

The Gospel Project for Adults, Fall 2016
Interactive Teaching Tips for Adults, Session 10

Introduction: *Discuss God's calling on our lives.*

Share a few things you were naturally able to do, felt compelled to do, or did in your free time from a young age. (Did you write poetry? Pretend to conduct an orchestra? Shoot thousands of free throws?)

Engage a few other volunteers in sharing some things they've always felt called to do. Ask, "How do we know if we *want* to do something or if God is *calling* us to do that thing?"

Show the clip "God's Calling" from the film *World Trade Center* (1 minute, 14 seconds): <http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/world-trade-center/gods-calling>

Then with the group, discuss a time in your life when God's calling came clearly to you. Encourage a few others to do the same. Say something like, "If you don't know God's calling for your life, maybe you know it for this season. But maybe there are many doubts and obstacles. Let's pray that we find confidence and camaraderie in today's passage about the calling of Jeremiah."

[Word of Caution: During this discussion, you will want to be careful to avoid giving people the impression that God speaks directly with us about His calling on our lives as He did in the case of prophets like Jeremiah.]

Point 1: *Illustrate God's plan with a puzzle.*

Bring some sort of puzzle or multi-piece game to class that would be difficult to solve without a picture of the finished product. Challenge a learner or two to complete the puzzle in a short time. (Your goal is to give them a puzzle that they cannot finish in that time but that you can finish easily because you know what it should look like or be.) If you don't have a puzzle on hand, you may want to try taking apart a pen or some other kitchen tool that breaks down into many parts.

Solve the puzzle yourself, explaining that you had already seen the completed work and knew what it would look like.

Help learners understand that we, like the puzzle, don't know what the finished product looks like. But God, who created us, sustains us, and calls

us, understands fully. We are at our best when we entrust the unfolding of our lives to Him.

Point 2: “*Do not be afraid.*”

Enlist several volunteers to each read one of the following passages aloud: Isaiah 35:4; John 14:27; Joshua 1:9; and Isaiah 43:1.

Ask, “What do each of these Scriptures have in common?” (Answer: God is commanding His people not to be afraid.)

Enlist a few more volunteers to read the following aloud: Psalm 94:19; Romans 8:38-39; Psalm 34:4; and Psalm 27:1. Ask, “What do each of these Scriptures have in common?” (Answer: They each reveal the words of a believer who is not afraid.)

Challenge learners to consider *why* we are commanded to not be afraid and *how* we can honestly obey this command.

Conclusion: *But...*

Give each learner a 3-by-5-inch card. Ask, “What are some things that every believer is called to do?” (Some answers include love others, pray, share the gospel, forgive, etc.)

As the answers are said aloud, instruct learners to write them on one side of their cards. Say, “Like Jeremiah, we can honestly assess the difficulties we’ll face and our own inadequacies. We will find ourselves saying ‘but’ quite a bit.” On the backs of the cards, instruct learners to write “but” on the card boldly and at least three doubts or fears they have in following God’s call.

Say something like this, “What we should remember, though, is that *God* is our source of power. *God* is the One who called us even before we were born. *God* is the one who removes our obstacles. In the face of our doubts, we should say, ‘But God!’ ”

Challenge learners to keep this card handy as a reminder of God’s call and equipping.

Teaching Tip of the Week

Some learners will have an understanding and clarity of God’s call on their lives; others will still be wondering. Assure everyone that every learner has a

calling to know and follow Jesus. If we do not recognize a specific calling, we should start obeying this mandate first.