crôsswalk.com

Living Out God's Calling in Our Lives

| a six-week study |

with Sarah Hamaker

Welcome

Calling is something many Christians misunderstand or don't even consider relevant to their daily lives. Nothing could be further from the truth.

In this six-week study, we'll explore what we mean by calling, God's view of work, finding God's calling for our lives and living out God's calling in our lives. Seeped in Scripture, this study is designed to affirm our callings in Christ and challenge us to be open to new callings as we walk along the path God has given us.

Each week, we'll focus on key verses related to that week's topic, then dive deeper into the topic. We'll also consider a closer look at the key verses in a video devotional.

- Week One: What do we mean by calling?
- Week Two: God's View of Work
- Week Three: Finding God's Calling for Our Lives (Part 1)
- Week Four: Finding God's Calling for Our Lives (Part 2)
- Week Five: Living Out God's Calling in Our Lives (Part 1)
- Week Six: Living Out God's Calling in Our Lives (Part 2)
- Conclusion

May God richly bless you as we study the truths about callings in his Word together.



Week 1: What Do We Mean by Calling?

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began. 2 Timothy 1:8-9

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 1 Peter 2:21

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:1-3

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong. 1 Corinthians 1:26-27

What Do We Mean by Calling?

What is your calling? This concept of calling has fallen out of favor, but understanding our callings as believers can help us navigate our world and shine for Christ. We'll start by defining what we mean by calling. In the Christian life, there are two distinct callings:

- The general calling to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and body
- The particular calling to serve God in this world



Our general calling is one shared by all who love Christ—we are called to be new creations, as the Apostle Paul put it in 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (ESV). This transformation is the core of our calling as Christians and it colors everything we do. Most of us embrace this calling with our entire selves, and while this calling is foundational to us as believers, it's not the focus of this study.

The particular calling presents a harder concept. Many of us associate this type of calling as only applicable to ministers of the Gospel—pastors, evangelists, missionaries and the like. However, our particular callings is how we live the Gospel. Focusing on those who preach as the only ones called discounts the biblical view of work that transforms our daily lives into acts of service to our Creator (more on God's view of work in the next lesson).

Overall, callings are more than what we do for a living—it permeates every aspect of our lives. Here are some of the callings I personally have: wife, mother, foster mother, author, writer and parent coach, freelance writer, daughter, sister, and woman of God.

Callings also change as our circumstances change. For example, I used to have these callings: single woman, full-time employee, and student. What should underscore our callings is our faithfulness to what God has given us to accomplish for his Kingdom here on earth. As Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope" (ESV). We are called for a purpose, and when we heed that call, we experience significance in the mundane, meaning in our work and wholeness in our lives.

4 Ways Our Callings Impact Our Lives

Perspective. Whether we feel we are succeeding or failing, having a sense we are called sustains our motivation. One example of this is William Wilberforce, who fought for nearly three decades to abolish slavery in England through constant setbacks. He continued those long years because of his conviction he was doing what God had called him to do.

Faithfulness. Sometimes, we're faced with the temptation to compromise our values or discount our faith in our callings, especially in the work environment. Knowing God has called us to this profession shores up our desire to be faithful to our Heavenly Father before man, leading us to do the right thing even when others are not.



Stewardship. God didn't create us to be alike—he gave us each different gifts and abilities to bless this world. When we use our gifts and talents in our callings, we are being good stewards of what God has given us. These gifts and abilities aren't limited to church or parachurch work—it should spill over into our families and the daily work Christ has called us to do.

Purpose. While we won't live our callings perfectly, we can live our lives with pur-

pose, knowing the one who gave us eternal life also called us to be plumbers and lawyers, carpenters and doctors, pastors and singers—all according to their own gifts.

Rejoice, fellow believer, in the sure knowledge of our callings in this world. Over the next five weeks, we'll take this concept of particular calling further as we discover the joy of living out God's calling in our lives.

Callings change as our circumstances change. What does your calling look like right now? How has it changed over time?

5 | cr@sswalk.com

Week 2: God's View of Work

Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches. 1 Corinthians 7:17

But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. 1 Timothy 5:8

For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12

It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. 2 Timothy 2:6

> *In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty. Proverbs* 14:23

God's View of Work

What does God think of work? As these key verses show, he's not opposed to it. In fact, he commands us to work hard to provide sustenance to ourselves, our families, and our communities.

