

# LEAD THE MISSION



**Series:** Lead the Mission

**Message:** Called into Ministry



## Become a leader in The Salvation Army

In the hands of God, a stick can split a sea, a stone can slay a giant, a loaf of bread can feed a crowd. Imagine what could happen when you place your life in the hands of God.

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<b>Topic:</b>	Calling into ministry
<b>Main Point:</b>	Calling is both broad and specific
<b>Intended Response:</b>	Be available for God

### **Introduction**

God's Spirit is blowing a fresh breeze through The Army and those who open their hearts will catch this wind and be taken to new places and minister to new people and communities. Our best days are ahead of us and we all have a part to play – everyone of us. This message explores the different topics around calling and ends with an inspiring invitation for all emerging leaders to step up and lead the mission of The Salvation Army.

#### **1. What is calling.**

- Calling begins with a growing desire in your heart to serve God.
- Calling is challenging to follow after.
- We are all called to be the light of the world.

**Point One:** Calling is simply about serving God.

#### **2. Calling is both broad and specific.**

- We all have a part play in God's kingdom.
- We believe and uphold the priesthood of all believer.
- God also calls aside to a specific ministry function.

**Point Two:** Be available for God.

#### **3. We need to respond to the call**

- What might happen when you respond to God?
- God has good things prepared in advance for us to do.
- God is always looking for people to stand in the gap.


**Point Three:** God won't send us until we surrender.

### **Teaching Illustration: Video clip**

This message uses the video clip "How far I'll go" from the animated movie Moana. You can play the clip from YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cPAbx5kgCJo> Often links change so renting or buying the movie is also a good option.

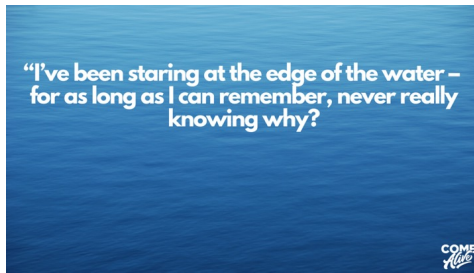
Sermon written by Chris Trodden B.A.(Bib Std):[Christopher.Trodden@aus.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Christopher.Trodden@aus.salvationarmy.org)



<b>Introduction</b>	<p>Welcome everyone. Today we are going to explore the topic of ministry and following after the call of God.</p> <p>I'd like to start today's message with a movie clip. As I watched this the other day I really felt God grab hold of my heart and speak to me about ministry and following after the call of God.</p> <p>The clip comes from the Walt Disney movie: Moana. It's the story of a young woman who needs to find a cure for the darkness that is covering her land and destroying life in her village.</p> <p>The only problem is, she isn't allowed to leave her island. And this song is about her internal wrestle about staying put or responding to this sense of calling.</p> <p>The words in this song are so powerful, let's listen together:</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cPAbx5kgCJo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cPAbx5kgCJo</a> 2:35 mins</p> 
<b>Transition</b>	<p>Powerful isn't it. There are a few lines that really spoke to me and I'd like to go through them with you. And I pray that God will breathe on this message and make let it speak to you and encourage you about the call of God over your life.</p>
<b>1. What is calling</b>	<p>Calling can be understood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• As a growing desire in your heart to do something you feel God wants you to do (Ps 37:4, Matt 9:9).</li></ul> <p>I love the way how the song frames the idea that calling has a beginning, it has some mystery to it, that it grows over time, but ultimately, it needs to be responded to.</p>



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*"I've been staring at the edge of the water – for as long as I can remember, never really knowing why?"*

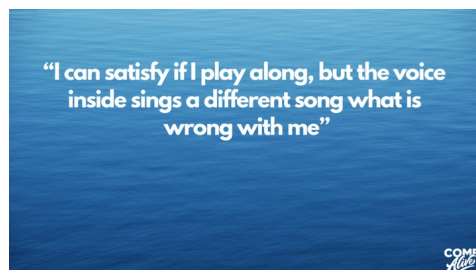
I've found calling often starts off like that. It starts as a sense, a desire, a dream, a vision, a longing for mission – there's something more inside, something deep down you feel you should be doing.

And here's the thing, you can't get rid of it. It's like a reoccurring thought or feeling that cannot be shaken. No matter how hard you try and ignore it, God has a way of reminding you.

Insert story of how your calling began, or how God was constantly leading you to the same conclusion over a period a time.

