



Eston College Online

Discerning and Stewarding Your Call: What'd You Call Me?
30 Hours
Chris Westby

I. Course Description

Have you ever struggled to know what a “call” is? Or struggled to know how to develop in your call? Os Guinness says, “There is no calling without a Caller.” Are all people called? Or is it a select group of people who are called? Together we will discover calling through biblical accounts and work to lay a foundation to steward the call God is birthing in us.

II. Learning Outcomes

A. Primary Student Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, you will...

1. Be able to explain the biblical basis for the idea of “calling” and why it is essential to steward God’s call on your life.
2. Be able to define your personal calling and how love for God and people should direct your life.

B. Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will...

Cognitive (Head) – After completing this course you will...

1. Understand the nature of calling and vocation
2. Recognize vocational calling within ministry and burdens for serving in the Kingdom
3. Articulate a personal vision statement to guide you in the next season

Affective (Heart) – After completing this course you will...

1. Develop a deeper relationship with Jesus, our “Caller”
2. Be transformed in your identity

3. Rely deeply on the Holy Spirit to live out your calling

Conative (Hands) – After completing this course you will...

1. Steward your calling now and especially in the future
2. Model your call and gifting by serving Jesus
3. Engage in mentoring others to discover calling

III. Course Content

Lesson 1 - Introduction to Calling

- 1.1 – What is This Course About?
- 1.2 – What is Calling?
- 1.2.1 – Importance of the Call
- 1.3 – Who Was Called in Scripture?
- 1.4 – Where Have I Experienced God's Calling?
- 1.5 – Intro to Calling Summary

Lesson 2 – Forming the Call

- 2.1 – My View of God
- 2.2 – My View of Self
- 2.3 – The Reason for the Call
- 2.4 – What is the Crucible? (Parts 1 & 2)
- 2.5 – Forming the Call Simplified

Lesson 3 – Discerning a Personal Vision Statement

- 3.1 – What Is a Personal Vision Statement?
- 3.2 – Components of a Personal Vision Statement
- 3.3 – How to Write a Personal Vision Statement

Lesson 4 – Stewarding Your Calling

- 4.1 – Your Responsibility in Stewarding Your Call
- 4.2 – How Do Prophetic Words Fit into My Calling?
- 4.3 – How Can I Practically Grow in My Calling?
- 4.4 – Lesson 4 Summary

Lesson 5 – Bringing it All Together

- 5.1 – General Calling, Specific Burden, and Vocational Ministry
- 5.2 – Post-Course Assignments
- 5.3 – How Have You Grown?
- 5.4 – What Are My Next Steps?

V. Course Evaluation

To complete this course for credit with ACOP's credentialling, or for the sake of Eston College's

future accreditation, complete the following assignments:

1. Online Instruction. 5 hours of video; 5 hours of supplementary material. (50%): Engage in full with the online instruction and some supplementary material for each lesson and topic.
2. Reading. 10-15 hours time investment (25%). Read **either**: *The Call* by Os Guinness, **or both** *Leading Me* by Steve Brown **and** *Chazown* by Craig Groeschel.
3. Writing Assignment. 10 hours time investment (25%). Choose ONE of the following options:
 - i. Submit a 5-page paper that summarizes the key points and principles as it will affect your view of calling.

Or

- ii. Complete a personal vision statement summarized in approximately 120 words, as well as a long form that will encompass the following themes: My view of God and God's view of me – my identity, my primary ministry of marriage and/or family, general ministry, and lastly specific ministry through your passions and "holy discontent."

Assignment Name	Hours	Percentage
Complete Online Curriculum	10	50%
Reading	10	25%
Writing Assignment	10	25%
Total:	30 Hours	100%

IX. Bibliography

Required Textbooks: Read either 1, or *both* 2 and 3 (when possible, we choose books from the [Scribd library](#)):

1. [Guinness, Os. *The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2003.](#)

This text is the treatise on calling and God the caller! It is a profound journey into understanding calling within vocational ministry and serving your calling as the laity. A masterful work of eloquence and depth!

2. [Brown, Steve. *Leading Me: Eight Practices for a Christian Leader's Most Important Assignment*. Lagoon City, ON: Castle Quay Books, 2015.](#)

This text will challenge you in your personal leadership, which is the first and foremost area of our calling. Through Dr. Brown's eight practices you'll be set on course for your

own calling and leadership journey.

3. [Groeschel, Craig. *Chazown. Multnomah, 2017.*](#)

If you have been searching for God's purpose for your life, this is a great book! With straight forward and easy to understand language to help you find the answer to the question many people ask, "Why am I here?" Like his other books, this one is a good read that you don't want to put down once you start. The topics covered make it easy to find your passion which then leads to your purpose.

The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® TextEdition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. New International Version (NIV)

Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc

Recommended Sources:

[Barton, Ruth Haley. *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership.* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2008.](#)

This text will guide you through the development of calling through the life of Moses. Complete with the challenges he faced when in the house of Pharaoh, with the flocks of Midian and ultimately his role as leader of a slave people.

[Allender, Dan B. *To Be Told: Know Your Story, Shape Your Future.* Colorado Spring, CO: Waterbrook Press, 2005.](#)

We all have one author in life, God. Knowing that God is our life's author, He invites us to co-author our story for his glory. We all have a unique story, and what we listen to or focus on is what our Creator is asking us to do.

[Smith, Gordon T. *Courage and Calling: Embracing Your God-Given Potential.* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2011.](#)

Gordon Smith asks some very soul-searching questions that will help readers discern the differences between choosing a career and finding one's vocation or calling. God's calling may not be the same as the career path one has chosen, leaving individuals with discontent and restlessness. Matching one's abilities with God's calling brings great satisfaction. We are never too old, according to Smith, to be called by God to do His work. An excellent read and wonderful resource.

[Smith, Gordon T. *Consider Your Calling.* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2016.](#)

Smith's book is an honest summary of his previous work which is an accessible and thoughtful look at vocation for people in various life stages. Using questions to explore vocation, he invites the reader to reflect, search, and wrestle with the calling of God in

one's life. His questions help the reader avoid falling into trite, easy answers. Rather, he invites the reader into faithful obedience to God.

Keller, Timothy. *Every Good Endeavor*. New York, NY: Penguin Books, 2012 (not available in Scribd at this time).

This is a must have book for anyone wrestling with reconciling their commitment and service to God and humanity, with a calling and commitment to business, professional or public service of any kind. Keller argues that there is no conflict and guides the reader with soundly structured arguments and clear examples from the lives of people he's worked with (and biblical references) as he explains that God expects us to serve Him and humanity through our work, by living out values that lift the standards of excellence of product and service delivery in a way that strengthens families, communities and nations. Keller guides us to see the sacred in the secular.