



**JANUARY THEME
CALLED**

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 29:11;
Ephesians 2:10; Hebrews 11:8; Luke
1:29-33; Acts 9:1-6.

BOTTOM LINE : God calls us in many
ways



- Be sure to look at the large group interactions so you know what things to draw your kids' attention to throughout large group.

MY GOAL FOR THE NIGHT:

**THINK
ABOUT THIS**

God didn't create the world only to step back and watch it unwind itself. The God that we find in the Bible is constantly calling people to participate in God's unfolding work in the world. God is calling us in many ways, to follow Jesus Christ, as we are, from people, places and things, for service and work, through each other, in suffering, and from within. Today we will consider the "many ways" that God calls us. Those experiences of call often fall into one of three experiences: the acorn, the journey, or the aha! moment. How have you been called? How is God engaging you in the world? Let's find out.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Large Group Interactions

- **Worship** - This month we will enjoy the full StuMin band. Be on the lookout for our original songs which we are in the process of recording! Sing, clap, and model for the students how to be engaged in worship.
- **Game** - **Leader Trivia** - Throughout this month we will celebrate those that have answered the call to pass on the faith to students--leaders! Each week we'll invite students to answer different types of questions about leaders.
- **Message** - Students will be asked to turn to the person next to them to talk about the three models of calling. Help your group to find a partner or a group of three.

Small Group Study

Connect

- Highs/Lows and Prayer Requests
- Did you make any New Year's resolutions? Why did you make them? Are you keeping them?
- What did you learn about yourself in the last year? How will that change your next year?
- Revisit your small group covenant. How is that going? Does it still hold up? What needs to change or be adapted to fit your group now?

Questions

- What comes to mind when you hear the word "called"?
- Have you heard stories of other people being called? What did they say that sticks with you now?
- How do you react to the idea that God wants to engage you in God's story?
- Have you ever considered that your life is a subplot in God's story? What are some subplots to big stories that you know of?
- What would it take for you to begin to live into your subplot?
- Sometimes people can view their calling like an Acorn. An acorn can only be one thing--an oak tree. Do you agree or disagree with that idea of calling? Why?
- People who experience God's call in this way often refer to the following scriptures: Jeremiah 29:11 or Ephesians 2:10. Read those verses. Do they resonate with you?
- A second way to view your calling is as a journey. In this model, you would discover your calling as you live your life or by looking in the rearview. Does this sound like a vision of calling that connects with you?
- People who experience God's call in this way often refer to scriptures like Hebrews 11:8 which reflects on Abraham's life of faith. Does this sound like a vision of calling that connects with you?
- A third view of calling is as an aha! moment. In this model of calling, your call comes as a surprise to you, like a spark of insight about yourself.
- People who experience God's call in this way often feel like Mary in Luke 1:29-33 or like Paul in Acts 9:1-6. Does this sound like a vision of calling that resonates with you? Why or why not?
- Do you feel like you have a sense of how God wants to engage your subplot in God's story? Do you have a sense of your calling?

Notes and Prayer Requests

EXTRAS

Called Out People

What You Need: Pen, paper, envelope

What you do: In the case of the acorn, the journey, and the aha! it is possible that God uses significant people in our lives to lead us into our calling. Have you ever considered that you could be one of those people for someone in your life? As a sixth grader, or even a high school student, that may seem far-fetched. I'll be if you asked your leader, they would tell you that a lot of who they are now was influenced by someone they knew in middle or high school. So, think of someone that you know well or admire from afar to invest in using a note of encouragement. Write them a short note of encouragement and give it to them as soon as possible. Who knows, you may be who God is using to lead this person into their calling!

JUST FOR FUN

Telephone Charades

What You Need: The list below and a creative group!

What You Do: Telephone Charades is an icebreaker in which a person acts out a charade only for the next person in the line, who in turn acts out for the next person. The last person standing in line attempts to guess what the original clue was. Choose teams in your group and ask them to line up in a row, facing the left side of the room. Ask the first person to turn around to see the first clue to be acted out. Reveal the clue to the person, and display the clue to the other kids.

The first person turns around and taps the next person in line on the shoulder. He or she then acts out the clue using classic charades rules (no talking or noises permitted). The second person then taps the third person and acts out his or her understanding of what was acted out. This process continues until it reaches the last person in line, who must guess what the action is. Use the list of suggested actions provided below or come up with some of your own!