

called to serve:

isaiah, amos and jeremiah

selections from Isaiah, Amos, and Ephesians

God used different ways of communicating with His prophets, but all of them got the message and responded.

The call of Isaiah

▶ Read Isaiah 6:1-8 and answer the following questions:

- ▶ Suppose you had never before heard of God. What would you know about Him after reading this chapter?
- ▶ In what ways did Isaiah respond to God during this confrontation?
- ▶ What instructions and preparation was Isaiah given for the work he would do?

The call of Amos

▶ Read Amos 7:10-17 and answer the following questions:

- ▶ Suppose you had never before heard of God. What would you know about Him after reading this chapter?
- ▶ Put yourself in Amos's place. What fears would you have about the work God had given you?
- ▶ What evidence does this passage provide of Amos's faith and courage?

The call of Jeremiah

▶ Read Jeremiah 1:4-19 and answer the following questions:

- ▶ Suppose you had never before heard of God. What would you know about Him after reading this chapter?
- ▶ Put yourself in Jeremiah's place. How might you have felt about delivering this message?
- ▶ What assurance does this chapter provide for those called by God?

All three of these prophets were aware that God was giving them a specific call. No matter what we are called to do either now or in the future, our lives should show the characteristics of a person who has accepted Christ's call to serve.

- ▶ What characteristics? Begin your list with a study of the last portion of today's text—Ephesians 4:1-4.

Isaiah 6:1-8

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple.

²Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. ⁵"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Amos 7:14-15

¹⁴Amos answered Amaziah, "I was neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but I was a shepherd, and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees.

¹⁵But the LORD took me from tending the flock and said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

Ephesians 4:1-4

¹As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called.

»mon

The word “workmanship” in this verse could also be translated “poem.” Think about this: God has a plan for you, but you are not a robot. Keep a journal this week of all the ways you see yourself as God’s unique creation.

»tues

The phrase “in Christ” is a popular one with the apostle Paul. Look up these verses and try to come up with a definition, or a list, of what it means to be “in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1; 1 Corinthians 1:26-30; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Ephesians 1:13.

»wed

Read Ephesians 2:8-10. We are not saved by good works; we are saved for good works. What’s the difference? Go back and read the entire chapter up to this point. Does that help?

»thurs

Keep your eyes and ears open today for “good works” God may have prepared for you. Then record them in your journal. You may be surprised.

»fri

God is preparing you for certain future tasks. How do you think He might use your unique characteristics and

experiences to fulfill His purposes? If you’re not sure, ask a mature Christian who knows you well to tell what he or she sees in you.

»sat

Look back over your journal for the week. Spend some time praising God for what He’s shown you and done through you this week. Then thank Him for His future plans for you.

For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

— Ephesians 2:10

FLIP SIDE

A MOM AND HER DAUGHTER ON: MONEY

KIM JOHNSON (16)

Money is one of those things that can be good or bad. Too much or too little money can lead to a person’s destruction.

Having a lot of money can make a person feel superior. They feel that they are in control of their life. The Bible says, “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than it is for a rich man to enter heaven.” Not trying to say that it’s impossible for a rich man to enter heaven, but this passage does hint that it’s hard.

When you do have to worry about financial troubles, you’re more likely to call on God for help and put your trust in Him. Still, I find myself longing to have enough money so I can buy all the clothes and accessories I want.

I love working hard and getting money. I think that is one of the reasons I will be successful in life. I have a drive to work hard for money. That can also, in some cases, lead to an obsession for money. (Which I do not want to acquire.)

Even though money should not be super important to me, I often feel that it is. I love having money in my wallet. Of course, when I do have money, I tend to spend it on things I would not have spent it on if I didn’t have a lot of money in my wallet.

Money, in a way, is sort of personal, because our everyday life revolves around it. It is part of our wants, our needs and our desires. Can’t live with a lot of it and can’t live without it.

PAT JOHNSON (45)

Surprisingly, God doesn’t say that money is evil. He does say that the love of money is the root of all sorts of evil. This is because if we make money our priority, we are focusing on the wrong thing. God wants us to focus on Him and others. He wants us to use the money he has given us to bless others. He wants us to use our money in the right way.

God has given us everything we have, and His Word tells us to give some back to God. This is so we will see money with the right perspective.

Because my husband is in sales, we don’t always have a lot of cash. Sometimes we have money and sometimes we do not. No matter what, we have tried to teach our kids that you give back to God first.

God also wants us to share our money with others. He wants us to be generous. God tells us in Proverbs 3:27, “Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act.”

No matter how much money God has blessed you with, use it to bless others.

