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Servants for His Glory

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Lesson Title: “Be a Servant Who Lives His Call” (pp. 106-121)

Session 8

April 21, 2024

The main point of this lesson is: God’s servants live out His call on their lives.

Focus on this goal: To help adults identify their particular calling from God

Key Bible Passage: Acts 13:36; Colossians 3:23

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Ask: What kind of calls do you: dread? reject? answer grudgingly? answer happily? long to receive? What do you do as you wait for a call?

Read this lesson’s title (p. 106). State: Some people reject God’s call; others answer it joyfully. We may long to receive a call from God but think that’s just for “elite” Christians. Or we may get so impatient waiting to hear from God that we jump ahead and do things that are not within His purpose for us. This study examines how we can identify, wait on, and live out His call on our lives.

Step 2. Introduction

**Consider** why “most Christians have a limited understanding of what the call of God is” (p. 106). **Request** a volunteer read the Day One Note (p. 106). **Relate** the author’s explanation of the works of redemption and creation (pp. 106-107).

**Ask:** *Would it make sense that a creative, unlimited God would have each of us participate in creation and redemption in exactly the same way? Explain. Would it make sense that an impartial God would consider some tasks and talents inferior or superior? Explain.* **Declare** God gives each of us different, yet equally valuable, tasks and talents to live out His calling on our lives.

**Discuss** Day One, activity 1 (p. 107). **Request** a volunteer read Colossians 3:22. **Ask:** *Who was Paul talking to? What kind of work did they most likely do? How could Colossians 3:22-24 be a comfort and a challenge to them then and to us now?*

**Invite** a volunteer to read the last paragraph of Day One (p. 107). **Urge** adults to privately consider Day One, activity 2 (p. 107) **or complete** it together as a way of affirming and encouraging one another.

Step 3. His Call Is His Life Purpose, Part 1

**Instruct** adults to underline the first sentence of Day Two (p. 108) as you **read** it aloud.

**Explain** Day Two uses Acts 13:36 to examine how calling is intimately related to our purpose. **Invite** a volunteer to read that verse. **Note** the three key words the author emphasizes from that verse (pp. 108-110). **Point out** that *after* indicates there was a before. **Discuss** Day Two, activity 1 (p. 108). **Ask:** *Do you think we have anything in common with Jeremiah, Paul, and David? Explain your reasoning.* **Analyze** the significance of the word *after* in Acts 13:36.

**Invite** responses to Day Two, activity 2 (p. 109). **Analyze** specifics we can learn about God’s purpose from Acts 13:36 **(point out** the italicized statements in Day Two, p. 109-110). **Determine** examples of what happens when believers try to accomplish God’s purpose outside of His timing.

**Emphasize** “our purpose is intimately related to our service” (p. 110).

**Analyze** what occurs when people: a) serve their generation; and b) seek to be served by their generation.

Step 4. His Call Is His Life Purpose, Part 2

**Ask** the group to estimate the percentage of people they know who are satisfied with their lives. **Consider** reasons so many people are dissatisfied (second paragraph and Day Three Note, p. 111, can add to that discussion).

**Discuss** Day Three, activity 1 (pp. 111-112). **Note** we may think our purpose is to do something amazing and world-changing, when more likely it’s to have life-changing interactions with others like Jesus did with the woman in John 4. **Consider** why we must live in intimacy with God if we’re going to have life-changing interactions with others.

**Evaluate** how a life purpose is different than a life profession. **Invite** responses to Day Three, activity 2 (p. 113). **Explore** how knowing our purpose helps us know our responsibilities, determine our priorities, and make efficient use of our time.

**Use** the last section of Day Three (pp. 113-114) to **determine** some wise steps to discovering our life purpose.

Step 5. How to Discover the Calling of God

**Ask** how the Day Four Note (p. 114) encourages adults as they seek to discover their God-given purpose.

**Invite** a volunteer to read Romans 12:1-2. **Identify** requirements for knowing and carrying out God’s calling. **Invite** responses to Day Four, activities 1 (pp. 114-115) and 2 (p. 115).

**Request** a volunteer read the last paragraph of Day Four (p. 115). **Invite** adults to share the role that waiting on God and living in gospel community has played in their discovering and living out their God-given call.

Step 6. Special Aspects Regarding the Redemptive Task

**Guide** adults to identify and explore our specific callings regarding God’s redemptive task. **Note** we may welcome being called to salvation and sanctification, but struggle with the call to suffer. **Read** Philippians 1:29. **Discuss** Day Five, activity 1 (p. 116).

**Read** Ephesians 4:1-3. **Explore** how that passage speaks to a believer’s calling to serve.

**Discuss** Day Five, activity 2 (pp. 117-118).

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

**Invite** adults to state what they have gained from this study that can help them identify, wait on, and joyfully live out God’s call in their lives.

**Close in prayer.**

After the Session

**Look for** opportunities following this study to **encourage** participants to continue growing as servants. **Affirm** those whom you have observed who have begun to listen to or look for God’s call on their lives.

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