

## INVITE AND EMPOWER WITNESSES

The full Worship Resource can be downloaded at:  
[www.explorecalling.org/called/downloads](http://www.explorecalling.org/called/downloads).

The full worship resource includes:

- Title Suggestions for Worship Services
- Liturgical Resources
- Sermon Starters
- Questions for Further Reflection
- Invite and Empower Witnesses

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A common thread running through the stories told by the authors of the Sermon Starters is that God's call is always to serve as individual members of the whole body of Christ. Some are called to lay ministries. Some are called to the mission field. Some are called to teach, or lead God's people to sing praise. Some are called to preach as part of an ordained order, while others are called to provide leadership and give witness as lay speakers.

Congregations must do the hard work of creating a "Culture of Call" which will enable each member to the multitude of ways God calls boys and girls, men and women, to hear and respond to God's call on their lives. One way to create a culture of call is to invite individuals from your congregation to give witness to how God has called them, and how they have responded. Choose a variety of examples, from the woman who faithfully extends the table to the homebound, to the plumber who offers his services to the church at no charge, to the young person who helps out in the nursery or the child who is learning to play handbells. Perhaps each week you could invite one person to give a short testimony in response to the sermon in which the person briefly shares (2-3 minutes):

- Where they were when they heard the voice of God speaking, and whose voice the message came through
- How they discerned their particular response
- What they did to live out that call
- What difference it has made for their life

These testimonials may be recorded in advance through audio or video technology and played, or they may be given live. Be sure to give lots of encouragement and clear guidelines about the length of the witness well in advance to allow for preparation. Take the time to listen to the individual's testimony and give tips where needed so they may offer their very best!