In fact, God created us to work, and he also commands people to work as they are able. In Genesis, we see God creating humans in his image, then blessing them and sending them out to subdue the earth and to work in the Garden of Eden. We are all created as workers for God's kingdom, but God does not specify exactly what that work looks like for all people.

God also doesn't elevate one type of work over another. While Jesus and the Apostles (particularly Paul) talk about the requirements for pastors, evangelists, deacons, and elders, God isn't saying those jobs are more important than other work



we employ to feed and clothe and house our families—and to support the work of the preaching of the Gospel. Those ministry-specific callings come with more responsibility as these men (and women in some circumstances) are tasked with interpreting Scripture, something that needs to be done with care, prayer, and training.

Unpaid Versus Paid Work

When we think of work, many of us believe we have to receive monetary compensation for performing it, but our callings aren't limited to what we can earn money from doing. Let me repeat that because it's very important we get this straight—work isn't limited to paid employment.

God leads many of us to unpaid work, such as raising children or caring for a family member. We can volunteer in our local schools or nonprofits, coach a children's sports team, teach Sunday school, or shovel snow for an elderly neighbor. All of these fall under the general "work" umbrella.

In addition, if you do have a paid job, God may call you to other unpaid work. Your job brings in the money necessary to feed, clothe, and house your family, but your unpaid work might be the thing that brings you the most joy—and helps others, too. Hobbies are an excellent example of this. You might write, paint, act, play a musical instrument, sing, bake, lead a youth group, volunteer at your library, clean up a stream, build model airplanes, or play pickleball—all of these could be one of your callings. Many times, these hobbies can be vital to our overall mental, spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being. These creative endeavors also allow us to serve and bless the wider community with our talents too.

Work as God's Partner

We should also recognize our vocational calling partners us with God and his ultimate plan. As St. Augustine put it in the fifth century, we should "pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you." Your career might seem of utmost importance when you're a high schooler or college student, but in reality, God's more concerned with how you work than where you work. For instance, we serve our heavenly Father best when our work is infused with integrity, honesty, mercy, grace and justice to all with whom we come into contact.

When we shift our focus from the exact nature of our jobs to the one who has given us this work, we become true partners with God in our work. If you're struggling with seeing your work as a partnership with God, then consider these questions:



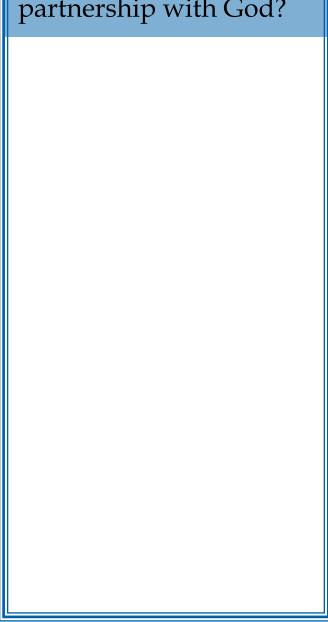
- Are you looking at your work through the lens of Scripture?
- Do you consider your work beneath you or not important?
- Have you forgotten God calls us all to work in some capacity or other?

How you answer those and similar questions will give you insight into how you view work. We must be careful to do all of our work as unto the Lord, not just the bits that make us happy or are easy or bring us acclaim.

I'll close this lesson with something I learned from my late father as a child and carried with me into adulthood about work. My dad grew up dirt poor on a small family farm in rural Kentucky, and he worked hard all his life. But what I gleaned from watching and listening to him talk about work wasn't that hard work was important—it was that any task was worth doing well. My dad took as much care in sweeping our deck of leaves as he did chopping wood for our wood-burning stove. No task was too small to shirk, too unimportant to do to the best of his ability. He also taught me that if something needs to be done, you do it without waiting around to see if someone else is going to step up or if someone noticed our effort.

Those twin ideas—no task too small to do well and to do what needed to be done gave me a sense of the value of work, one that I think God shares. We are called to do many types of work over our lifetimes, and many times, the work before us is small and needs to be done. When we truly partner with God in our work, we tackle those jobs with as much fervor and delight as we do the bigger ones.

What kind of work fills your time, and how can you view it all as a partnership with God?





Week 3: Finding God's Calling for Our Lives Pt. 1

Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the Lord." Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the Lord said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant." Jeremiah 1:4-10

Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:10-11

Finding God's Calling for Our Lives Pt. 1

As we discussed in week one, the many hats we wear as believers reflect the many secondary callings we often juggle at the same time. This study will focus mostly on our career or work calling, as for most of us, this is where we spend much of our daily hours.

