

# **GOD'S CALLING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

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## GOD'S CALLING - THIRD AND FOURTH GRADES OVERVIEW

We cover God's calling in the Bible. First we cover how God called Adam but Adam went away and hid. Then we tell them, "Some day God's going to call you. Do not run away and hide. You will know when God will call you. You will know when the time comes. If you are wrong, just admit to God you are wrong." This is a very practical application of God's calling of Adam.

Then we go through all the major Bible characters in the Old and New Testament. We like cover this matter in 2 years: One year on the Old Testament characters and one year on the New Testament characters of God's calling. By the time you get done with these 2 years. The children have a view of the Bible.

In the Old Testament God called Noah and he rose up to serve God. Some day you will be serving God. God called Abraham and he obeyed God. God called Moses. God called David.

God called Peter and James and John. He saw Nathaniel under the big tree. That was God's calling. Then we cover His calling of Paul and Timothy.

We do not tell them why we are teaching them Bible history. We are putting this into them unconsciously. By the time we get done, they have hit the peaks of all the major Bible characters in their chronological order. They begin to realize that Adam comes before Moses and Peter comes after Moses.

### SOMEDAY GOD WILL CALL YOU

You would be amazed at our young people today. They do not know who is first or who is last. They do not know the facts of the Bible. We give them the facts. We plant the seed: that you are going to be called by God.

The first year we did this the brothers gave a test to the boys. The boys were to write down the answers to some questions. The brothers asked the third graders what impressed them the most this year. Most of them put down that some day God will call me. What a success! The whole year was worth that. They heard this phrase forty times. I told the serving ones that every week they had to repeat the phrase, "*Someday God will call you.*" The boys got it! The naughty boys got it! Then the serving ones asked them some other questions. By their response they realized they really got it. That was the first time that we did it and the serving ones were not that good at that time either. Year after year we got better results.

*The preceding are the blending of briefly edited transcriptions of Gene Gruhler's sharings given in several localities.*

## ***GOD'S CALLING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT***

- I. God called John the Baptist - Luke 1:5-25; 57-80; 3:1-20
- II. God called Mary, the mother of Jesus Luke 1:26-56
- III. God Called the Twelve Disciples
  - A. Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James, and John while they were fishing and mending their nets - Matt. 4:18-19, 21
  - B. The disciples left everything to obey the call and follow Jesus - Matt. 4:20, 22
  - C. Jesus called the twelve disciples to be with him and learn of him
  - D. After Jesus death, resurrection and ascension, the disciples who obeyed His calling received the Spirit and became apostles in the church - Acts 2:1, 14, 41-47
- IV. God called the needy persons in the gospels
- V. God called the seeking persons in the gospels
- VI. God called the loving persons in the gospels
- VII. God called the serving persons
- VIII. God called Stephen
- IX. God called the Ethiopian eunuch
- X. God called Cornelius
- XI. God Called Saul of Tarsus
  - A. Saul was a persecutor of the Christians and a destroyer of the churches - Acts 7:58; 8:1, 3; 9:1-2, 13-14, 21
  - B. The Lord Jesus called Saul - Acts 9:3-4
  - C. Saul obeyed the Lord's call, received the Holy Spirit, was baptized, and became a brother in the church - Acts 9:5-19, 26-28
  - D. Saul became the Apostle Paul who preached Christ, built up the churches, and wrote fourteen Epistles of God's New Testament Economy - Acts 9:20, 29; 11:26; 13:2-3; 15:41; 18:22-23; 20:7, 17
- XII. God called Timothy
  - IX. God called the apostle John and gave him the Revelation

*[These New Testament examples need to be expanded by adding other N.T. characters positive and negative, i.e.. those who obeyed God's calling and those who did not. It would be very profitable to have one year on the O.T. characters and another year on the N.T. characters.]*