

This midweek study will explore the doctrine of calling. Use the following main points, Scriptures, teaching/discussion ideas, and questions to help students gain a better understanding of the essential doctrine for this session.

Essential Doctrine: Calling

The calling of God to salvation happens in two ways: externally through the proclamation of the gospel and internally through the Holy Spirit working in the heart of the person who hears. Both of these callings are essential, and both work together to bring someone to faith in Christ (2 Tim. 1:8-10).

1 God's call is external (Mark 16:15; 2 Tim. 1:11-12).

Option: Ask students to imagine they are in class and the intercom comes on. The principal makes an announcement to the whole school. This would be a general announcement, meaning it is directed toward everyone.

- ▶ *What are some other examples of general calls/messages (state of the union addresses, public service announcements, amber alerts, etc.)?*

Read 2 Timothy 1:11-12.

- ▶ *How did Paul describe himself in these verses?*
- ▶ *How would you describe your calling through the gospel to service and mission?*

Read Mark 16:15.

- ▶ *What did Jesus mean when He said "all creation"?*
We have been called by God to proclaim the good news to all the people we come in contact with. We should always be looking for opportunities to impact people with the gospel.

2 God's call is internal (John 3:1-8, 16:8-11).

Read John 3:1-8.

- ▶ *According to Jesus, how important is the work of the Holy Spirit in being born again?*
The Holy Spirit brings about spiritual change. When believers are saved, the Holy Spirit has convicted us of our sinfulness and our need for a Savior.

Read John 16:8-11.

- ▶ *According to Jesus, what is another role the Holy Spirit holds in these verses? Why is conviction necessary?*
The Holy Spirit's conviction helps believers know the difference between godly and sinful behaviors. When we get caught up in sin, He convicts us of our wrongdoing and our need for repentance. However, believers are still responsible for choosing repentance and godly behaviors.

3 God's call is only possible because of the gospel (2 Tim. 1:8-10).

Read 2 Timothy 1:11-12.

- ▶ *How did Paul describe his calling in these verses? How would you describe your calling as a believer?*
Though Paul was referring to his own specific calling in verse 11, the calling of every believer is essentially the same—first to salvation and also to service. The majority of Christians are not called to be preachers in the sense of pastoring a church, but all Christians are called to be people who proclaim the good news of the Jesus. Our identity in Christ is a missionary identity.
- ▶ *How does the message of the gospel—Jesus' life, death, and resurrection—stir up your faith and encourage you?*

WRAP IT UP

- ▶ *Explain how both God's external and internal calling are necessary in the task of missions.*