



Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Year 3, Lesson 52 (Spring)

# Ordinary People— Extraordinary Calling

**Primary Scripture:** Isaiah 6:8 and 43:1-2

**Key Verse:** Isaiah 43:1b, “I have called you by name; you are mine.”

## **How does this address a need in our kids' lives?**

Children may feel that because they are young, God does not have a special purpose or calling for them. Maybe they feel too ordinary for God to do something extraordinary through them. However, followers of Christ can know for sure that God has called them by name and called them for a very special purpose. Kids need to know how intimately God knows and loves them. Because of this, he calls each believer serve in him in all we do.

## **How does Jesus fill this need?**

**Jesus for us:** Though Jesus' life, death and resurrection in our place, we have access to God as our Father. He calls us by name as sons and heirs of the kingdom.

**Jesus in us:** Through faith in Christ, we have the power to become like Christ in all aspects of our lives.

**Jesus through us:** As children of God, we can call on others to learn the truth about the kind of love that is possible through a personal relationship with Jesus.

## Stamp of Excellence:

*Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.*



## Worship

### Invocation:

*Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

### Attention Grabber:

*Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.*

*Supplies: several pieces of paper and a container to put the paper in.*

In advance, write the names of some of the children on pieces of paper and then put them in a container (a bucket, hat, etc.).

**Good morning, boys and girls. I am so happy that you came this morning. Our time together just wouldn't be the same without (name some of the children). You are all so special to me and the others at Kids Church. Because of you, our time together is filled with so much joy.**

**I wonder. What is in this container?**

One at a time, pull a name out of the container, read it out loud and compliment this child on something specific. *(The key to this activity is to use as many names as possible in a short amount of time.)*

Say the name of a child. **What a beautiful name.**

(Repeat the child's name), **you are** \_\_\_\_\_ (insert a character quality obvious in this child such as kind, happy, talkative, musical etc.).

**Thanks so much for being here and sharing your gifts with all of us.**

Continue to pull about three to four names and compliment each child briefly.

If you are one of those that I just called, how did it feel when you heard your name? Didn't it make you feel special that you were recognized and complimented?

I didn't have time to recognize every person by name. But the Bible says God calls every one of you by name. You listen not with your ears but with your heart. He says this through the prophet Isaiah. *"I have called you by name; you are mine."* (Isaiah 43:1b)

You are special to him. Now, let's tell him how special he is to us in our worship and in our praise. Let's call upon him by name. He is the true and living God—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

## Songs of Worship:

*Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!*

Your choice of music.

## The Power of the Cross:

*Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.*

*Supplies: three index cards with a self-doubting phrase written on each one:*

*1) I'm not very important because I'm not an adult. 2) I'm not special. I don't sing in the worship team. 3) God couldn't use me. On the back of each card should be written, "From Satan."*

### Introduce Lucinda Noworth

**Now we are going to do some pretending. I need a volunteer from the audience who is going to pretend to be someone for me.**

Call up a volunteer who can play-act with you.

**Have a seat in the chair. I'd like to introduce to you Lucinda Noworth (if a boy, Lionel Noworth). Look at Lucinda (or Lionel). See how her face is sad, her head droops down, and her shoulders slump over?**

Encourage the child actor to play-act the part.

**Do you know why? Because Lucinda believes she has no worth. She doesn't think she is worth anything.**

### Read three cards.

**Why does Lucinda believe she has no worth? Because she has thoughts like this in her mind.**

Have the volunteer read the three cards into the microphone if she/he is a good reader, or read them yourself.

### Lies from the enemy

**Where did these cards come from?**

Have Lucinda look at the note on the back of the cards and answer.

**These beliefs are lies from the enemy, Satan. He wants us to believe things that aren't true so he can get us to think badly about ourselves.**

### Listen to God's truth.

**God's truth is so different. He says you are valuable, not because you are talented, gifted, good looking or because you serve him. He says you are valuable because he loves you and calls you by name to be his own.**

**How much are you worth to him? He traded his Son Jesus. Jesus went to the cross and paid the punishment for all the wrong you have ever done. He did that because you are so important to him. He couldn't stand the idea of spending forever without you. The only way you can ever get to heaven is to have your sins taken away. And, that is what Jesus did.**

Have the volunteer return to his/her seat.

### Go to the cross to find your value.

**So let's go to the cross of Jesus and pray that we discover our value in him.**

**Dear Jesus, sometimes we don't listen to the truth and only think about the lies the devil wants us to believe. Often we don't believe we are special, or don't believe we are important. We may even think you don't love us, God, or really haven't given us a purpose for life. We are sorry if we believed that. Thank you for giving your Son Jesus to die for us. That was a huge price to pay so that we can be your children forever. Let us live as the valuable people we are in your sight. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **Song of Response:**

*Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.*

## **Offering:**

*Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.*

**We have been talking today about how God calls us by name and how special we are to him. He has given each one of us so many blessings because we are special in his eyes.**

**How can we show him that he is special to us, as well? Our offering is one way we can show our love. Today, let's thank him for calling us by name and making each one of us special.**

**Now let's bring our offerings of thanks to him.**



# The Word

## Learning Game:

*Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.*

*Supplies: one sock per twenty children, two masking tape lines—10 yards long, parallel to each other and ten yards apart—the key verse (Isaiah 43:1b) is to be printed on paper and placed in the sock*

### **Sock Snatch:**

This game is actually the classic “Steal the Bacon” with a new title. A folded up sock is placed in the middle of two lines where the two teams face each other.

Assign each team member a number from one to ten. Start the numbering from left to right as kids face the center. Tell the students they must remember the number they have been assigned.

When a number from one to ten is called, the two members with that number, one from each team, race to the center to snatch the sock. The challenge is once the first member snatches the sock, the other player may tag the first player before he/she returns to his/her team line. If the original “snatcher” escapes, that team receives the point. If the second player tags the first player, that team wins the point.

*Give bonus points to kids who can say the game title three times quickly.*

Debrief the game after several rounds are played.

**Who can describe for me what it felt like when you were waiting for your number to be called and it finally was?** Interview participants.

**One thing is for sure. It is exciting to hear your number called and to know that you have an important job to do for your team.**

**Isaiah 6:8 says, “Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, ‘Whom will I send? Who will go for us?’ I said, ‘Here I am. Send me!’”**

**Be very quiet right now and listen. If you can't hear with your ears, maybe you can hear with your heart. God is whispering your name. He is calling you by name to be his own child. I don't know exactly what he has planned for you, but I do know that he wants you to follow him. When you do, you will certainly be a winner.**

Pull the paper from the sock and read the key verse.

## **Bible Presentation: Video**

For today's illustration of God calling someone to serve him, use one of the following selections:

1. *Visual Bible: Acts*, produced by Visual Bible International. Show the story of Saul's (Paul) conversion and his calling from Acts 9:1-15. Order from [http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=364](http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=364).

Video name: *Visual Bible: Acts*

Start time after opening credits: 6:15

Spoken Cue: "Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats." (9:1 at bottom of screen)

End time: 10: 28

Spoken Cue: "He regained his strength." (9:19 at the bottom of the screen.

Total length of clip: 4:13

2. *Animated Stories of the Bible: Mose*, distributed by Nest Family Entertainment. Show the story of Moses and the burning bush. Order from [http://www.nestfamily.com/store/product\\_detail.asp?productID=MSD](http://www.nestfamily.com/store/product_detail.asp?productID=MSD).

Video name: *Animated Stories of the Bible: Moses*

Start time after opening credits: 17:19

Spoken Cue: (Moses is at camp while tending sheep and goes up the mountain.)

End time: 19:29

Spoken Cue: "Go, Moses, and do as I command."

Total length of clip: 2:10

3. *Prince of Egypt*, produced by Dreamworks, 1998. Order from: <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0783236689/casenet/104-5078131-7724724>

Video name: *Prince of Egypt*

Start time after opening credits: 42 minutes

Spoken Cue: (Moses follows a sheep into a crevice in the mountain.)

End time: 46:40

Spoken Cue: "I shall be with you, Moses."

Total length of clip: 4:40

## **Application: Dramatic Storytelling—"A Call from God"**

*The presenter will debrief the video and is interrupted by the ringing of his cell phone. He takes the call and has a conversation with God. To make this work, another person can call from behind stage.*

### Debrief the video clip

**How many of you would like to trade places with the main character we saw? What would it have been like for God to call you out special and give you great responsibility?**

Take a few answers.

**I would like to be chosen like Moses, or the apostle Paul. But I think that God probably used them, instead of me, because they were extra special. I don't know if God uses ordinary people, and I'm kind of ordinary.**

*Ring...* A phone call from "God" interrupts the presenter.

**Excuse me, I have a phone call. Caller ID says it is my father calling, so I must take this call. It must be important.**

**Hi, Dad, how are you? What's wrong with your voice? Must be the reception. Sounds so deep and different. I can't talk right now as I am in the middle of Kids Church. What do mean you know where I am? Why did you call? What? You have something you want to say in Kids Church? But, Dad, is it worth interrupting church to tell them? Okay, it is. What is it that you want to tell them? Oh, you first want to tell me? Well, okay.**

Listen for a time with "uh-huhs" thrown in once in a while.

**Dad, did you just say you think I'm special? Pause. Who is this really? Yes, you say you are my father. You know me by name and have a special purpose for me? Who is this really? Yes, you already said that you are my father, but I don't think you are my dad. Long pause.**

**Oh-h-h-h-h, you are my heavenly Father. I didn't know that you have my number... more than my number—my name and everything about me. Why am I so special? I'm just an ordinary person.**

**Why are you picking on me? You're not picking on me? Oh, you picked me to be your own and do something extraordinary for you. Am I willing? Of course. I'm just ordinary but you can do**

extraordinary things through ordinary people who listen and obey your call.

I can do that, but I cannot be Moses or Paul. Okay, you don't need another Moses or Paul. But you do need a Kids Church leader and you do need someone like me to be your representative in my family and in my neighborhood and in my job. Okay. I can do that. You have called me and I am yours. So is this what you wanted to tell me? It is. Okay, I'll tell the kids, too. What did you say again? *"I have called you by name. You are mine."*

Okay, kids, did you get that? God has a special plan for *you* as his own.

Thank you, heavenly Father. We'll talk again in just a bit.



# Witness

## Witness and Tell:

*Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.*

Have kids share what ways they think God can use them this week in their schools, homes or neighborhood.

## Prayer:

*Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.*

**Options:** (select one from the options below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

**Lord's Prayer:** Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

## Blessing:

*Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.*

## Song of Sending:

*Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.*

# Supplies:

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

## *Attention Grabber:*

- several pieces of paper
- a container (bucket, hat, box, etc.) to put the paper in

## *The Power of the Cross:*

- three index cards with a self-doubting phrase written on each one—examples are:
  - I'm not very important because I'm not an adult.
  - I'm not special. I don't sing in the worship team.
  - God couldn't use me.
- on the back of these cards write or place a label that says "From Satan"

## *Learning Game:*

- one sock per twenty children
- masking tape
- the key verse (Isaiah 43:1b) printed on paper and placed in the sock

## *Bible Presentation:* Video—use one of the following selections:

- *Visual Bible: Acts*, produced by Visual Bible International. Show the story of Saul's (Paul) conversion and his calling from Acts 9:1-15. Order from [http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=364](http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=364).
- *Animated Stories of the Bible: Moses* distributed by Nest Family Entertainment. Show the story of Moses and the burning bush or portions that tell the Bible event covering Exodus 3:1-10 where the LORD God says, "Go, I am sending you to Pharaoh..." Order from [http://www.nestfamily.com/store/product\\_detail.asp?productID=MSD](http://www.nestfamily.com/store/product_detail.asp?productID=MSD).
- *Prince of Egypt*, produced by Dreamworks, 1998. Order from: <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0783236689/casenet/104-5078131-7724724>

## *Application:*

- a phone (*pretend or real*)