



You've probably heard preachers and other Christians talking about how God called them to do something specific. And if you're a new believer or a skeptic, that might have left you feeling confused and asking questions like, "How do they know what God wants them to do? And how are they so sure it's God who wants them to do it?" To a lot of people, it can sound like empty "Christianese" - the sort of thing that religious people say that can't be proven or verified. So - what does it mean to be "called" by God, and how do you know if God is calling you to do something? That's what "Called Out" is all about.

November 10, 2024 - Called Out, Part 1: Learning to Hear from God

Reflection Question: Have you ever felt CALLED by God to do or say something specific? If so, what was it, and how did you respond? If not, how do you feel about that?

WHO WAS ISAIAH? What was a prophet's job in the Old Testament times?

What did the Dead Sea Scrolls reveal about the Old Testament, and why was the Isaiah scroll especially impressive?

Why do we refer to Isaiah as "the 5th evangelist" and to his book as "the 5th gospel"?

Why were the Hebrew people divided into two different kingdoms? What were they called, and how were they different?

Like other prophets before and after him, Isaiah was reluctant to answer God's call. Why was he so hesitant? (see Isaiah 6:5)

Read Isaiah 1:1-4, 10-16 - The vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem that Isaiah son of Amoz saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. Hear me, you heavens! Listen, earth! For the Lord has spoken: 'I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me. The ox knows its master, the donkey its owner's manger, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand. Woe to the sinful nation, a people whose guilt is great, a brood of evildoers, children given to corruption! They have forsaken the Lord; they have spurned the Holy One of Israel and turned their backs on him...

Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom; listen to the instruction of our God, you people of Gomorrah! The multitude of your sacrifices— what are they to me?" says the Lord. "I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts?

Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations— I cannot bear your worthless assemblies. Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals I hate with all my being. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from you; even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening. Your hands are full of blood!”

What was the message for Judah that Isaiah delivered from God? How do you think he heard that message?

3 Ways NOT to Hear from God:

1. You don't _____ Him
2. Your life is too _____
3. You're too _____

Which of these presents the greatest challenge to you on a regular basis? Why?

3 Ways to Hear from God:

1. Pay _____
2. Read His _____
3. Pray in _____

After delivering such a devastating message through the prophet Isaiah, what hope did the Lord give to the people of Judah? (See Isaiah 1:16-20)

How does God's message to Judah apply to our world today, and what do you think God might be calling you to do about it?

Your Notes:



Youth Worship Night TONIGHT

Tonight at 6:30pm, we're excited to host a special Youth Worship Night just for our middle and high school students, featuring worship led by David Stukenberg and the band, special prayer stations, and all the fun of our regular programming. See you then!



Silent Retreat

Come spend a day in prayer at The Story Church! This silent prayer retreat on Saturday (11/16) will be a time for you to keep your heart and eyes pointed towards Jesus while surrounded by a community of believers. Visit our website to learn more and register: thestory.church/events



Hanging of the Greens

Help us prepare for the Christmas season by decorating The Story! We will be hanging up decorations on Sunday, November 24, starting around 12:15pm. Childcare is available for kids up to 5 years old. Register here to attend! Register here: thestory.church/events