

Lenten Sermon, John Reinke

“God calls me”

Reminder – If this does not give you enough time to practice use our example - I have our leaders follow a week or two behind in the readings with the sermons – so last weeks sermon they use this Sunday and this one they will use next week. That way they have more time to practice. No one will know if the reading are on the right day – only you. (of course - except for the big days of Christmas, Easter, etc)

(Leader: This is designed so you can write the CALL on white paper or chalkboard or print the letters CALL on paper and tape each one to the pulpit, altar, etc as you talk about each letter. Continue to use these visuals to help people. You can also print these on paper so people can write the answers. God Bless you as you lead His people!)

Open Prayer: Dear Lord, everyday many, many things happen in our life. Help us now push away all things and focus on You. Bless our time to learn Your Word and see Your guiding my life. Give strength to our souls with Your Holy Spirit. In Your Holy Name. Amen

God is Calling you! (for this paragraph sign this same-as picking up a phone)
If happen God Calls you – would you answer the phone
Would you be afraid to talk with God?
If God calls you on video relay – you want God to see you?
What would you say to God?

Today we are talking about CALL (fingerspell) – not call same-as phone.
Call (on hand) means come, attention
This Call does not mean only to talk –
it means God Calls you and I to listen to Him

Some examples are Moses and Jonah.
God Calls both to go and serve Him.
He Calls them to become His Servants and proclaim His Word.
But Moses did great things in Egypt and lead the people out.
Jonah told the city named Nineveh to repent – and they did!
What about you and me?
God Calls me to go to another place?

We will use the letters CALL to help understand what Call means for you and me.

C = Come

If you are standing 1 miles down the road – can you see my signs?

If you are standing 1 block down can you?

If you are standing in another room – can you see my signs?

You know the answer – it is a little silly – naturally you must be in the same room

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Close to me and see what I am saying.

But many people do not understand that about God.

They say – oh yes, I believe in God –

But they do whatever they want.

Same for many people who name themselves Christians.

They say yes, I believe in Jesus – BUT they do not come and follow Him.

God Calls us in our Baptism!

He comes close to us – He makes us His children

Everyday He Calls us – He comes to us in His Word

Happens we celebrate Lord's Supper He comes to you and me.

He give us His love and forgiveness.

He makes us clean and gives us His strength.

WOW – first God comes to us (you, you, you....).

Next God also Calls us to Come

Which God says? Stay and sit or He says “Come, Follow Me”

Right – this is ACTION.

God coming to us is His action – now God also Calls us to ACTION in His Name.

That means we are close to Him.

We can see Jesus – this means your and my faith.

We study His Word, Worship Him, and grow together in faith.

God Calls you to Come, Follow Him.

A=and

Sometimes people think “AND” is a very simple, easy word.

For you and I it is very important.

Often people only see the first part and they miss what is after the “AND”

Examples:

God said to Moses – Go AND free my people

Jesus said to His followers – Go AND make disciples of ALL nations

People love to GO – they love to travel – they love to meet other Deaf people

They love to go hunting, fishing, camping, travel - see new things.

We love to GO - BUT I wonder how many of us go AND do want God CALLS us to do?

C = Come
A = And

L = Learn

First we need to learn what God wants.
You are right – it is need – should – NOT maybe.
We NEED to LEARN what God wants in our life.

Moses could have a great time – travel to Egypt – look around
Then come back home.
Much less work for him, he would not travel in the desert for 40 years.
He would not listen to people complain for 40 years.

Think of Jonah – he learned the hard way.
God Calls him to GO to Nineveh – instead he runs away.
BUT he cannot escape God's Call – he is swallowed by a BIG fish –
For 3 days he is inside – learning again what God wants him to do.

Many people think CALL means only for Pastor or someone who works in church
Only they need to learn.
NO – God CALLs EACH ONE, ONE, ONE, ONE
First He CALLS all of us to become His people,
He Calls us to be Christians - He also Calls us to our work in this world.

(point to people who are in these positions – add more for your people)
He Calls you to be faithful husband - you to be a loving wife
He Calls you to be good children – you to be wonderful grandparents
He Calls you to be a good businessman, carpenter, cook, draftsman, etc

He Calls us to Come – to follow Him.
He also Calls us to learn – no matter what you and I do in our lives – we do for HIM!
You did not decide yourself to become a mother – God Calls you to be a mother.
You did not decide yourself to become a printer – God Calls you to be a printer
(give other examples for your people)

You and I are in this world as His announcers – His examples – His light.
No matter what we do – He calls us to do it for Him!

C = Come
A = And
L = Learn
L = ??

What you think?
What is the last "L" for???

(I normally have the paper up and let people give ideas – I write them on the paper – this one can, should have different ideas)

Examples – love, leaders, Lord, Law, listen

You see many different words for L –

These are GREAT!

God Calls us to Learn many things about Him, about His Will in our lives, about myself, about other people.

Examples:

LOVE – Jesus said, “what are the two most important commandments?”

Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and mind;

and love your neighbor (other people) the same-as you love yourself.

LEADERS – Only Pastors and our officers are leaders – right?

God Calls ALL of us to become leaders in His Kingdom.

Every members has gifts and skills God finished gives to them.

He Calls each of us to use these skills for His Glory.

What is your gift, your skill?

How can you help lead people to learn about Jesus?

LORD – Jesus is our Lord and Savior

He is the ruler in our life.

I know often people do not like someone “boss” over them,

that is how they think of Jesus – they don’t want Jesus King over them.

You and I know Jesus died to save us.

As our Lord He gave us everything for us – He showed us His love.

BUT Jesus is also the Creator of this world and everything we see and cannot see.

Without Him – NOTHING would be here.

He does know what is best for us – He wants us to follow Him and go to Heaven.

LAW – Yes, the Law is here.

God gives us the law to help us and guide us.

Most important – the law shows my sins – it shows me I am not perfect.

I need His love and forgiveness to take away my bad actions.

God wants us to STAND UP and say the Law AND the Gospel.

We cannot only say God is love.

People must also know God is a Holy and Perfect God – He cannot accept sin.

What was wrong 8000 years ago – continues wrong today.

People maybe think things change today – yes – people can change.

Often people change – for better or for worse? For Worse!

BUT God does NOT change.

LISTEN – you have many things do, do, do, do, do.....
Make time – listen what God is telling you – see where He is guiding you.
He is Calling you for His purpose.
He wants you to share His love and forgiveness, His Law and Gospel, with
people in your life.

God finished Call you!!
Come and Learn from Him.
See what He wants to do in your life.

Maybe it will be to travel to another country to free people from the slavery of sin.
Maybe it will be to share Jesus with your fellow campers.
Maybe it will be to show love and care for the person who lost their husband/wife.
Maybe it will be to teach your children/grandchildren about Jesus.
Come and Learn His Call in your life.

Closing Prayer:

Thank You God for Calling me,
Thank You for making me your child.
Please help me to learn and follow you,
I want to see where You lead in my life.
Please send Your Holy Spirit to work in me and in my life.
In Jesus Holy Name. Amen