Let's keep in mind that our vocational callings are secondary to our primary calling to serve Jesus. Unfortunately, some Christians believe the only vocations God calls us to are tied directly to our primary calling—that is, pastors, evangelists, missionaries, and work in parachurch organizations. Nothing could be further from the truth.

As we learned in Week Two's lesson on God's view of work, we can't all be called to a "ministry" vocation. Christ doesn't limit his redemptive work to sharing the Gospel—it should encompass every area of the world and our lives. Therefore, this redemption works in harmony with the work of creation, sustenance, and production that God gave to humans in the Garden of Eden. The world needs plumbers and doctors and computer programmers and farmers and lawyers and daycare providers.



This week, we'll begin to explore how to discover those secondary callings particularly related to our work. Next week, we'll continue our journey of discovery by tackling some of the myths about career callings.

Calling as Career Choice

Many of us will spend 60 percent or more of our lives working in a variety of jobs. Many times, those jobs give us opportunities to use our unique gifts and abilities and make a positive impact on our world. But sometimes, it can be hard to figure out what career would fulfill what God is calling us to do.

The Bible has examples of God calling people to a particular work while giving everyone guidance for what their work should be. For instance, God called:

- Noah to build an ark
- Abraham and Sarah to leave their home for a new land
- Moses and Aaron to lead God's people out of Egypt
- Bezalel and Oholiab to craft the tabernacle
- Jeremiah and Amos to be prophets
- Nehemiah to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem
- John the Baptist to proclaim the coming of Christ
- Paul to share the Gospel of Christ

Of course, the Bible is full of more examples of specific instances where God called a man or woman to do a specific task or job. But aside from these examples, many people mentioned within the pages of Scripture were not directly called by God to a profession or duty.

This tells us God rarely calls his people in unmistakable ways (like Moses and the burning bush) to a particular work or career. And that's okay, as he's given us other means by which to discern his call on our lives.

God's Career Guidance

So, how does God provide guidance to us today as we struggle to figure out whether to take a particular job or study for a particular profession? Through studying His Word, praying, seeking advice from godly men and women, and reflecting on our own talents and abilities. To give you a little more to go on than that, let's consider three ways for us to discern God's vocational callings in our lives.

1. The World's Needs. This essentially means if there's something that needs to be done, God uses his people to get it done. For example, if you're considering a career as a teacher, one quick look at any educational jobs board will show a great need for teachers for a variety of schools.

10 |cr@sswalk.com

2. Your Gifts and Skills. God has given each of us talents and abilities unique to us, although others might share those same gifts and skills. These talents and abilities are given to us to share with the world through work and ministry. For me, one of those gifts was writing, and that helped to channel me into a career as a magazine journalist and then as a freelance writer for magazines and websites.

3. Your Heart's Desires. God cares about our passions, and he wants us to share

that passion with the world through our work. As we discussed in Week Two about God's view of work, sometimes that's in a paying job, and sometimes that's through volunteer work or things we do for our families.

Considering these three things—what the world needs and our gifts and skills coupled with our heart's desires—we will be guided to choose work that's edifying and uplifting for us and for the kingdom of God.

Brainstorm needs you see, gifts and skills you have, and your passions. Do you see any connections between the three that could lead to a calling?

Week 4: Finding God's Calling for Our Lives Pt. 2

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." Isaiah 43:1

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:11-16

Finding God's Calling for Our Lives Pt. 2

Last week's lesson centered on how to figure out your secondary calling related to your career. This week, we'll continue that discussion by talking about six myths related to the Christian's calling to work.

But first, let's take a quick detour and discuss the key difference between the calls to church work and the calls to nonchurch work. Since the Middle Ages, there's been tension in the Christian community in regard to church versus nonchurch work. Work outside of the church was often considered less-than, and a necessity but not what Christians should aspire to. The church elevated religious life, such as priests, nuns, and monks, in the Middle Ages, and much of that view has continued today—that these men and women who are dedicating themselves wholly and only to God's work are somehow more Christian or fulfilling God's calling better than us engineers or software developers.

Remember, as we've discussed in previous lessons, nothing could be further than the truth. All Christians are commanded to do everything they do as an act of service to Christ, meaning our work-related tasks are as essential to proclaiming the Gospel of Christ as our pastor's Sunday sermons.



