



1. What Is God's Call? 7
2. How Can I Know What God
Is Calling Me to Do? 15
3. How Do I Get Ready for God's Call? 17
4. What If I Am Called to Missions? 20
5. Where Can I Start? 23

ADULT LEADERS

The goal of this booklet is to help children explore God's call for all believers, and to consider God's specific call to serve in missions.

Bible Versions

We have given preference to the New International Version (NIV) for Scripture quotations. However, for kids' reading ease, you may also use the New Century Version and the New Living Translation. Since most kids have access to a smartphone or other Internet device, teach kids how to look up the Bible verses online as they read this book.



WHAT IS GOD'S CALL?

Have you ever heard someone talk about being “called by God?” It might make you think you are going to have a phone call or text message from God himself. Although being called by God sounds like that’s what they mean, it’s really something very different.

Called by God is how Christians explain that they sense God giving them direction for something they should do for Him. Whenever God gives us direction, we need to follow His lead—even if we don’t know all of the answers.

This book is designed to help you discover how to respond when you think God might be calling you. So how do you know if God is calling you? Here are three truths about the call of God.

TRUTH 1: EVERY FOLLOWER OF JESUS IS CALLED TO WITNESS

You just read that God might give direction to you, and now you read that every follower of Jesus is called. Both are absolutely true. For example, every follower of Jesus Christ is called to:

- live life in right relationship with God
- tell others about the loving relationship they can have with Jesus and how He forgives us of our sins

This is how the Bible describes this calling:

In Mark 16:15 Jesus told His followers,
“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”

How can you be a witness? You show people who Jesus is by the way you live, and you talk about Jesus with people in your family, at school, in your neighborhood, and even people you meet in other places you go.

? Who can you tell about Jesus? Pray and ask God if there is someone He wants you to tell about Jesus.

TRUTH 2: SOMETIMES GOD'S CALL IS SPECIFIC

God also gives people special assignments. The Bible is filled with stories of God giving His followers special assignments. For example, God called Ananias to go and pray for a mean man named Saul. Ananias shows us what it looks like to obey God's special assignment. (Acts 9:10–12)

Check it out later in Acts 8:26–40 and Acts 10.

Just like God gave people in the Bible special assignments, when you are praying and spending time with God, He might give you a special assignment too. Many people today are doing what God has told them to do, but what each of them does might look different.

Pastors—Some people become pastors because God has called them to serve Him by leading or working in a church. Pastors spend time studying the Bible, so they can teach others and help them grow in their faith. They also care for the people in their church, showing God's love to them.

Some pastors are called to minister to a specific group of people. Youth pastors and children's pastors are two examples.

Missionaries—Many people become missionaries because they sense God leading them to a specific country or group of people. There are missionaries in over 250 countries in the world including right here where you live. Did you know that? Some missionaries never move to a different country, but are missionaries in their own country.

This is exciting! But did you know that there are also still many groups of people who have never had someone tell

them that Jesus loves them? With over seven billion people on the planet, God may call you to share your faith with a specific group of people too.

Many other ways—God also calls people to do many other things that show people who God is. The Bible says, “So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers” (Ephesians 4:11). These are all jobs that God calls people to do in churches.

But God also calls people to work in jobs outside the church. God calls nurses, teachers, truck drivers, salespeople, mechanics, businesspeople, and more. The Bible describes us as being like parts of a body. “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” (1 Corinthians 12:27)

Check it out later in 1 Corinthians 12:14–27.

Every believer's calling from God is to make their decisions and build friendships in ways to help others know Jesus. They may also volunteer to help those in need, serve in their church, or give money to help people in need.

? Who do you know that is called by God? How can you tell? Do you think God is calling you to do something specific?

TRUTH 3: WE ARE ALWAYS CALLED TO FOLLOW GOD

Sometimes as people live out God's calling, they might think that's the only calling they will ever have. God may call someone to be a pastor who will lead churches for his or her entire life. But other times God may call someone to be a pastor, then lead them to be a missionary, then lead them to be a sports coach.

What's important to remember is that wherever we are and whatever we are doing, we are called to follow God. We are called to do our best.

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.” (Ecclesiastes 9:10) We can choose ahead of time to do anything that God asks us to do. Things don’t always work out the way we think they will, so it’s important to always choose to obey God.

If you ask adults, many of them did not grow up to be what they thought they wanted to be. But they are happy following God where they are. As long as we love and obey God, He will work out the details of His call for our life.


HOW CAN I FOLLOW GOD NOW?

There are many things that you can do to figure out how God wants to use you in life. First, remember that God wants us to love everyone. It’s always a great plan just to be loving toward the people around you. As you do this, you might feel God give you a special love and concern for something or someone specific, or you might hear God speak to you about something He wants you to do.

Don't wait to begin sharing your faith! Pray for people who don't know Him and ask God to help you see people the way Jesus sees them. Read the Bible and tell other people about what you are learning about God. When someone tells you about a problem, pray with them.

Make church an important part of your life. Church is a great place to learn more about Jesus and the Bible. Learn as much as you can. Look for ways you can help at church. Ask your pastor and your parents to help you figure out how God can use you. Maybe you could sing, play an instrument, be a greeter, help receive the offering, be friendly to newcomers, or really pay attention in church.

As you pray and love Him, He will show you what you should do.

 Talk with a trusted Christian adult about it.

MISSIONARIES I AM PRAYING FOR:

PEOPLE WHO NEED TO KNOW JESUS:

DID YOU KNOW YOU'VE BEEN CALLED BY GOD?

YES, YOU!

Being “called by God” might sound like it has something to do with a phone, but it’s much different! Find out all about how God helps Christians know what He wants them to do. Discover how God calls some people to specific roles like missionaries, pastors, and more. Then you can explore the ways God is calling you, too!



GPH[®]

Gospel Publishing House

MyHealthyChurch.com

Christian Education / Children & Youth

ISBN: 978-1-60731-577-3



9 781607 315773