

BIBLE STUDY

1. CALLED TO GO

1. Bible Reading

Read Genesis 12.1-5

Abraham hears God's call and responds

2. Questions

Where was Abraham when God called him?

Where am I?

What was God's promise to Abraham?

What did he do in response?

What is God's promise to me? How do I respond?

3. Further Reflection

Reflection on the story

Galatians 3.6-9

Who are Abraham's descendants?

Who am I?

Galatians 4.31 and 5.1

Sarah bore Abraham's son, but who produces Abraham's descendants?

4. Prayer

Almighty God, whose chosen servant Abraham faithfully obeyed your call and rejoiced in your promise that in him, all the families of the earth should be blessed: give us a faith like his, that in us, your promises may be fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

2. CHALLENGING SLEAZE

1. Bible Reading

Read 2 Samuel 11.26-12.12

David has taken another man's wife and had her husband killed as a cover-up. Nathan the prophet awakens King David's conscience.

2. Questions

How did Nathan know the King was wrong?

How did he tell him?

Have I ever had to challenge someone in authority?

Could I trust God to give me the right words?

3. Further Reflection

Reflection on the story

1 Timothy 5.19.22

How should a minister in the Church deal with what goes wrong?

4. Prayer

Almighty Father, whose will it is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the king of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

3. **CO-OPERATING FOR TRUTH**

1. **Bible Reading**

Read 2 Kings 22.8-20

A copy of God's forgotten law is discovered during fabric repairs at the temple.

2. **Questions**

Who were the people who realized that their whole nation was off course?

How did they find out what was true?

Could I work with other people to find God's word for today?

Could I trust God to bring his "team" together?

3. **Further Reflection**

Reflection on the story

Hebrews 4.12-13

Jesus is the Word made flesh.

How does he challenge me?

4. **Prayer**

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, now and for ever. Amen.

4. **CHANGING MINDS**

1. **Bible Reading**

Read Isaiah 40.1-8

God's word of hope come to a prophet in exile: God himself will come and save his people.

2. **Questions**

Who is the prophet talking to?

Where are his people?

Who is God calling me to serve?

What is good news for them?

3. **Further reflection**

Reflection on the passage

Mark 1.1-15

How did Jesus prepare for his ministry?

How might I begin to prepare?

4. **Prayer**

Almighty God, who sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people for the coming of you Son: inspire the ministers and stewards of your truth to turn disobedient hearts to the law of love; that when he comes again in glory, we may stand with confidence before him as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

5. **CELEBRATING GOD'S WORK IN PROGRESS**

1. Bible Reading

Read Luke 1.39-56

Mary makes a long journey to find a kindred spirit and explore with her what God's calling might mean.

2. Questions

Who did Mary visit after she heard God's call?

How did Elizabeth recognize what was happening to Mary?

Who would recognize and affirm a genuine call from God to me?

How can we celebrate God's work before we see the end of it?

3. Further Reflection

Reflection on the story. 1 Corinthians 4.9-13

What does it mean to be called by God to a special ministry?

2 Corinthians 4.5-12

Why are some ministers ordained?

4. Prayer

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect into one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son. Grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those inexpressible joys which you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

(Collect for All Saints' Day)