**CALL OF GOD**

 **INTRODUCTION**

There is both a certainty and a mystery woven into the call of God. It is certain in that men and women have responded to an invitation by God to partner with Him. There is a certainty that has shaped the destiny of many, a passion that gives boldness and faith to ordinary people. Yet, it is also a mystery, something not always understood, something unique and unpredictable.

In this study, we’ll explore some of the certainties and mysteries of God’s call.

Outline

1. The Call – What do we mean by calling?
2. The Called – Examples of men and women called by God.
3. The Calling Made Real – How does our calling translate into real life?
4. **THE CALL**
	1. Study the Scriptures
		1. Study the words “call,” “chosen” and “sent” as they are used in the Bible. Use a concordance or Bible dictionary to find where they are used and the context of their usage.
		2. Categorize your discoveries into groups based on the way “call”/”calling” is used in the Bible. Write out a summary of the various ways “call,” “chosen” and “sent” are used in Scripture
	2. What is a Calling?
		1. Do a study on the English words “calling” and “vocation.” Use dictionaries and other resources to find out what the words mean, and what the words meant centuries ago. How has the meaning changed and grown over the years? How does this affect your own understanding of a calling?
		2. For Thought and Discussion
			1. What have you discovered from your study of calling?
			2. How would you define or explain God’s call?
			3. What do you think of this definition of God’s calling by Os Guinness? Do you agree or disagree, why?

*Calling is the truth that God calls us to Himself so decisively that everything we are, everything we do, and everything we have is invested with a special devotion, dynamism, and direction lived out as a response to his summons and service. – from “The Call” by Os Guinness*

1. **THE CALLED**
	1. Examples of Those Called
		1. From the list below, pick five people and study their lives as it relates to God’s call on their lives:

*Adam & Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Bezalel & Oholiab, The Levites, Deborah, David, Esther, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Nehemiah, John the Baptist, Mary (mother of Jesus), Peter, Paul, The Seven (Stephen), Lydia, Timothy, Aquila & Priscilla, John Mark*

In your study, look for the following things:

* + - 1. What were they called to?
			2. How was the calling given to them?
			3. Was the task/calling something that was long term or short term in length?
			4. What basis was there to why they were called?
			5. Was there a change in profession? Location?
			6. What effect did their calling (and response to it) have on the relationships around them?
			7. What long term effect did their response to their calling have?
			8. What may have happened if they said “no” to God’s call on their life? How might that have impacted us today?
	1. For Reflection and Discussion
		1. Based on what you studied, what conclusions can you draw concerning the call of God?
		2. As you have not taken a look into God’s ways and purposes of His calling in general and in people’s lives, what are some differences/similarities that you saw when comparing the ways and purposes?
		3. What were some of the weaknesses in which people felt would disqualify them from serving God? How did God answer those objections? What are some of the weaknesses that you feel would disqualify you from God’s calling on your life?
		4. Was there a specific thought for you personally from the Lord as a result of your study on these characters?
1. **THE CALLING MADE REAL**
	1. Our International Calling

*To advance the Gospel of Jesus and His Kingdom into the nations, through spiritual generations of laborers living and discipling among the lost.*

* + 1. Where are you in embracing the Navigators’ Calling as your own?
		2. How have you seen your own life impacted by other living out our Calling?
		3. How do you see God helping you live out the Calling in your life right now?
	1. Personal Design, Gifting, and Calling
		1. Consider the following passages. What do they say in regards to your design and gifting? What relationship do you see between them and calling? What do you believe are your gifts and abilities?
			1. Psalm 139:1-6; 13-18
			2. Jeremiah 1:1-10
			3. Romans 12:3-8
			4. 1 Corinthians 12
			5. Ephesians 2:10
			6. Ephesians 4:7-15
			7. 1 Peter 4:10-11