

Called

We can experience call at every age or stage of lives. God is not limited by us but allows us the opportunity to use who we are and what we offer to the world around us in the service of God's love. Receiving God's call is an extravagant gift of love. By calling us, God says to us, you are seen, you are known, and you are loved.

Focus scripture: Isaiah 49:1–7

The prophet of Isaiah 49:1–7 grabs our attention with the summons, “listen to me...pay attention..” Isaiah 40–50 is commonly referred to as Second Isaiah and was written following the defeat of the Southern Kingdom of Judah by the Babylonians in 587 BCE. This section of the book of Isaiah has four passages that are identified as Servant Songs; they tell about the call of God's servant and chosen one. This week's reading from Isaiah is the second Servant Song. The servant here is the prophet, or perhaps Judah itself. It is a story of call – being called and known, failure to live up to the call, hope remaining strong, and being called with a greater purpose. God's light is to shine on all. Regardless of the people's early success or failure, God is faithful. The servant maintains hope in God.

God offers a purposeful call to the people from the very depth of God and invites the people to shine bright and to be a light for all the nations.

God's faithfulness is never in doubt in **Psalm 40:1–11**. The writer praises God's steadfast love. The testimony in this psalm offers a glimpse of what it is like to be wanted. The writer wants to remain in God's steadfast love and faithfulness. “Here I am” (v.7) echoes Samuel's call in 1 Samuel 3. This is a vivid, physical testimony of being heard, seen, helped, and given a song of praise. To live in the ways of God's life-giving law brings delight.

In **1 Corinthians 1:1–9**, Paul sets the stage with overarching themes and reminds the Corinthian church that God has called them to be saints in community with Christ. God gives strength and spiritual gifts to be used by each who are a part of this wide call. God is faithful and will continue to strengthen, empowering people to live in service to God's call.

John 1:29–42 John bears witness to Jesus as the Lamb of God, one who redeems or saves, and declares Jesus as the Son of God, the one in whom God's spirit dwells. Within this text, we witness the disciples of John turning to follow Jesus. Jesus invites them to “come and see” (v. 39). Andrew answers that call by finding his brother Simon Peter and bringing him to Jesus. Together they answer the call.

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Jesus invites us to come and see, inviting us to the deeper questions. Living as those who are called in service to God's love, we become the proclaimers of hope, the host at the banquet, the banquet guest, and the beacon of love. We are all a part of God's gathering, each with a role to play. We are not players in a performance, but rather participants in a glorious experience. God has called us, claimed us, and sends us into the world to be servants of God's love. However calm or turbulent our culture may be, what does it mean to serve Love in today's context?



Focus scripture

Isaiah 49:1–7

Additional scriptures

Psalm 40:1–11

1 Corinthians 1:1–9

John 1:29–42

Faithful God, you call, claim, and send believers into the world with your radiant love.

Help us to live as ones who are called, claimed, and sent with your blessing, journeying to the places and spaces we are called to share our light and your love. Amen.

Lection Connection

links current events with this week's scriptures. Go to www.seasonsonline.ca and click on the link.

