



My Calling Got Confusing | Shawn Johnson | 11.15.20  
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

**If you could be friends with one person from history, who would you choose, and why?**

SHARE

Welcome back to Group! This week, Shawn preached a stand-alone sermon called, “My Calling Got Confusing.” That’s a subject we can all relate to. But before we jump in, take some time to check in with your Group by answering the following questions.

**What is one word you would pick to describe how you are currently feeling? Why did you choose that word?**

**What is the healthiest change you have made in your life this year?**

GROW

**Read 1 Samuel 17:1-37**

**What do you know about the story of David and Goliath? What stuck out to you the most about it this week?**

This week, Shawn talked about David and Goliath. We all know that story so well that sometimes it can be easy to overlook it. But as Shawn reminded us, there is so much depth to this story. David knew what he was supposed to do, but there were so many other opinions around him trying to talk him out of it.

**Have you ever experienced that? Have you ever known God was telling you to do something but felt like the world was giving you every excuse to stay stuck and not move forward?**

At times, our calling can start to get confusing. We may not be up against a literal giant like David was, but we all face our own giants throughout the week. Sometimes it's the bills that keep coming in while the bank account slowly dwindles. It may be a relationship with a person who is difficult to love or it's getting a call from the doctor's office that you weren't expecting.

When we face challenges, our calling can start to get confusing. We know what God wants us to do, but we have no idea how we will be able to pull it off. But David always knew God would come through for him. He'd seen him do it before, and he knew he would do it again.

The more time we spend remembering how much God has already done for us, the more confidence we will have to face all the future giants in our life!

**What is one moment where God came through for you in the past?  
Tell the Group about it.**

**Are you currently facing any giants? If so, tell the Group about it.**

**What is one thing you need from your Group this week to help you overcome this giant?**

M O V E

**Read Galatians 1:6-10**

**What did you notice about this verse? What stuck out to you? What does this verse tell us about The Apostle Paul?**

These days everybody has an opinion, and they aren't shy about sharing them. If we aren't careful, critics will cause us to walk away from our calling. Criticism may be inevitable but

deciding to listen to it is optional. As Shawn asked us this week, “are we going to listen to our critics or our Creator?”

In the passage you just read, you may have noticed that Paul is practiced at not worrying about people’s approval:

*Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings or God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.*

Comparison absolutely crushes our joy. For as long as we need to be better than other people to be happy, we will be miserable. C.S. Lewis said it this way, “*Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man.*” How true is that? It’s not so much that we want to achieve things; it’s that we want to have more of something than someone else. The problem is, there will always be someone bigger, faster, stronger, richer, funnier, and better than us. The key to real joy is moving past the comparison game.

So, let’s get practical. This week, Shawn gave us three steps to remember as we continue to move forward even when things get crazy.

1. *Remember God Has a Plan for You*
2. *Persevere Through Criticism*
3. *Throw Off Comparison*

Which of those three steps stuck out to you the most? Which one do you need to apply to your life this week? Why?

What is one practical step you can take this week to apply one of these steps to your life?

### Take-Home Assignment: Throw-Off Comparison

In his letter to the church in Ephesus, Paul gives us a cure for comparison: For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago (Ephesians 2:10).

When you truly understand that you are God’s masterpiece, you stop feeling the need to compare yourself all the time. Write this verse out on a notecard and try to memorize it.

When you feel yourself playing the comparison game this week, recite this verse back to yourself and then keep going!

#### P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

#### T O G O

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!*

- Philippians 4:4