



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 10: Calling

Suggested Week of Use: August 4, 2024

Core Passage: Acts 9:3-16

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### News Story Summary

In late July, River Ryan got the phone call he had been waiting for—to pitch in his first Major League Baseball game. A right-hander, Ryan was drafted by the San Diego Padres in 2021; but he had been traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2022. He has played exclusively in the minor leagues since being drafted, working his way through the ranks and waiting for his shot to play in the big leagues. He got his opportunity on July 22 as the Dodgers' starting pitcher against the San Francisco Giants. The 25-year-old pitched 5 1/3 innings, surrendering just one unearned run. While he did not earn the win, the Dodgers did defeat the Giants, 3-2.

For more about this story, search “River Ryan called up to pitch in first MLB game”

### Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, organize adults into teams of two or three and instruct them to talk about important phone calls in their lives (birth of a child, death of a parent, offer of employment, call from a doctor, and so forth). Encourage them to explain why those phone calls were significant. After several minutes, allow some volunteers to share their stories.

Tell the story of River Ryan's call to pitch in his first MLB game. (You may also find video clips of Ryan's performance from July 22.) Ask: *How do you think Ryan felt when he got the phone call to pitch? How might he have been preparing for this call?* Point out that calling can mean different things depending on the context. Note that Ryan was called up to the big leagues, while doctors can call with good or bad news. Say: *In today's session, we will discover how God called one man—a very unlikely man—to be an apostle and evangelist.*

### Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, recall the story of River Ryan being called up to pitch. Place a large sheet of paper on the wall (or use a dry erase board) and draw a vertical line down the middle. Label the columns “similar” and “different.” Direct adults to name similarities and differences between Ryan's call and Paul's call. Ask: *How are vocation and calling related?* Point out that while some people are called into vocational ministry, all believers are called to follow Jesus and share their testimony with others. Also point out that God can call Christians to specific tasks, such as volunteer student ministry work or serving on a committee. Invite adults to share how Jesus called them to follow Him and to share specific ways He has called them to serve in the church and beyond. Provide a moment or two of silence for adults to pray about God's calling in their lives. Then close the session in prayer.