



Here am I. Send Me!

Introduction:

God calls His people to serve Him, in different ways, as workers in the harvest fields. As we explore “Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying,” consider how and where you can proclaim Christ in your life.

Opening Prayer: *Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son to die on the cross and rise again so that we would be certain of the forgiveness of our sins and the hope of eternal life, one day, in heaven. Please be with us as we study Your Word. Help us to hear Your words with open hearts and open ears, that we might heed Your call to proclaim Your Word to all people. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.*

Read 1 Samuel 3.

Now the young man Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was.

Then the Lord called Samuel, and he said, “Here I am!” and ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down.

And the Lord called again, “Samuel!” and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call you, my son; lie down again.” Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the young man. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

And the Lord came and stood, calling as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” and Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant hears.” Then the Lord said to Samuel, “Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever.”

Samuel lay until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. And Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” And he said, “Here I am.” And Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” So Samuel told

him everything and hid nothing from him. And he said, “It is the Lord. Let him do what seems good to him.”

And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the Lord. And the Lord appeared again at Shiloh, for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord.

Who was God calling? **Samuel**

What was strange about God calling at that time (v. 2)? **There was no frequent vision or audible communications from God.**

What does verse 19 say about the relationship between Samuel and God? **The Lord was with Samuel.**

How is the calling of Samuel different from God’s calling to people today? **Samuel heard God’s voice audibly, while we no longer hear God’s voice audibly.**

Read or sing the first verse of “Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying.” (LSB 826)

“Hark, the voice of Jesus crying,
‘Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvest waiting –
Who will bear the sheaves away?’
Loud and long the Master calleth;
Rich reward He offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying,
“Here am I, send me, send me”?”

Read **Isaiah 6:8** together.

And 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.

Again, we have a biblical character that audibly hears God’s call. What is Isaiah’s response to this call? **Here am I! Send me.**

Isaiah responds with what seems to be great willingness and eagerness. He is ready to do what God calls him to do.

How does God call people today or make obvious the work He has for them to do?

Facilitate discussion about willingness and eagerness with which people respond to God’s call. Be sure to include that God has called us all to different vocations, not just church work.

Read or sing verse two of “Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying.” (LSB 826)

If you cannot speak like angels,
If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
You can say He died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked

With the judgment's dread alarms,
You can lead the little children
To the Savior's waiting arms.

What stands out to you about this verse of the hymn? **Lead towards the lines “You can tell the love of Jesus”**

What are some ways to “tell the love of Jesus” in your everyday life? **Facilitate a discussion about other ways to share God's love. Through Baptism we have become God's children. We have done nothing to deserve this title and the benefits that go with it. We are blessed further when we receive forgiveness of sins through the Lord's Supper. In these sacraments we truly know the love of Jesus. Encouraging others to live in their own Baptismal grace and forgive as Christ forgives us is how we can tell the love of Jesus to those around us.**

Read **Matthew 5:14-16**.

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

What does God call you? **The light of the world**

What instruction is given to you, as a follower of Christ? **Let your light shine before others.**

Aside from words, how can you be the “light of the world”? **Good works. Also facilitate a discussion about real-life situations that would fit into the “good works” category here.**

Remember that good works are done as a result of the faith we have been given.

What does **1 Corinthians 10:31** [So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.] say about our everyday lives? **Everything we do should bring glory to God; this is how we are a light to the world.**

Read or sing verse three of “Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying.” (LSB 826)

If you cannot be a watchman,
Standing high on Zion's wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven,
Off'ring life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your bounties
You can do what God commands;
You can be like faithful Aaron,
Holding up the prophet's hands.

How does this verse of the hymn differ from verse two? **Verse two is about sharing God's love directly; Verse three is about supporting missions.**

Right now, what are some tangible ways you can “hold up the prophet's hands”?

Facilitate a discussion about supporting those that are sharing God's love – prayer, monetary support, encouragement, etc.

Read **Colossians 4:3-4**.

At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison- that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

What is Paul's encouragement to the Colossians? To pray that Paul and Timothy would be able to share God's Word with those in prison. We also could discuss praying for our own pastors and church workers as they share the Gospel. Ask God to make their words clear, understandable and meaningful.

Read or sing verse four of "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying." (LSB 826)

Let none hear you idly saying,
"There is nothing I can do,"
While the multitudes are dying
And the Master calls for you.
Take the task He gives you gladly,
Let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when He calleth,
"Here am I, send me, send me!"

What does the hymnwriter admonish the reader to not say? "There is nothing I can do."
Why is that an easy excuse for us to not heed God's calling? We don't like to deal with difficulties. It's not always easy to be a Christian. Sometimes it's hard to share about our faith. Other answers may vary.

How does the hymnwriter encourage us to respond to God's call? Gladly and with pleasure; quickly and with enthusiasm

What is the calling of every Christian on Earth? Read **Matthew 28:19-20**

Go therefore and make disciples of all nation, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always to the end of the age.

To share God's Word and saving message with those who don't believe.

Go out into the world to proclaim Christ with the assurance that Jesus will be with you always. He will give you the words, and He will do the work of growing faith in those that hear His Word in His time.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, help us to say, "Here I am! Send me" and to remember Your promise to always be with us as we proclaim Your message of salvation to the ends of the Earth. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.