God who calls,
give your people grace to hear your voice;
help us to recognise your desires for your peoples,
so we may journey towards your vision
in the power of Jesus Christ our Lord.

3. God's call to Samuel

From 1 Samuel 3 1-10

The boy Samuel was in the Lords service under Eli. One night Eli, whose eyes were dim and his sight failing, was lying down in his usual place, while Samuel slept in the temple of the Lord where the Ark of God was. Before the lamp of God had gone out, the Lord called him, and Samuel answered, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli saying, "You called me: here I am." "No, I did not call you," said Eli; "lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called Samuel again and he got up and went to Eli. "Here I am!" he said. "Surely you called me." "I did not call, my son," he answered; "lie down again." When the Lord called him for the third time, he again went to Eli and said. "Here I am! You did call me." Then Eli understood that it was the Lord calling the boy; he told Samuel to go and lie down and said, "If someone calls once more, say. 'Speak, Lord; your servant is listening'". So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Then the Lord came, and standing there called, "Samuel, Samuel!" as before. Samuel answered, "Speak, your servant is listening."

Question

Why does it often take a while for God's call to get through?

Prayer

Lord God who calls,
give your people grace to hear your voice:
help us to discern messages from you
so we may journey towards your vision
in the power of Jesus Christ our Lord

4. God's call to Amos

From Amos 7 14.15

"I was no prophet," Amos replied, "nor was I a prophet's son; I was a herdsman and fig-grower. But the Lord took me as I followed the flock and it was the Lord who said to me, Go and prophesy to my people Israel."

Question

How can God's call cut across or settled habits of life?

Prayer

Lord God who calls,
give your people grace to hear your voice:
help us to embrace the unfamiliar,
so we may journey towards your vision
in the power of Jesus Christ our Lord.

5. God's call to Isaiah

From Isaiah 6 1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the skirt of his robe filled the temple. Seraphim were in attendance on him. They were calling to one another,

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory."

As each called, the threshold shook to its foundations at the sound, while the house began to fill with clouds of smoke. Then I said,

"Woe is me! I am doomed, for my own eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts, I, a man of unclean lips, I, who dwell among a people of unclean lips."

One of the seraphim flew to me, carrying in his hand a glowing coal which he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. He touched my mouth with it and said,

"This has touched your lips; now your iniquity is removed and your sin is wiped out."

I heard the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" I said: "Here am I! Send me."

Question

Do we ever feel unworthy for ministry?

Prayer

Lord God who calls,
Give your people grace to hear your voice:
help us to offer ourselves to your service,
so we may journey towards your vision
in the power of Jesus Christ our Lord.

6. God's call to Jeremiah

Jeremiah 1 4-8

This word of the Lord came to me: "Before I formed you in the womb I chose you and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." "Ah! Lord God," I answered, "I am not skilled in speaking; I am too young." But the Lord said, "Do not plead that you are too young; for you are to go to whatever people I send you, and say whatever I tell you to say. Fear none of them, for I shall be with you to keep you safe!"

Question

Does God call use our weaknesses or change them?

Prayer

Lord God who calls,
give your people grace to hear your voice:
help us to offer all that we are
so we may journey towards your vision
in the power of Jesus Christ our Lord.

7. God's call to Zacchaeus

Luke 19 1-10

Entering Jericho Jesus made his way through the city. There was a man there named Zacchaeus; he was superintendent of taxes and very rich. He was eager to see what Jesus looked like; but, being a little man, he could not see him for the crowd. So he ran on ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see him, for he was to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, be quick and come down, for I must stay at your house today." He climbed down as quickly as he could and welcomed him gladly. At this there was a general murmur of disapproval. "He has gone in to be the guest of a sinner," they said. But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Here and now, sir, I give half my possessions to charity; and if I have defrauded anyone, I will repay him four times over." Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house for this man too is a son of Abraham. The Son of Man has come to seek and to save what is lost."

Question

Are we ready to be changed?

Prayer

Lord God who calls,
give your people grace to hear your voice:
help us to respond in word and deed
so we may journey towards your vision
in the power of Jesus Christ our Lord