

WHEN GOD CALLS

One day in the mid-1890s in Westminster Abbey, London, crowds of visitors were admiring this beautiful place of worship. Among them was a pale young man called Peter Scott who was recovering from an illness he had contracted on a recent trip to Africa. Suddenly, his eyes caught the name David Livingston cut in a slab on the floor. Under it, he deciphered the words, 'Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring.' Oblivious of the crowds, he knelt on the floor and prayed for Africa, wondering again what God might require of him.¹

What happened next is described in detail in Dick Anderson's history of AIM, 'We felt like Grasshoppers'. In the book, Anderson describes how on that day Peter Scott felt God show him a vision of a line of mission stations from East Africa to the Sahara. A few years later, aged just 29, Peter died in East Africa while seeking to make that vision a reality. Before he died, Peter and a group of missionary enthusiasts had founded Africa Inland Mission in 1895.²

BIBLE STUDY: CALLING



Read John 10:7-16

Are there still sheep today who are outside the pen? If so, who are they?



Reflection:

Has God used a particular verse or Bible passage to call you to a particular task or act of service? If so, why not spend some time reflecting on it. Alternatively, you could spend some time reflecting as Peter Scott did, on John 10:16.



Pray:

Read Romans 10:14-15, then give thanks for the millions of people who have heard about Jesus as a result of AIM's work since 1895.

In his book *The Missionary Call* (2008) David Sills shares a memory from his time at Bible school: *I remember some students from when I was in seminary who would not go to chapel on "missions day" for fear that God might call them to missions. They already had their life planned out, and their plan did not include missions.*³

Sadly, some people may never answer God's call to missions because of their reluctance to listen to him.



Read Luke: 9:57-62

What do you think may have been the issues preventing these apparently willing followers of Jesus from answering his call?



Read Mark 1:14-20

How did Jesus' first disciples differ in their response to his calling from the men we read about in Luke chapter 9?



Point for reflection:

What do you think a 21st century missionary from the UK might need to give up when they decide to serve in Africa?



Pray

That God will lead missionary applicants to AIM who have the same attitude as the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 6:8).

¹ Dick Andersen *We felt like Grasshoppers* (Crossway Books 1984), 17

² Ibid, 19

³ M David Sills *The Missionary Call* (Moody 2008), 27

DELIGHTING IN THE LORD

In his book *The Missionary Call* (2008, p.27) David Sills shares a memory from his time at Bible school when a fellow student told him how much he admired the selfless sacrifice he was making by going on the mission field. Sills writes the following; 'I told him he had it all wrong. I was so excited about getting to be a missionary that for me the greatest sacrifice and hardship would be if the mission board turned us down and said that we could not be missionaries. When God calls his child to live the life of a missionary, he gives him the desire with the calling.'

BIBLE STUDY: WHERE DO YOU FIND JOY?



Read Psalm 37: 4-6

What do you think the Psalmist means when he says, 'Delight yourself in the Lord'?



Point for reflection:

Have you ever experienced a sense of 'joy' in carrying out a task which you felt God had called you to do?

The Apostle Paul often used the word joy when he wrote letters to the churches which had been planted on his missionary journeys.



Read Philippians 2:1-5

What is it that Paul says gives him joy?



Pray

Choose one of the people groups mentioned in this edition of Connect and pray for AIM workers called to serve among them, that they may experience the joy which Paul mentioned in their ministry.

Have you recently had a feeling that maybe God is calling you to a particular act of mission or service? Alternatively, have you ever had someone come to you for advice about a calling they have received? If so, maybe you are wondering if you or the person you are advising have the right qualities, skills or character?



Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Why do think Samuel may have thought that he would anoint one of Jesse's elder sons and why do you think God told him to anoint David?



Reflect on verse 7

Do you think that God may act in a similar way when he calls people to the mission field today?

Have you ever felt that God is calling you to do something which you think you are unable to do?



Read Exodus 4:10-13

What did Moses say was the problem and how did God respond?

Read how Stephen describes Moses in Acts 7:22 when he looks back at his life in his famous speech.



Listen to a podcast by Tony and Cath Swanson, AIM's Eastern Region leaders, talking about the kind of workers they would like to join them.

eu.aimint.org/who-will-god-send