



Session 4: Called

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

GOAL: The goal of this lesson is twofold:

1. *This small group lesson is designed to help you and your students go deeper into what it means to follow Jesus. The moment we acknowledge Jesus as Lord and submit our lives to him is not the finish line; it's the starting line. Christ calls us to be his disciples. That means our lives should change in a few ways: We should start growing to look more and more like Jesus. We should be salt in the world, blessing those around us by living out kingdom values. And we should share the good news of Jesus, shining his light into the darkest corners of society.*
2. *It is also designed to make it easy for you to facilitate and teach students about the reason we don't go straight to heaven when we start following Jesus. That is why the Small Group Leader Guide is packed with easy-to-use instructions, timeframes, and questions that promote thinking and draw out real responses.*

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- A copy of the Facilitator's Guide for you and any other facilitators.
- A Student Book for each participant.
- Be sure to check out the Live It Out section ahead of time to prepare: *Printed maps of your town or region (big enough so that most students' houses and schools are on it), pens, highlighters, markers.*

TEACHER PREP VIDEO:

Don't forget to take a minute and watch the teacher prep video found in your DNow Studies account. It's a short video that will take you through some of the need-to-knows before you dive into this lesson with students.



The Small Group Leader Guide This table outlines the parts of each lesson and provides an approximate timeframe that you can adapt to meet the needs of your group.

Lesson Outline	Included in Facilitator's Guide	Included in Student Book	Approximate Timeframe
Large Talk Review with Opening Questions		Yes	3-5 minutes
A Second Look An illustration of life after following Jesus—followed by discussion questions..	Yes	Yes	10–15 minutes
A Little Deeper Dig into Bible passages that were not in the Large Group Talk. See what else Scripture says about this topic.	Yes	Yes + Discussion Questions	15-20 minutes
Live it out An experiential activity to help students reinforce and internalize the lesson—followed by discussion questions.	Yes		10–15 minutes
Apply it A practical application for students to do this week.	Yes	Yes	2–3 minutes
Student Devotional A short devotional for students to do on their own.		Yes	

LARGE GROUP TALK REVIEW

Take a minute to review what students just learned in the Large Group Talk. Have them pull out their notes, and ask them to share what their answers were for the two questions found on **page 28** of the Student Book. Consider having students share their answers with a partner, and then ask for two or three volunteers who might want to share with the whole group.



A SECOND LOOK

Read this story together as a group and answer the following questions, found on **page 30** of the Student Book.

Frederick Banting wanted to do great things. After graduating from high school, he decided to dedicate his life to helping people, so he got a degree in medicine. Rather than using that training to make himself rich, he joined the Canadian Army Medical Corps to serve in the First World War. Even though his job was to tend to wounded soldiers, he was wounded at the battle of Cambrai. Yet despite these injuries, he helped other wounded men for 16 more hours. He only stopped when another doctor forced him to take care of himself. For his heroism in battle, he was awarded the Military Cross. Frederick was only in his 20s, and he had already achieved one of the highest military honors possible.

Frederick could have taken it easy from there. Instead, he kept pushing forward. After reading an article about diabetes, he decided to study ways to help people with the disease. Frederick discovered a new way to produce insulin and was the first person to use it to help humans. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine when he was 32—one of the highest honors in medicine. Still, he wasn't done. He dedicated the rest of his life to researching silicosis, cancer, and the mechanisms of drowning. When the Second World War started, he worked to help pilots who blacked out from high levels of g-force. He also researched treatments for mustard gas burns, going so far as to test the gas and antidotes on himself. Frederick was always looking for new ways to make a difference, never an end to his work.

Discuss

- After Frederick Banting won the Military Cross and the Nobel Prize, why did he keep working so hard in other areas?
- What do you think was his primary motivation?
- Why do you think God calls us to difficult trials and hard work after we've started following him?
- What is the driving force that pushes you to do the things you do?



A LITTLE DEEPER

In the New Testament, we learn that all followers of Jesus are called to be salt and light—to share the love and message of Jesus. But that doesn't mean we have to do those things alone. The Bible describes churches working together to raise funds for missions, pray for other Christ-followers, train new disciples, and start new churches. As you seek to be salt and light, you will likely be called by God to play different roles at different times. Sometimes you'll pray. Sometimes you'll support others. Sometimes you'll be the one sharing the message of Jesus. But in each of these roles, you should live a lifestyle that pushes outside of your comfort zone to reach those who need Christ.

In this section, you'll take a look at several Bible passages, and students will answer questions. The Background Notes below will give you a little more insight into the confusing parts of these passages. As students share, remember to listen deeply. Don't be afraid to ask second-level questions.



Read each Bible passage and answer the questions found in the Student Book on pages 31 and 32:

Matthew 13:44: The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

Background Note: Jesus tells these two stories to his followers to describe how unimaginably valuable God's kingdom is. It's worth more than anything we own or could conceive of owning. It's more valuable than our houses, our cars, our bank accounts, our safety, and our reputation. The minute we hear about it for the first time, we should be like these two men, willing to toss everything else to the side for it. But what exactly is God's kingdom? Is Jesus just talking about the gold streets and pearly gates of heaven far from where we are now, somewhere we'll go when we die? Not exactly. Yes, we'll be with God for eternity after we die, but when Jesus was on earth, he said, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near" (Matt. 4:17). God's kingdom is something we can be a part of right here and now! We become part of this kingdom by declaring Jesus to be the Lord of our lives—our King. And when Jesus is our king, everything we thought was valuable turns out to be worthless.