Myths Related to Christian's Callings

What we believe about a Christian's calling to work can color how we view work and how we pursue work. Let's dive deeper into six common myths about calling as Christians.

Myth #1: Only those who work in direct ministry are called by God to their careers. As we've discussed in detail earlier in this study, we all have secondary callings related to our work. A farmer is just as called to farm as a preacher is to preach.

Myth #2: To discover our Christian calling, we must discern the one thing God wants us to do with our lives. God gives us freedom to decide on our paths in life, including our career choices. And those career choices can change as we grow older and acquire more skills and knowledge. Most of us could probably pick from more than one pathway toward our career, and whichever one we choose would have still fulfilled our calling.

Myth #3: We eventually get too old for Christian calling. Nope, our callings will change as we age, but there's always something God has for us to do. I found this helpful about how our lives can be loosely broken into six seasons of callings from Brian Saunders's book The 6 Seasons of Calling: Discovering Your Purpose in Each Stage of Life:

- Childhood: The season of bonding
- Adolescence: The season of learning
- Early Career: The season of serving
- Mid-Career: The season of creating
- Late Career: The season of giving
- Transition: The season of leaving

Myth #4: Our callings should be comfortable for us. This is the one we want to be true, right? We don't like being uncomfortable but sometimes, God does call us into less-than-ideal callings and we need to learn and grow through those situations. Please note, I'm not saying stick with a job where you are experiencing any kind of abuse, but rather, we at times can find ourselves uncomfortable because we're learning the job or dealing with an unpleasant colleague.

Myth #5: Choosing the wrong calling can throw us out of God's will. We don't need to agonize over every major decision in our lives, including our callings, because we're so afraid of picking the wrong thing or job. We should prayerfully consider our options but we can't be too paralyzed from making a choice.

Myth #6: Your calling equals your passion. Popular career advice to high schoolers and college students centers around following their passion. This has led many Christians to believe our calling must be



what we are most passionate about what brings us the most joy and what we're most naturally gifted to do. While sometimes, your career calling will match what you're most passionate about, oftentimes, that's not the case. You might love music but aren't good enough to be in a band—and that's okay. You can pursue music as a hobby without it becoming your day job.

Overall, remember that our career or job callings help us fulfill our primary calling as Christians in this fallen world. Consider which of these common myths you believe and course-correct to discover your freedom in Christ to work in this world.

Which of the six myths struck you the most? How would dismantling this myth change how you view your calling?

14 |cr@sswalk.com

Week 5: Living Out God's Calling in Our Lives Pt. 1

To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Romans 12:1-5

Living Out God's Calling in Our Lives Pt. 1

Now that we've discussed how to find your calling, let's delve deeper into how to live God's calling in our lives, starting with some general guidelines as we strive to serve Christ in all aspects of our lives.

Trust in the Lord. He's put you in this career or job or other calling. If our work is

challenging or our calling tough, it might be difficult to trust in his sovereignty, but we must continue to trust in him. If we start to trust more in our own understanding, we'll fail and flail about like a fish out of water. Keep your focus on Christ.

Faithfully Serve in the Season and Calling You're in Now. This is something I think we can all struggle with from time to time, but faithfully and joyfully serve in



the calling God has given you for this day (and the foreseeable future). It's not easy at times, but this is part of our sanctification and Christian growth. Jesus showed us how, in his actions on the way to the cross—he prayed and faithfully served his Father even unto death.

Continue to Embrace and Understand Your Calling. To walk worthy of our calling, we need to embrace it and seek to understand it through the lens of Scripture. Consider what Christ has done for us as a start, then soak yourself in the Scriptures as you lean into your work calling.

Practice Godly Character in Our Calling.

Our co-workers should be able to recognize there's something different about us. Why do we not curse when things go wrong at work? How do we handle criticism from our supervisors? The way we respond to things that happen at work will show others how Christ is molding us into his image.

Work as Unto the Lord. This is one you've probably heard, maybe from your mom or dad when they extolled you to clean the bathroom, but it's a true hallmark of our Christian faith when we perform our work as though Jesus was our boss. I think about this a lot when I'm scrubbing the carpet in our foster child's room because of an accident or when I'm rewriting an article for a client who wasn't happy with the first draft—that I'm really working to please my Lord and Savior.

When we keep our eyes and our thoughts focused on Christ, we will live out our calling in our lives as a sweet, fragrant offering to him.

It's sometimes hard to remember to "work as unto the Lord" at our day jobs. What would this look like for you?



Week 6: Living Out God's Calling in Our Lives Pt. 2

Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish." Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

Esther 4:13-17

To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power. 2 Thessalonians 1:11

Living Out God's Calling in Our Lives Pt. 2

We all want our lives to have meaning, that we're pursuing a course that puts us firmly in accordance with the will of God, and that we're living out God's calling in our lives in a way that honors our Creator. As we've explored over these past weeks, God has given us his Scripture to guide us along the way, as well as our own talents and abilities to help us figure out our vocational calling.

But you might still be struggling with how, exactly, to live out God's calling in your life. Perhaps you're unsure if you actually have a calling (you do!) or that maybe, somehow, you picked the wrong vocation and messed everything up. During our last week together, we're going to talk about how to live out God's calling in our lives boldly, without fear, and with the full assurance of his love and care for us.

Encouragement for Your Calling

As we've discussed throughout this study, God's calling for our lives changes as we age and grow in our faith—and that's a good thing! Our callings should evolve as we gain more knowledge, figure out better ways to use our gifts and abilities,



and become better leaders and employees. Here are four things to keep in mind when you're feeling discouraged about your vocational calling.

Your Job Doesn't Have to Define You. You may be really good at writing software, but perhaps it doesn't fulfill your creativity or bring you endless joy. That's okay—being a software engineer doesn't have to be all you are. You can go to your day job—the work that provides for you and your family's needs—and have another calling that speaks to your heart.

A friend of mine's husband works at a grocery store to pay the bills, but his heart is handcrafting guitars out of wood for musicians. This man finds his true joy in making these gorgeous guitars by hand but still doesn't resent stocking shelves at a supermarket.

Your Calling Isn't a Reflection of God's Love for You. Sometimes, we see someone with an awesome job or career success we wish we had and think God must not love us if we're not experiencing the same thing as so-and-so. That's a trap we all can fall into, but let me remind you (and myself!) that God isn't punishing us or not loving us by giving us a less-than job or vocation. As Christians, we believe we have a higher purpose than merely grinding away for a paycheck—we're servants of the Most High God who has called us to work for his glory and our good.

Your Passions Don't Always Line Up with Your Vocational Calling. As we've talked about in earlier lessons, what you're passionate about isn't necessarily your day job—and that's okay. We can't always follow our hearts and find employment in the things we love. If that were the case, you might be a singer or a Major League Baseball player or [fill in the blank].

It's perfectly fine to work in a job because you're good at that job, and it brings in money to support you, and it's perfectly fine not to be totally fulfilled in that work.

Your Vocational Calling Can Be for Personal and Spiritual Growth. God uses our work to mold us and make us even more into his image—but we often protest the way the master Potter slaps us around on his potter's wheel. In my first career job as an editor for a national Christian trade magazine, I had a direct supervisor who wasn't a good boss by any stretch of the imagination. For six years, I struggled at times being underneath his authority and prayed for deliverance, while actively seeking other employment.

18 |crcisswalk.com

Eventually, I moved to another national trade association and had a wonderful experience, but I've realized how much I grew as a believer during those hard and unpleasant years.

I hope you've found fresh encouragement in your vocational and other callings and will commit to living out God's calling in your life anew today.

Over the last 6 weeks, we've discussed a lot of ways to approach our callings in a God-honoring way. What is one thing you plan to integrate into your life?

19 |crcisswalk.com

Conclusion

Our time together unpacking Living Out God's Calling in Our Lives has come to an end. We've explored what we mean by calling, God's view of work, how to find God's calling for our lives, and how to live out God's calling in our lives.

As you go into the world to live your calling anew and afresh, keep the words of the Apostle Paul from Ephesians in mind: "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (4:1-3, ESV)

Walk worthy, dear brother and sister in Christ, of your calling, and with all humility and gentleness and patience, impact your world for Jesus.

Sarah Hamaker is a national speaker and award-winning author who loves writing romantic suspense books "where the hero and heroine fall in love while running for their lives." She's also a wife, mother of two teenagers and two college students, a therapeutic foster mom, and podcaster (The Romantic Side of Suspense podcast). She coaches writers, speakers and parents with an encouraging and commonsense approach. Visit her online at sarahhamakerfiction.com. Cover photo: ©Getty Images/Flavio Coelho