The other thing about calling is that it really is challenging to follow after. You might be the first Christian in your family and people around don't get the idea of "ministry". It's not a normal "career path". Sometimes people will try and hold you back, try and talk you out of it.

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*"I can satisfy if I play along, but the voice inside sings a different song what is wrong with me"*


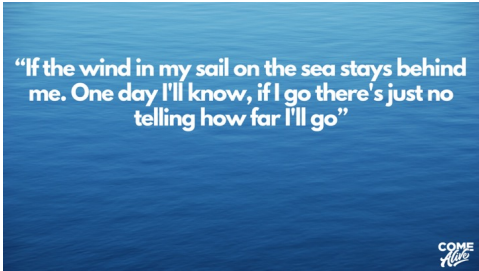
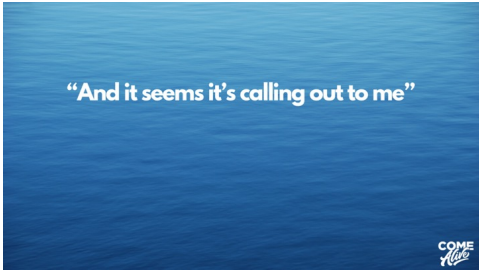
There's also alot of natural fears that will jump up from time to time:

- How am I meant to earn enough money?
- Is the timing right?
- What will my family and friends think?

It's a challenge to follow after your call. It's not the normal path for many people. But like Jeremiah said of the word of the Lord,

*"...it's like a fire shut up in your bones..." (Jer 20:9)*

You cannot put it off, calling follows you wherever you go.

	<p>I love this next line,</p> <p>This slide</p>  <p><i>"See the light as it shines on the sea, it's blinding"</i></p> <p>It stirs in me this idea of the gospel – Jesus, the Light of the World. It also reminds me of the challenge that we are also called to be the light of this world. In Matthew 5:14, we all have been called to share the love of Jesus with everyone, to be a city on top of a hill – a light of hope, a light of life, a light of love.</p> <p>As I said, there's a sense of mystery when it comes to calling – God wants to use us! There's a sense of adventure</p> <p>This slide</p>  <p><i>"If the wind in my sail on the sea stays behind me. One day I'll know, if I go there's just no telling how far I'll go"</i></p> <p>If there ever was a line written about ministry this is it – there's no telling how far you'll go, what you'll get to do, experience, what places and people you will get to meet and minister to.</p> <p>Share about the roles, people, salvations, healings, places, highlight events of your ministry journey so far.</p>
<b>Point 1.</b>	Calling is simply about serving God.
<b>Transition</b>	<p>One of the big questions about ministry and calling I get is, "how do I know if God is calling me?"</p> <p>This slide</p>  <p><i>"And it seems it's calling out to me"</i></p>

## 2. Calling is both broad and specific

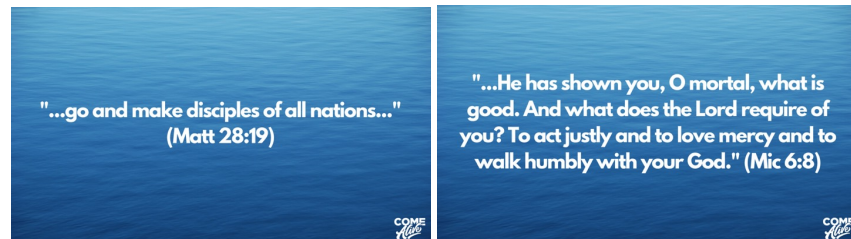
In Scripture, there are two types of calling we can identify: the broad and the specific.

### Broad call

The broad nature of calling is the Christian life.

- We have the Great Commission from Matt 28:19, to go and make disciples of all nations.
- We have Micah 6:8 "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

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To live out the gospel, to reveal the kingdom of God, to partner with God, to bring hope, restoration, life, to live, love and fight alongside others – this is the broad calling of ministry we all share equally.

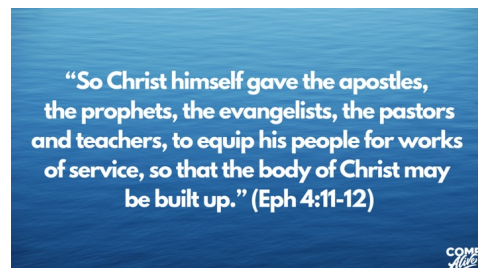
We don't need to wrestle with this. We all have a part play in God's kingdom. We believe and uphold the priesthood of all believer. We are all called to this type of ministry.

