

Time for Decision

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as

STEP 1

**Lesson 2****Focus:**

When God calls, how do you answer?

Lesson 2**Bible Basis:**

Isaiah 6:1-8; Amos 7:14-15; Jeremiah 1:4-19; Ephesians 4:1-4

Lesson 2**Memory Verse:**

“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

Your students will look at their greatest fears, in order to understand what it takes to answer God’s call to a Christian lifestyle.

Materials:

None

Open today’s lesson by discussing with your students the things that they fear the most and how this shapes their actions.

➤ **What is your greatest fear?** (Give your students a moment to think about this question before allowing a few to respond.)

A greatest fear is something that looks different for each one of us depending upon our individual experiences, but there is one thing that remains the same for all people: the feeling. It’s the thing that every time you think about, you feel sick, scared—you’d do pretty much anything to avoid it.

We like to think that these fears only exist in nightmares—that even though we’ve heard stories of them occurring, there’s no way it could actually happen to us.

On February 23, 2021, the terrorist group Boko Haram launched another attack on Nigerian citizens. Their attacks often target churches and schools in particular. This particular attack, using rocket grenades for mass destruction, took 10 lives and caused 47 injuries. BBC News estimates that in around a decade of this terrorist group, more than 36,000 lives have been lost. Up to 2 million Nigerian citizens have been displaced in the last decade because of these attacks.

➤ **Although Boko Haram hasn’t launched any attacks on the US, what do you think you would do in a similar situation?** (Instruct your students that they do not need to respond aloud, but rather that they should think about this idea for a few moments.)

It's hard to know how we'd react in this position. We can hope that we would step up to help the affected people, even if it put our lives at risk. Whether it makes national headlines or not, every single day, people are answering the call to do difficult things, but that doesn't make it any less scary or difficult.

Being called to do challenging things is just a part of living a Christian life. Today, we'll see how people just like us responded when God called them to do difficult things. Let's take a look.

Resources: Story Source

https://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-africa-47639452?ns_mchannel=social&ns_source=twitter&ns_campaign=bbc_live&ns_linkname=60362adef1296a02de3aa503%26At%20least%2010%20dead%20in%20suspected%20Boko%20Haram%20attack%262021-02-24T12%3A11%3A46.740Z&ns_fee=0&pinned_post_locator=urn:asset:c2debef8-a0b9-4bc8-b1d7-b50280843555&pinned_post_asset_id=60362adef1296a02de3aa503&pinned_post_type=share

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Lesson 2 / March 14, 2021

Time for Decision

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 2**Focus:**

When God calls, how do you answer?

Lesson 2**Bible Basis:**

Isaian 6:1-8; Amos 7:14-15; Jeremiah 1:4-19; Ephesians 4:1-4

Lesson 2**Memory Verse:**

“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

Materials:

- Index cards (1 per student)
- Pens/pencils (1 per student)
- Whiteboard or screenshared document

If your class is meeting online, invite your students to bring a pen/pencil and index card with them to class.

So far, we’ve discussed God’s call as seen in the actions of the prophets. Now, it’s time for us to answer in our own lives.

One of the biggest problems Christians face when knowing how to respond to a divine mandate is even realizing when God is reaching out to us. How can we discern between a spiritual call-to-action and the crowded thinking of our own lives?

Think of it like this, we can’t respond to a call if we don’t know someone is calling. It’s like trying to answer a phone when it’s in airplane mode. We need to have our metaphorical “service” switched on, so that we even have the ability to receive a call.

Now you may be thinking, how are we to do this? After all, it isn’t as simple as changing a setting in our phones. But, there is one method that Christ-followers have been using for centuries to prepare their minds to hear God.

Meditation is a powerful tool in the Christian work belt. Although meditation has been twisted to represent a secular practice, the act has deep scriptural roots. Have a student read Psalm 19:14: “May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer” (Psalm 19:14).

How many of you know how to worry? When you worry, you are meditating on the bad circumstance or thing you fear the most. Rick Warren, pastor and author of *The Purpose Driven Life* (Zondervan), describes meditation this way: “Meditation is focused thinking. It takes serious effort. You select a verse and reflect on it over and over in your mind...if you know how to worry, you already know how to meditate” (190).

Hand out index cards and pens/pencils to your students. If your class is meeting online, invite them to have those items ready. Generate a discussion with your class regarding this practice.

Write the following seven Scriptures on the board or screen-shared document as an idea of where to start the meditation process.

Some sample Scriptures to meditate on...

- Love – 1 Cor. 13:1
- God's Mercy – Rom. 5:8
- God's Forgiveness – 2 Cor. 5:21
- God's Compassion – Psa. 103:13-14
- Our Security – John 10:28-29
- God's Faithfulness – 2 Pet. 2:9
- The Lord Being with You – Gen. 39:20-21

Instruct your students to choose one of the Scriptures. Then, challenge them to read the verse through a couple times, pray to ask God to reveal His wisdom, and meditate on the truth of the verse. Feel free to call upon additional resources if you are wanting to provide your students with greater Scriptural context for biblical meditation.

Once you have thoroughly discussed this topic, challenge your students to put this action into practice over the coming week. Challenge them to engage in a different Scripture for 10 minutes of meditation each day, opening themselves up to hear God's call and documenting any change that occurs in their faith in the process.

Close in prayer, thanking God for calling on His people and giving us the opportunity to live radically for Him.

Additional resources:

Christian Meditation

<https://www.allaboutgod.com/christian-meditation.htm>

7 Key Bible Scriptures to Meditate On

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/christiancrier/2014/08/24/7-key-bible-scriptures-to-meditate-on/>

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