

# Summer Quarter 2017

## God's Urgent Call

### Called to Be Strong

June 4	<b>Deborah and Barak</b> . . . . .	<i>Judges 4:1-10</i>
June 11	<b>Gideon's Call</b> . . . . .	<i>Judges 6:11-18</i>
June 18	<b>Jephthah's Answer and Vow</b> . . . . .	<i>Judges 11:4-11, 29-31</i>
June 25	<b>Samson's Call</b> . . . . .	<i>Judges 13:1-7, 24-25</i>

### The Calling of Prophets

July 2	<b>Moses and the Burning Bush</b> . . . . .	<i>Exodus 3:1-12</i>
July 9	<b>Isaiah in the Temple</b> . . . . .	<i>Isaiah 6:1-8</i>
July 16	<b>Jeremiah's Call and Commission</b> . . . . .	<i>Jeremiah 1:4-10</i>
July 23	<b>The Call of Ezekiel</b> . . . . .	<i>Ezekiel 3:1-11</i>
July 30	<b>The Call of Amos</b> . . . . .	<i>Amos 7:10-17</i>

### Calling in the New Testament

August 6	<b>Called to Serve</b> . . . . .	<i>Acts 6:1-8</i>
August 13	<b>Called to Break Down Barriers</b> . . . . .	<i>Acts 8:26-39</i>
August 20	<b>Called to Proclaim Christ</b> . . . . .	<i>Acts 9:10-20</i>
August 27	<b>Called to a Wider Outreach</b> . . . . .	<i>Acts 10:19-33</i>

To accomplish His will on earth, God does not turn to angels but makes use of the humans He has placed here. Scripture abounds in examples of persons the Lord called to specific tasks. This quarter's lessons provide a sampling of such individuals and give principles that enable us too to serve God.

Our first four lessons, with the theme "Called to Be Strong," recall heroes from the book of Judges. Deborah and Barak were called to drive Canaanite invaders from northern Israel, aided by God's forces of nature. Gideon was asked to trust God's power against the overwhelming numbers of the Midianites.

The call of Jephthah illustrates how God could use even a person of flawed judgment, in this case to defeat an Ammonite foe. His call to Samson's parents reminds us how important parents are in shaping the character of future leaders. In all these cases, those called to be strong were weak people who had to depend on the Lord's strength.

Our second unit, "Calling of Prophets," focuses on five men called to be God's spokesmen to sinful people. Moses, commissioned to deliver Israel from Pharaoh's slavery, was fortified by encountering God in a burning bush. Isaiah, sent to stiff-necked Judah, was prepared through a vision of God's holiness and cleansing from his own sin.

Jeremiah, intimidated by his own youth and inexperience, ingested God's own words to condemn apostate Judah. Ezekiel, called to prophesy to a rebellious nation, was hardened by the Lord to resist their enmity. Amos, a Judean herdsman, followed the call to speak against apostasy in the northern kingdom of Israel.

The final four lessons, all from Acts, exemplify God's calling of persons He would use in expanding the church. Seven men were chosen to solve the problem of aiding the needy in the burgeoning Jerusalem church. One of these, Philip, was called to overcome cultural boundaries by introducing an Ethiopian to Jesus.

Saul of Tarsus, persecutor of believers, was apprehended by Jesus and, through Ananias, introduced to his mission of proclaiming Christ to the Roman world. And Peter was persuaded to renounce his Jewish prejudices and preach Christ to prepared Gentiles.

All believers are called to some ministry, whether public and prominent or private and supportive. Let us be sensitive to God's call and willing to follow it in His strength.