



## WEEKLY STUDY

### WEEK FOUR

We wrapped up this series of messages called Made for More with a look at how God calls his people into places we might not have imagined we'd go. The four guiding words of this series were Clarity, Cost, Commission and Call. These are 4 things we have to consider when stepping out in response to the life God is leading us to. Whether you are years into living out your call by God, or just exploring what it means to be called by God, I pray you will hear from God this week. May you gain clarity, consider the cost, and receive the commission to live out your calling. There is nothing more important!

Peace of Christ,  
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

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### DAILY STUDY

#### MONDAY: LUKE 10.4-9 (ESV)

*Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. <sup>5</sup> Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' <sup>6</sup> And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. <sup>8</sup> Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. <sup>9</sup> Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'*

- Once again, we return to this passage where Jesus called out 72 people to go ahead of him. 72 disciples. He had direct contact with them as he sent them out, and he prepared them with specific instructions. *Don't take what you think you need, receive instead what is offered.* The important thing is that they go where they are sent and offer peace and healing. We often long for such specific instructions from God. *Tell me where to go and what to take with me!* **Have you or someone you know ever received such a clear assignment from God?**
- *God, I long to hear from you. Show me a glimpse of what you are calling me to today. Amen.*

## TUESDAY: LUKE 10.17-20 (ESV)

*The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!"<sup>18</sup> And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.<sup>19</sup> Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.<sup>20</sup> Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."*

- As we studied last week, those who respond faithfully to their calling will find joy. We can tell the 72 understood their role in the work of God by the words they chose in their celebration. "...in your name!" Their work in the mission field was all about Jesus, even though *they* had cast out demons. We experience joy when we give glory to God for the great things that He has done. **Can you identify how your joy is connected to seeing God at work in the world around you?**
- *Jesus, send me out again. I long to experience the joy of the 72. I will do it all in your name. Amen.*

## WEDNESDAY: MATTHEW 4.18-22 (NIV)

*As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.<sup>19</sup> "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."<sup>20</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.*

<sup>21</sup> *Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them,<sup>22</sup> and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.*

- Once you begin to look, you will find call stories all over the Bible. God is interacting with the people he created in order to work his purposes and bring his Kingdom. There are some common themes that you'll find. As we studied a couple of weeks ago in the call story of Abraham, God's first words of calling are "leave". Here in the call story of Peter, James and John, Jesus said, "Come". The directive involves laying things down and taking a huge step of faith, and then another one, and another one. **What do you notice about the response of these early disciples? Can you imagine how you would respond to this call?**
- *Jesus, I admit that I take comfort in what is familiar, even if it is not as good as responding to your invitation to leave it behind. Give me courage and faith to follow you today. Amen.*

## THURSDAY: EXODUS 3.4-10 (NIV)

*When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"*

*And Moses said, "Here I am."*

<sup>5</sup> *"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."<sup>6</sup> Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.*

<sup>7</sup> *The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.<sup>8</sup> So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with*

milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. <sup>9</sup> And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. <sup>10</sup> So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

- Moses responded to God’s voice with what feels like eagerness. Here I am! It may have been surprise, fear, hope...or some combination of these, but what is clear is that Moses knew that he was seen. This was a whole new experience for him. He was in the presence of God, on holy ground, and God shared with him what he already knew...God’s people were suffering. What was Moses supposed to do about it? *Go! So now go. I am sending you...* **Have you ever wondered if God truly sees and hears your suffering? Have you ever experienced such a clear sense of being sent to participate in God alleviating the pain of others?**
- *God, it would be enough to know that you hear my cries. I lift them up to you now. What I know is that you have already responded to them and sent your Son to meet me in the suffering. Thank you. Amen.*

### FRIDAY: JOSHUA 1.1-6 (NIV)

The LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ aide: <sup>2</sup> “Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. <sup>3</sup> I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. <sup>4</sup> Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. <sup>5</sup> No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. <sup>6</sup> Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

- This is a great example of the continuation of a call. Sometimes we may be called to pick up where someone else has left off. It was Joshua’s call to carry the mantle after Moses’ death. He seemed to get an even more exciting assignment. He got to lead the people into the land they had been seeking for 40 years. It would not be easy, and it would involve great sacrifice. Joshua would have to be strong and courageous. But it was his clear call. **Name an example of a person called to pick up where someone else left off. What challenges might make it difficult to pick up where another left off?**
- *Lord God, the mission you have placed before me is not about me. It’s bigger than me and my generation. Help me to be strong and courageous to live out my calling. Amen.*

### SATURDAY: 1 SAMUEL 3.3-10 (NIV)

Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup> Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, “Here I am.” <sup>5</sup> And he ran to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.”

But Eli said, “I did not call; go back and lie down.” So he went and lay down.

<sup>6</sup> Again the Lord called, “Samuel!” And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.” “My son,” Eli said, “I did not call; go back and lie down.”

<sup>7</sup> Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

<sup>8</sup> A third time the Lord called, “Samuel!” And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.”

Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup> So Eli told Samuel, “Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup> The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, “Samuel! Samuel!”

Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

- It's not always immediately clear that it is God who is calling us. Thank God for others who can help us to discern the voice of God! Samuel needed Eli to help him cut through the confusion. As the audience, we have the perspective to know that God was calling Samuel all along, but in our own lives, we might find ourselves missing it, just like Samuel. **Do you have an Eli in your life who helps you to discern the voice of God?**
- *God, I long to hear your voice calling to me. Speak Lord, for your servant is listening. Amen.*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

### Call Story Structure

Some of you feel as though you have been called by God to something specific. Maybe it has to do with your job, your family, your community... Over the centuries, scholars have noted some patterns in the way God calls to God's people. Below you will find the structure referred to in Jacob's sermon. Consider how each of these have been part of your story, or the story of someone you know. Share examples. Does listening to the call stories of others help you to notice how God might be calling you?

- Divine Confrontations  
Example:
- Call  
Example:
- Objection/A sense of unworthiness  
Example:
- Commissioning  
Example:
- Reassurance  
Example:
- Signs  
Example: