



**A call to preach the Good News**  
**The Feast of the Apostles**



**Verse:** 'Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings and the children of Israel'

ACTS 9:15

'Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me.'" ISAIAH 6:8

**Aims:**

1. To know each of us are chosen and called to serve the name of Jesus Christ
2. To study the stories of people in the bible who have received the call to service and their response to the call.
3. To study the consequences of accepting the call
4. This lesson is a timely reminder to servants as to why they still serve today. Pray that we serve God to our best capacity.

**Objectives:**

**By the end of this lesson the teens are able to:**

1. Express his/her role in building the kingdom of heaven by preaching the good news.
2. Analyse why some rejected the call of Jesus to work with Him and spread the good news.
3. Record his/her personal specific call (which suits the personal abilities and talents) and his / her response.
4. Pray daily that the Lord may support Him/her to accept His call.
5. Remember by heart the great gifts he/she received when they accept His call.

### Activities:

1. If you were asked to be the captain of the soccer team would you accept? What do you have to do as the captain?
2. If you were chosen to be school captain? Would you accept? What do you have to do?

To be school captain or soccer captain, you have to be chosen by your peers. That is pretty special. To be singled out by your friends as worthy of these special roles for the year/season is everyone's dream....

What if the person choosing you was God and He asked you to be *His* representative. Sounds good, but not everyone accepts

### Those who accepted:

- St Paul (Acts 9:1-22)

Important pointers from this reading

- Christians saw St Paul as a murderer, and an awful man. Everyone was terrified of him
- What he did, he did with passion. He felt he was doing the right thing by the Jewish religion by killing the Christians
- God saw his passion, his zeal and his devotion and chose him to preach *His* Gospel.
- Once Paul was healed he spent some time with the disciples in Damascus before *immediately* preaching that Christ is the Son of God.
- This zeal and passion was used for the work of God

Man does not see what God sees, some people may have an obvious talent that everyone tells them about eg painting, music, teaching. We cannot see what God sees. Those who might be quiet or shy may feel, so what can I do?, No one would have thought that St Paul would have been the greatest speaker and writer of all time.

- Jeremiah (Jer 1:4-10)

- Jeremiah did not feel like a preacher or very courageous. He is just a boy and God was asking him to preach. What did God see in Him? Then said I: " Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth." (Jer 1:6)
- He was called and accepted with God's assurance (Jer 1:17-19)

Can you recall other members of the Old Testament who felt just as small and unable to preach or lead but were personally chosen by God?

- Moses
- Gideon

- David

*Many of these examples can be used when the class raise excuses as to why they do not think they will be good servants eg don't like to talk in a class, too hard, etc*

- St Matthew (Matt 9:9-13)
  - Again the Pharisees only saw the bad in Matthew, where Jesus saw his talent and knew he would be a good servant.
  - Matthew may have thought he was not worthy to be called a servant of God. If enough people say you are a bad person, a good-for-nothing and a cheat, you will believe them....
  - It is important to remember that the church is a hospital and Christ is the physician. No one is perfect, one person might be good at one thing but not at another, we have our flaws that can be barriers to service. We seek the physician's help to make us useful to Him ( as servants, we are truly like the one armed man asked to fight in an army. On our own we can do nothing, only Christ can complete us)

### **Those who did not accept the call**

- Luke 9:59-62
  - Sounds harsh
  - Recall the story of Lot's wife who looked back at the life she had and yearned for it
  - Put anything before Christ and He knows you are not serious in His work.
  - Olympic swimmers didn't get to the Olympics by sleeping in
  - When outside circumstances start to influence your service then you are not giving it 100% ( a topical example: the NSW State Origins team were hampered by players and coaches quitting over local issues: the team were not favourites to win and they didn't)
  - Do God's work and He will do yours (and His effort will always be better than yours)
- Mark 10:17-22
  - We are comfortable with our life
  - We want to keep everything at status quo
  - What we have is good enough. Why change?
  - We can make many excuses not to serve and God is not going to stop us from making that decision. No bolt of lightning is going to come down and strike us and no bad thing will befall us. God asks and whether we accept or not is our decision.

Not everybody who was called in the Bible answered God's call. In Mark 10:17-22 the rich young man turned his back on Jesus' call. The young man

had kept all the commandments since his youth and we read that Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him. Jesus asked him to do one more thing, to sell what he had and follow Jesus. But the young man's face fell at these words of Jesus and he went away sad. He went away sad because he wanted to follow Jesus and he wanted to keep his possessions. As in the case of Moses and Jeremiah, the twin responses 'Yes' and 'No' were struggling within him. Answering God's call held a fascination for him but it was also frightening. He wanted to have everything but that is impossible. He had to make a choice but he did not have the generosity to put Jesus before his possessions. Answering God's call is exciting but as in every decision we make it involves saying no to other possibilities. The young man had a vocation but he freely chose not to answer it because he did not want to say no to some of the possibilities that life offered him. But in saying no to his vocation he surely lost out on greater possibilities and greater potential for happiness. We read that he went away sad. How could he be happy since he had just rejected Jesus' call to him?

**Benefits of service:**

Matthew 19:27-29

- As servants, we have seen the benefits within our own lives of serving. Share this with your class. Give an honest account of the blessings you have received.
- Have you noticed a time when Christ reminded you your service needed more from you?
- Have you noticed your relationship with God parallels your service?
- These examples are personal examples and good to share with the class. Think about what God has granted you in your service and in your private life.

Many of us wish to see miracles or wonder why the saints appear in Egypt. We secretly hope to see the saints here. To serve God is to see these miracles in our life and in the lives of the children we serve and their families.

May we be called constantly to serve His Holy Name and run to Him when He calls for us.

Glory be to God forever. Amen