### Specific call

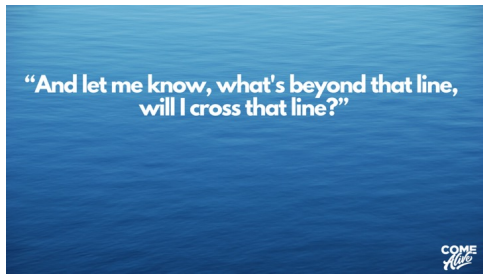
But we also need to acknowledge there are people God calls aside to a specific ministry function.

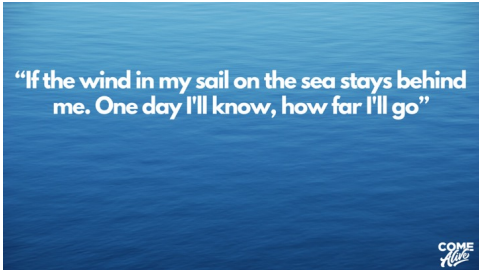
We read in Ephesians 4:11-12,

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"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

	<p>We can think of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priscilla – a teacher of teachers (Acts 18:26, Rom 16:4)</li> <li>• Joseph – a leader of Egypt (Gen 41:41)</li> <li>• Junia – an apostle for Christ (Rom 16:7)</li> <li>• Moses – the deliverer of a nation (Exo 3:10)</li> <li>• Jesus – the saviour of the world (Acts 4:12)</li> <li>• John the Baptist – who prepared the way for Jesus (Lk 3:4-6)</li> <li>• Phoebe – a minister in the church of Cenchreae (Rom 16:1)</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> what I would say about “specific” calling – is that while you may feel very clear about being called into ministry, the outworking of it is generally not that specific.</p> <p>Paul the apostle for example, was called to “be a light to the Gentiles” (Acts 13:47). But what did this look like? Not one thing, but many things.</p> <p>He was an evangelist, a church planter, an author, a teacher, a travelling itinerant preacher and more. He had a “specific calling, but not a specific outworking.</p> <p>The key isn’t about figuring out if “am I called or not?” – we all are. It isn’t about finding the one thing God wants you to do.</p> <p>When it comes to calling, the most important thing is it’s about making a decision to be available for God. It’s about willing following after where God is leading you. It’s about responding.</p>
<b>Point 2.</b>	Be available for God.
<b>3. We need to respond to the call</b>	<p>Moana said it best, <i>“Will I cross that line?”</i></p> <p>This slide</p>  <p><i>“And let me know, what’s beyond that line, will I cross that line?”</i></p> <p>We often talk about stepping out of the boat – but for the disciples, perhaps just as scary, was that they first had to step into the boat. They had to leave behind their jobs, their security, their predicted path in order to follow Jesus (Mk 1:19-20).</p> <p>Moana was hesitant and scared to jump into the boat – but when she did, when she responded to the call, when she crossed that line, she followed the call and a whole village was saved.</p>

	<p>This reminds me of the Samaritan, who had an encounter with Jesus. She didn't keep it for herself, she ran back and told her village (Jn 4:39) and the Bible says "many people put their faith in Jesus" (Jn 4:41).</p> <p>What might happen when you respond to God?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What if there's a village waiting to experience the gospel and you are the person who is meant to reveal it to them?</li> <li>• What if God has a people set aside for you to go and minister to?</li> <li>• What if there's a corps that is waiting to be led or planted?</li> </ul> <p>What if the dreams placed in your heart are not actually about you but what God wants for others – people He wants to radically transform with the love of Jesus.</p> <p>We read in Ephesians 2:10, "God has good things prepared in advance for us to do" but they will only ever be a reality if we cross the line and do something about it.</p> <p>God is always looking for people to stand in the gap, a person who will say, "here I am Lord, send me" (Isa 6:8). And maybe you've been thinking about this for a while now. Maybe you've already prayed that pray "here I am send me". God won't send us until we surrender.</p>
<b>Point 3.</b>	God won't send us until we surrender.
<b>Call to Action</b>	<p>The last line of the song is,</p> <div data-bbox="668 1227 1153 1532" data-label="Image"> <p style="text-align: center;">This slide</p>  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"If the wind in my sail on the sea stays behind me. One day I'll know, how far I'll go"</i></p> <p>We are living in such a great time in the Salvation Army. There is so much opportunity to be part of something new.</p> <p>God's Spirit is blowing a fresh breeze through The Army and those who jump in the and raise their sails will catch this wind and be taken to new places and to new people who haven't been ministered too yet.</p> <p>God has a call over The Salvation Army that wherever there is hardship or injustice, we will live, love and fight alongside others and see Australia transformed one life at a time with the love of Jesus</p>



