



“I’m Getting a Call...”

Music, Scripture, Children’s Messages, and Testimonies

Are you interested in using elements from the worship series, “I’m Getting a Call...”? The following guide includes an overview of the series, with sermon title, scripture, theme, and hymn suggestions.

Note: A Children’s Message and Interview/Testimony questions are also provided in a separate section. A space is left for your planning purposes to make notes about the Children’s Message and Interview/Testimony. For questions, feedback, or stories about how you are seeing people in your church or community awaken to God’s call, email called@greatplainsumc.org.

Week 1: “Raise the Question, Answer the Call”

- *Scripture:* One or more of the following, depending on what resonates with the pastor—Exodus 3:1-14, 1 Kings 19:1-18, Luke 24:13-25
- *Theme:* This is the “Vocation 101” sermon; an introduction to the rest of the series wherein the pastor shares her/his own call story. The goal of this sermon is to introduce the concept of calling as an invitation to follow God in everyday life at home, at work, at church, and in the world. Teaching points will include our identity as God’s beloveds (*who we are*), myths about calling (*what we think we’re supposed to do*), and truths about calling (*what we’re actually meant to do*.) This will also be the pastor’s chance to introduce the “Pray. Seek. Go.” resources from the Conference.
- *Hymn Suggestions:*
 - 413 A Charge to Keep I Have
 - 398 Jesus Calls Us
 - [Goodness of God](#) by Bethel Music
- Children’s Message:
- Testimony:

Week 2: “I’m Getting a Call...But Who’s On the Other End?”

- *Scripture:* 1 Samuel 3:1-10
- *Theme:* God has placed a call on our lives—and sometimes it takes a while for the message to get through! Like Samuel, we can experience confusion or uncertainty when we begin to hear the voice of God, and can benefit from the wisdom of others (like Eli) to help us to discern what’s next. But the Good News is this: God continues to call even when the message is fuzzy on our end/even when it takes a while for us to figure out what’s going on. There’s no such thing as being “too late” to answer the call!
- *Hymn Suggestions:*
 - 405 Seek Ye First
 - 582 Whom Shall I Send? (LM – could do to the tune of Gift of Love is this tune is unfamiliar)
 - [There are Many Ways of Sharing](#) by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
- Children’s Message:
- Testimony:

Week 3: “I’m Getting a Call...But What If I Don’t Want to Answer?”

- *Scripture:* Genesis 12:1-9
- *Theme:* God has placed a call on our lives—and sometimes it takes us by surprise and upends our entire lives! Abram and Sarai had lived in Ur for decades, and packing up their entire lives to become desert

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nomads was probably *not* on their bucket list for retirement. Similarly, we sometimes find ourselves gently nudged (or rudely yanked) out of our comfort zones when we become aware of God’s call on our lives. But the Good News is this: God goes before us, and God prepares the way. There’s no such thing as being “too old”, “too settled”, or “too stuck in your ways” to answer the call!

- *Hymn Suggestions:*
 - 598 Here I Am, Lord
 - 2242 Walk with Me
 - [Our God, You Called to Moses](#) – By Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
- Children’s Message:
- Testimony:

Week 4: “I’m Getting a Call...But Can I Answer it at Work?”

- *Scripture:* Luke 5:1-11
- *Theme:* God has placed a call on our lives—and sometimes it’s a call that can be lived out alongside our existing “day job.” Many of Jesus’ disciples were fishermen by trade, and when they dropped their nets to follow Christ they were really transitioning into a *different* kind of fishing! Many of the skills that would have been useful out on the water—patience, persistence, teamwork, flexibility—would have translated well to the work of discipleship. Similarly, we often find that the gifts and talents that we currently use on a daily basis (leadership, administration, hospitality, prayer, music, teaching, etc.) are the same gifts that God will call us to use in Christian service. There’s no such thing as being “too basic”, “too ordinary” or even “too busy” to answer the call...because some forms of call can be lived out in the midst of our most ordinary moments!
- *Hymn Suggestions:*
 - 344 – Tu Has Venido a la Orilla (Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore)
 - 2152 – Change My Heart, O God
 - 584 – Lord, You Give the Great Commission
- Children’s Message:
- Testimony:

Week 5: “I’m Getting a Call...What’s The Next Step?”

- *Scripture:* Esther 4:1-14
- *Theme:* God has placed a call on our lives—and eventually we realize that the call is impossible to ignore! When we recognize, as Esther did, that God is calling us “for such a time as this”, what do we do next? Esther’s next steps—discerning with trusted mentors, prayer, and intentional fellowship with a faith community—can provide us with some guidance as we navigate our response to God’s calling. (This would be a great week to highlight Conference, District, and “Culture of Call” resources and how anyone can access those!)
- *Hymn Suggestions:*
 - [Perhaps You Have Been Chosen](#) – By Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
 - 583 Sois la Semilla (You are the Seed)
 - 2243 We All Are One in Mission
- Children’s Message:
- Testimony: