



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 17, 2024 - Called Out, Part 2: Learning to Speak for God

Opening Question: The Bible says that God calls all Christians (not just pastors & leaders) into ministry (Eph 5:14-20). Why do you think most Christians don't consider themselves to be "called" as ministers?

Why is being called by God often a horrifying experience? (See Isaiah 6:5, 1 Tim. 1:15)

The FIRST STEP of being called to speak for God is _____ the _____ of the Lord.

Have you ever experienced the fear of the Lord? If so, what happened? If not, why do you think that you haven't?

Once a believer experiences the fear of the Lord, how does it change his/her life? (See Proverbs 9:10 and 2 Cor. 5:11)

Who are the two groups of people that Christians are called to "persuade", and what are we to persuade them to do? (See Luke 19:10 and Proverbs 27:6)

In the book of Isaiah, chapters 2-5, the prophet Isaiah offers a blueprint for HOW believers are called to speak for God - whether we're speaking to the "lost" or to our fellow believers:

HOW ISAIAH SPOKE FOR GOD

1. He began with _____

Isaiah 2:2-5 - In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Given the disappointing state of affairs in Jerusalem, a city full of corruption and empty religion, why did Isaiah open his prophetic ministry by casting a vision of ultimate hope?

How might it change the quality of the conversations you have with people about God if you started from a place of hope in God's ultimate goodness and His desire for all people to walk in His light?

2. He appealed to _____

Isa.2:22 Stop trusting in mere men who have but a breath in their nostrils. Why hold them in esteem?

What's so effective about an appeal to common sense - as opposed to an appeal to Scripture or religious duty - when talking to people about God?

What is an example of an appeal to common sense when you're talking with an unbeliever or a wayward believer about God?

3. He got real about _____

Isa.3:1 The Lord is about to take from Jerusalem and Judah both supply and support...

When talking to people about God, why is it so critical that we communicate the potential consequences of continuing in sin?

What makes this step so difficult?

4. He circled back to _____

Isa.4:2 On that day, the Branch of the Lord will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land will be the pride and glory of the survivors in Israel. They will be called holy, all who are recorded among the living in Jerusalem.

Considering the gravity of Step 3 above, why is reiterating the ultimate hope of God a helpful strategy when talking to people about the Truth of God?

5. He got _____ about their _____

Throughout Isaiah 5, the prophet specifies the exact sins that he's witnessed the people committing in Jerusalem (see **Isa.5:8, 11-12, 18-19, 20, 21, 22-23**). What were some of the sins he called out?

Why might Isaiah have saved this step for last? What is the wisdom of calling out a person's specific sins only after communicating the hope of God, appealing to common sense, and communicating the consequences of sin?

How would your conversations about God be different if you applied Isaiah's blueprint? How, and with whom, do you plan to try to use this blueprint in future conversations?

Your Notes:



LifeHouse Christmas Wishes

Spread the joy of Christ this Christmas season by serving families in need through our annual LifeHouse Christmas program! Visit thestory.church/wishes to learn how you can get involved, including purchasing gifts or volunteering to serve at events on 12/11 & 12/14.



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



Christmas Choir Concert

On Friday, December 13 at 5:30pm, children from The Story will bring the Christmas story to life! With music and the spoken word, this group will vividly depict the miraculous events leading up to the birth of Jesus. Head to thestory.church/events to reserve your FREE tickets!