	<p>Our best days are ahead of us and we all have a part to play – every one of us. God is doing a new thing in The Army and I’m willing to be part of it – will you? Will you raise your sails and let God’s breath fill you again and led you in His mission?</p>
<b>Close</b>	<p>As we close today’s message, let me read you a Scripture from Ezekiel,</p> <p>“The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry.</p> <p>He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” I said, “Sovereign Lord, you alone know.” Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.’”</p> <p>So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it,</p> <p>‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.” (Ezek 37:1-10)</p> <p>A vast army! Imagine that – A Vast Army!</p> <p>This is what happens when we respond to the call of God – His Spirit raises us up and releases us into life and missions and ministry – and we become part of a vast army, an army that has been transforming nations, countries, villages, families and people for over 150 years.</p> <p>This is what happens when God’s breath enters us He lifts us out of darkness into light, He moves us from death to life, He raises us up from the ashes and we are reborn into the likeness of Jesus – so that we may stand, so that we can take a stand against poverty, against injustice, against sin, against suffering, against inequality – God is calling us to stand again in these days.</p>

	<p>God is looking for people who will stand with Him in the power and might of His Spirit. God is waiting for you to stand up and lead the mission of The Army.</p> <p>Will you be such a person? Will you stand? Will you respond to the call of God? Will you stand to lead the mission of The Salvation Army?</p>
<b>Response and Prayer</b>	<p>For some of you here today, this is a holy moment – this is a moment when the Holy Spirit is on you, tugging at your heart, deep down, you know God is calling you to ministry in The Salvation Army.</p> <p>Becoming an Officer or Auxiliary Lieutenant is about being freed up to be available for God’s plan – it could be for a concentrated season or it could be a life-long call – the real challenge isn’t the clarity of the call at this – it’s about crossing the line and responding to it.</p> <p>Will you respond today?</p> <p>Let’s pray together...</p>



### **References**

Jer 20:9, Matt 5:14, Rom 8:19, NLT, Acts 18:26, Rom 16:4, Gen 41:41, Rom 16:7, Exo 3:10, Jos 1:6, Acts 4:12, Est 4:14, Acts 13:47, Lk 3:4-6, Rom 16:1, Mk 1:19-20, Jn 4:39, Jn 4:41, Eph 2:10, Acts 8:4-25, Isa 6:8, Rom 8:14, Phil 3:15, 1 Tim 3:1.

### **Gen 1:28**

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

### **Gen 2:15**

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

### **John 20:22**

And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

### **Ezek 37:1-10**

“The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” I said, “Sovereign Lord, you alone know.” Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.’”

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## **How Far I'll Go**

Sung by Auli'i Cravalho

I've been staring at the edge of the water  
'Long as I can remember, never really knowing why  
I wish I could be the perfect daughter  
But I come back to the water, no matter how hard I try  
Every turn I take, every trail I track  
Every path I make, every road leads back  
To the place I know, where I can not go, where I long to be

See the line where the sky meets the sea? It calls me  
And no one knows, how far it goes  
If the wind in my sail on the sea stays behind me  
One day I'll know, if I go there's just no telling how far I'll go

I know everybody on this island, seems so happy on this island  
Everything is by design  
I know everybody on this island has a role on this island  
So maybe I can roll with mine  
I can lead with pride, I can make us strong  
I'll be satisfied if I play along  
But the voice inside sings a different song

See the light as it shines on the sea? It's blinding  
But no one knows, how deep it goes  
And it seems like it's calling out to me, so come find me  
And let me know, what's beyond that line, will I cross that line?

The line where the sky meets the sea? It calls me  
And no one knows, how far it goes  
If the wind in my sail on the sea stays behind me  
One day I'll know, how far I'll go

Songwriters: Mark Mancina / Lin-Manuel Miranda  
How Far I'll Go lyrics © O/B/O Apra Amcos

DVD cover

