

Interview Questions: Use weekly or as a Panel discussion



Calling isn't just for clergy...

God's call is for anyone who hears God's voice!

Would you like to cast a vision for deeper discipleship for your congregation by holding up example of members of your congregation and community who have said "YES" to God's call?

You might consider having a church member share a weekly testimony (live or pre-recorded) that aligns with the themes of the sermon to illustrate the point you're making. Or, consider having a "panel discussion" during a worship service, at a special worship service or ministry event, or at youth group. Record it (or stream it as a Facebook Live) or share it another time with youth in Confirmation, Sunday School, or even in a short-term group study.

Here are some things to keep in mind as you craft this time:

- As you invite people to join the panel, they do not have to have everything about God's Call (in general or for their life) figured out. Invite people who could share about being called by God for **a season, a reason, or a lifetime**.
 - A **season**—sometimes a person is called for a short time, but not forever. For example: someone leads a committee, project, or initiative in the church or community. They recognize God's call for "this season" and cultivate others to step into the role after they step away.
 - A **reason**—sometimes a person's gifts are *exactly* what is needed for a situation. There are "for such a time as this" moments when there's a pretty specific invitation for a person. For example: the youth ministry position unexpectedly opens up and a mom who just became an empty-nester and who also served as a youth minister for a decade steps into the youth ministry.
 - A **lifetime**—sometimes a person experiences a life-altering call that changes their course of action. It can involve a career, a relationship, or a purpose. For example: a couple has a child with special needs. They receive the child as a gift from God and become an expert, advocate, and loving caregiver to their child.
- An interviewee or panelist does not need to be polished or even a confident public speaker. They do need to be willing to share publicly (even if it's a pre-scripted video) about how God has called them to do something or grow in faith.
- Record the service/testimonies if you can (not necessarily before the service, but during the service). Use them again to cast a vision for God's Call through service in your church, in your community, or as people willingly choose to grow in faith. We are confident that there will be stories shared that could help inspire some aspect of your church's mission and ministry. *Special note: be sure to ask a participant in advance if they are okay with it being recorded.*

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If you choose to have a testimony to use with the worship series, consider the questions below. The number beside each question corresponds with the sermons. Be creative! And if you have any great question ideas or stories that emerge from this would you email us at called@greatplainsumc.org?

1=Sermon 1, “Raise the Question, Answer the Call”

2=Sermon 2, “I’m Getting a Call...But Who’s On the Other End?”

3=Sermon 3, “I’m Getting a Call...But What If I Don’t Want to Answer?”

4=Sermon 4, “I’m Getting a Call...Can I Answer it at Work?”

5=Sermon 5, “I’m Getting a Call...What’s the Next Step?”

- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5: When is a time that you sensed God opening a door/inviting you to do something? How did you respond?
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5: What does God’s voice sound like to you? How do you know for sure that it *is* God speaking?
- 2: Have you had a mentor help direct you to God?
- 2, 3: Did you sense God calling you to something but wait a long time to say yes? What was it like to finally say yes?
- 3: How much should I expect to know about what I’m saying yes to, if God is calling me to something?
- 3: What happens if I say no to God?
- 4: Does calling always mean a major shift in something? (A move, a new career, a new relationship?) When did you experience a calling to something new in the same place?
- 4: How have you experienced God using your gifts and talents in your “everyday life” at work or as a volunteer?
- 5: How do you know what to do, if God calls you to something?
- 5: How do you know who to bring into your discernment about the next step to which God may be calling you?