Discussion questions found on page 31 of the Student Book.

Matthew 9:37–38: Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Background Note: Why does God use human workers to accomplish his purposes on earth? Why can't he do the "harvesting" himself, instead of relying on notoriously flawed and untrustworthy people? Paul gives us a peek at the answer in 2 Corinthians 4:7: "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." The good news of Jesus is a priceless treasure, and we are simple, clay jars. God chooses flawed messengers for two reasons. First, he wants those who hear the gospel to be drawn to the message, not the messengers. We are saved by the good news of Jesus, not by a well-crafted speech, flawless logic, or a dazzling presentation. Second, flawed messengers are the best way to demonstrate the true power of the gospel. If people like us fulfill God's purposes, then anyone can. God is glorified by using the lowest of the low to humble the proud and the powerful.

Discussion questions found on page 31 of the Student Book

Romans 10:13–15: For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"



Background Note: Paul presents a chain of logic here: for people to be saved God must send preachers so people can hear, believe, and finally call on the name of the Lord. It is important to think about this passage in light of Jesus' final command to his followers before ascending to heaven: the Great Commission. Jesus said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:19–20). So we can see that, as Paul's final quote here (from Isaiah 52:7) implies, God has already sent his followers to "bring good news." Since that first step in Paul's chain is already complete, it falls upon Christ's followers (us) to take the next step: preaching the good news of Jesus. Only then will others hear, believe, and call on the name of the Lord to be saved.

Discussion questions found on page 32 of the Student Book.



LIVE IT OUT

Mission Field

What You'll Need: Printed maps of your town or region (big enough so that the location of most students' houses and schools are on it), pens, highlighters, markers. You can best do this by putting your church address into a search engine, and printing out a map after zooming out to an appropriate distance. Another option is to follow the same steps, but put in the school address of your students (maybe a few maps with a few schools).

Prep:

Before you meet for this small group, print enough maps for each student (or pair of students) to have one. Mark significant landmarks—schools, churches, popular restaurants, etc.—with a highlighter or a bright marker so students will be able to get their bearings.

Read:

Acts 1:8: But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Say Something Like: In Acts 1:8, Jesus tells his disciples that as they "go and make disciples of all nations" they will go to Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. Judea was their home, where they felt safe and where they had the clearest influence. Samaria was a place they knew, but where they would avoid at all costs. They didn't feel comfortable there, and they didn't like the people who lived there. It was close but outside of their comfort zones. Finally, the rest of the world was completely unknown. In Jesus' day, people couldn't just hop on a plane to travel wherever they wanted. They couldn't research other cultures on the Internet. Yet we can sit in a church today because the disciples fought their fears and went to the ends of the earth.

INSTRUCTIONS: Pass out the maps to students. Lead them through a quiet reflection on where Jesus is calling them to make their mission field. Allow them to use their phones to search for locations they may not be able to find on the maps.



1. **Ask them to identify their "Judea."** Have them circle that place on the map.
 - Ask: *Where are you most comfortable in your daily life?*
 - Ask: *What people in or near that place or activity don't know Jesus?*
 - Ask: *Could God be calling you to start there and be salt and light in that place?*
2. **Ask them to identify their "Samaria."** Have students write the group or activity that is their "Samaria" on the map.
 - Ask: *What is a local place or group of people that you've noticed no Christians are reaching?*
 - Ask: *How could you get outside of what feels comfortable to you in order to make a difference in the lives of people who are different from you?*
3. **Have students draw a box around the edges of their maps labeled "Ends of the Earth."** This box represents the border between the known and the unknown. Explain that students can begin to pray that God would open them up to going wherever he wants to send them.

Encourage students to hang these maps somewhere they will see them each morning.

Leader's Note: Make sure not to assume too much when explaining this activity. Some students will feel like their own house is Judea. Other students might feel like it's Samaria, a place they can't imagine opening up about their faith. You may be surprised to learn where students do and do not feel comfortable and where they think they can have influence.



APPLY IT

Write down one way you can live out your calling and share God's love in one of the mission fields you identified?

Be specific:

What are you going to do?

When are you going to do it?

Is there someone who can keep you accountable?

Leader's Note: Whenever students make applications, challenge them to be specific. It's one thing to say, "I'm going to trust God more." The truth is, our students won't really know if they did this, or if they grew in trust over the week. It's another thing to say, "Every morning this week before I eat breakfast, I'm going to tell God that today is his and that I trust him, and I'm going to ask him to give me the strength to replace worries with trust." Challenge your students to answer the questions under the "Be Specific" section. You can even have them pair up, share their applications, and ask for accountability from their partner.

WHAT'S NEXT

Schedule: Be sure to let students know what's happening next in the schedule and what they need to do or bring with them.

Student Devotional: The Student Book contains a short devotional for students to do on their own. Make sure to point this out to students and let them know if and when this fits into the schedule of the weekend. The devotional that corresponds with this lesson is found on **page 41**.