

# CALLED by NAME

Isaiah 43:1

FOCUS VERSE

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name, you are mine.—Isaiah 43:1 NRSV

**Lesson Truth:** God has called each of us by name through the gift of faith; we are therefore called to respond.

## Youth Bible Study: Responding to God's Calling



### Opening Prayer:

Dear heavenly Father, you have created us and call us by name. You alone continue to strengthen our gift of faith through your Word, the Bible, and through the sacraments of baptism and communion. Send us the Holy Spirit today so we can feel his presence as we continue to grow in our faith in you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### Opening Activity:

Form small groups and discuss questions below.

### Your Name:

- What is your full name?
- Who Named you?
- Were you named after someone?
- Would you change your name?
- Do you have a nickname?
- What do you like to be called?
- Does your name suit you?

Our last name generally calls us as part of our earthly families, such as the Smith family or the Jones family. God, on the other hand, calls us as his child by name through the gift of faith; we are part of God's family and the body of believers.

### Large Group Bible Study:

God has *Called Us by Name*. God reaches out to his people by calling; it is God's action. We then respond by faith back to our Creator.

#### Called to Save: Jesus

Read Matthew 1:20-23

- Who decided what Jesus' name would be?
- What does Jesus' name mean?
- Jesus was called to save us from our sins. How did that happen?
- Are there people you know who are ignored by others and need to hear about Jesus?
- Are there people you know who are picked on or treated badly who need to hear about Jesus?

### **Called to Listen: Samuel**

Read 1 Samuel 3:2-10

- Who called Samuel by name?
- Who told Samuel how to listen for God?
- Samuel was called to listen. How did Samuel respond to God?
- Can you think of a time when God wanted you to listen?
- Can you think of a time when God wanted you to listen to someone who was being hurt or ignored by others?

### **Called to Serve: Moses**

Read Exodus 3:2-6

- Who called Moses by name?
- Look at verse 6. What did God call himself?
- Moses was called to serve God. Can you think of some ways you can serve God in your congregation or school?
- Can you think of some ways you can serve God in your community?

### **Called to Life: Lazarus**

Read John 11:14-15, 17, 25, 43-44

- Who called Lazarus by name?
- Look at verse 25. What did Jesus call himself?
- Lazarus was called to life by Jesus. When we believe in Jesus, we are also called to life.
- We are given the call to heaven after death. Do you believe you will live in heaven some day?
- Do you believe everyone has a chance to live in heaven someday?

### **Called to Proclaim: You!**

Read Matthew 28:18-20

- According to this passage, who has been called to tell others about Jesus?
- According to this passage, what else are we called to proclaim to others?
- Is there anyone who does not need to hear about Jesus' love?
- What are some ways you can proclaim Jesus and his love to those who have never heard about him?
- What are some ways you can proclaim Jesus and his love to those who some may think are not worthy of saving?
- Is there anyone not worthy of salvation or being forgiven?
- Can you think of times in the Bible when Jesus helped someone no one else would help?
- Can you think of times in the Bible when Jesus forgave someone no one else would forgive?

God desires all people to come to faith in Jesus. We all need Jesus and his promise of forgiveness and heaven. **God excludes no one. We all sin, we all make mistakes, we all have trouble with something or someone.** God calls us all into his family and he calls us all to share Jesus with others.

**Closing Prayer:**

Dear gracious God, you have called us each by name. As our Creator, you love and care about us and want us to be with you in heaven one day. Thank you for sending Jesus to save us from our sin. Thank you for sending Jesus for all people in the world. There are people in our lives who need to hear about Jesus from us. Give us the courage to share the message of Christ's love with someone this week. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Optional Activity:**

*Think about your name and what God is calling you to do. Label the attached activity sheet with your name and your calling. Use magazine clippings, drawing utensils and other creative ways to decorate the page. Please note, we are all at different stages in our lives and may or may not recognize a specific calling just yet. For example, some may be called to serve others and some may specifically be called to serve others as a missionary. It is OK to be general or specific about your calling. Be patient and listen for God's guidance.*

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