

1) Checkpoint 1: Calling. (1-10)

Have you ever struggled with listening to God? Describe the last time you truly listened to God.

Review the following chart. Do you relate more with Eli or with Samuel?

Eli	Samuel
Unholiness	Holiness
Blindness	Sight
Darkness	Light
Distance from God	Closeness to God

God is continually speaking through his word. Our response to his speaking and calling could fall into 1 of 3 different areas. First, you may be hearing the Lord call you for the very first time, second, you may be hearing the Lord call after weeks and months of anguish and pain, and third you may have responded to God's initial call but have deafened your ears to his voice today. Which description best describes you today?

Discuss this statement: *The call of God is not just for a select few but for everyone. Whether I hear God's call or not depends on the condition of my ears, and exactly what I hear depends upon my spiritual attitude.*

2) Checkpoint 2: Commissioning. (11-14)

Samuel was commissioned with communicating the compelling message that God had given him. Where can you communicate the compelling message God has given you?

God has commissioned us as Christians with compelling messages. Which of these messages is easiest for you to proclaim:

- The Good news of salvation for the world to hear- c.f. Romans 10:14-15
- The Grace filled news of restoring one another- c.f. Galatians 6:1-2
- Good works that bring God glory- c.f. Ephesians 2:8-10

Discuss this statement: *We cannot properly discern and understand God's commissioning if we harbor sin.*

3) Checkpoint 3: Confrontation. (15-18)

Has the message God has given caused confrontation in your life?

What components make up the compelling message of the Gospel? How can you communicate that to someone in a clear manner?

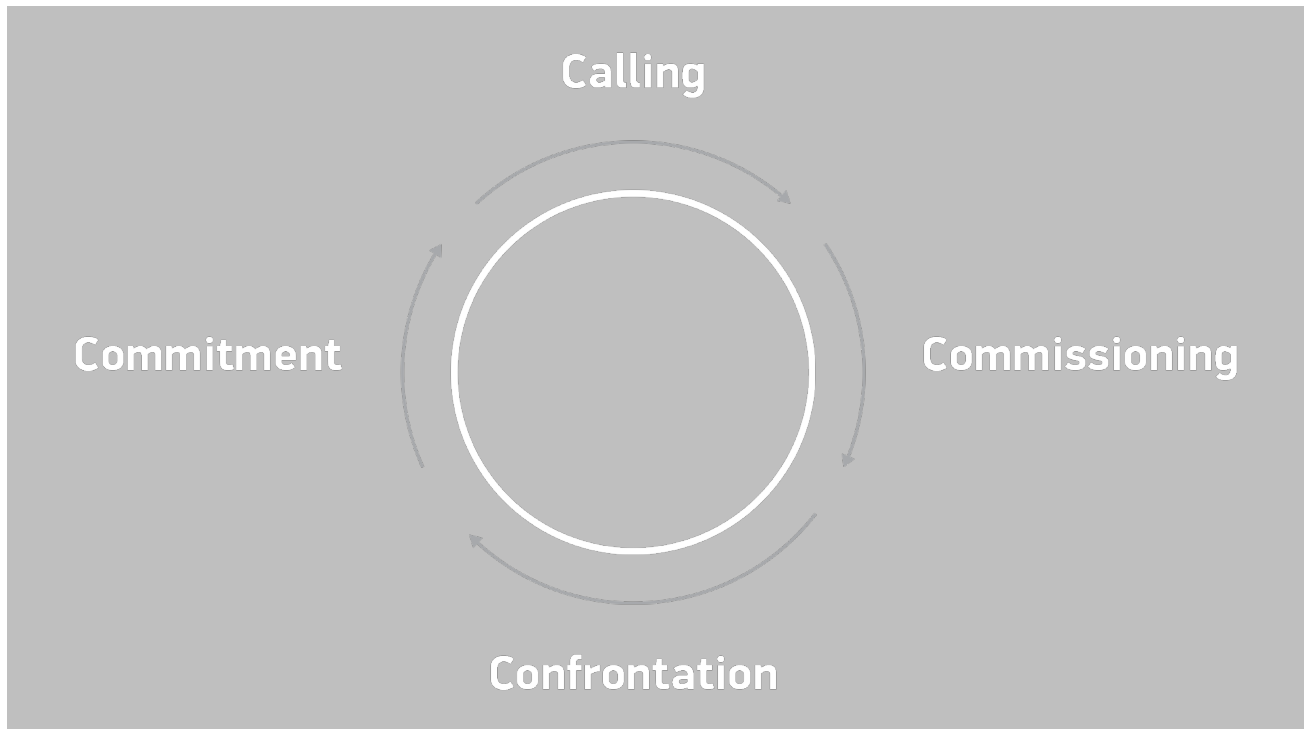
The compelling message of the truth being proclaimed will cause confrontation. Do you shy away from confrontation with others over Gospel centered issues?

Discuss this statement: *Truth carries with it confrontation. Truth demands confrontation; loving confrontation, but confrontation nevertheless.*

4) Checkpoint 4: Commitment. (19-21)

God revealed himself to Samuel because he was committed to fulfill his calling and proclaim his message. How has God revealed himself to you as you have been committed to him?

Consider the following diagram. At any point in a believer's journey with the Lord they are somewhere on this diagram. Where are you currently? What area do you struggle with most?



Additional Scripture

- Proverbs 29:18
- Amos 8:11
- 1 Samuel 7:3-17
- Romans 10:14-15
- Galatians 6:1-2
- Ephesians 2:8-10
- Acts 5:27-32