



*Called by Name*  
ISAIAH 43:1

*He fell to the ground. He heard a voice speak to him. "Saul! Saul!" the voice said. "Why are you opposing me?"*

— Acts 9:4 NIRV

Susan A. Hart, DCE, Colorado

*Chapel Worship Service*

**Message: Name Calling**

In our Bible verse for today, God uses Saul's first name to get his attention. Think about your first and middle names. If you are named after someone in your family, stand up. (Continue with others below. Say, "If you are named... please stand up.")

- after a person in the Bible
- after a celebrity
- after a location, like a city or state
- if you know someone else with your name
- if you don't know anyone else with your name
- if you like your name
- if you don't like your name

We each have been given a name. It is used when others want our attention or when we want to let others know something belongs to us. Some people use a shortened version of their name and others use a nickname. In any case, you are called something by other people.

There are many different ways your name can be called out loud. There are nice, loving tones; for example, "I like you, Joshua." There are also mean ways or protective ways to use names; for example, "Joshua! Stop that!"

I need a volunteer. (Have a student come forward. Ask them their name.)

- **Name**, when a parent or teacher wants to get your attention, how might they say your name?
- **OK, name**, now let's say this person really needs to get your attention, and quick; how might they say your name now?
- (To the group) Why do you think it would be easier to get **name's** attention the second time? (Have **name** sit down.)
- Can you think of times when it may be really important to get someone's attention?

There are many stories in the Bible where God is trying to get the attention of someone. God might have an important message to share or he might be warning the person of danger. Let's listen to a story about how God spoke to Saul.

**Read: Acts 9:1-4**

- Who is part of this Bible story?
- Why does God need Saul to pay attention? (v. 1-2)
- How does God get Saul's attention? (v. 3-4)

## Read: Acts 9: 5-6

God told Saul he had a plan for him and God has a plan for us as well. God calls us by name to help others know his Son Jesus. God calls us his children in the Bible and when we are baptized.

- **How do we find out what God has called us to do?**  
(Take answers from the group. Make sure to include the thoughts below if not stated.)
  - *asking God for help through prayer*
  - *studying God's Word, the Bible*
  - *being willing to serve others*
- **One of the things God has called us to do is tell others about Jesus and his love, just like Saul did. If someone needed to know about Jesus and forgiveness, what could you tell them?**
- **If someone needed to hear about Jesus and heaven, what would you tell them?**
- **You don't have to say it out loud, but can you think of someone who is usually ignored or teased by others who may need to know about Jesus and his love?**
- **You don't have to say it out loud, but do you show Jesus' love to everyone you meet?**
- **Think about this. If you were going into a store and a man in a wheelchair came to the door, how could you show Jesus' love to him?**
- **If you were in church and you saw a parent having a really tough time with a small child, how could you show Jesus' love to them?**
- **If you were in school and one of the kids in your class was being left out of the fun, how could you show them Jesus' love?**
- **How does it feel to be left out?**
- **Does Jesus ever leave you out? Does Jesus ever leave anyone out?**

Jesus does not leave anyone out. Jesus loves us all and he loves us all the same. Let's end this message today by saying today's Bible verse together three times. Before each time, say your own name twice at the beginning. For example, I would say, "Leader's name, leaders name, I have called you by name, you are mine. Isaiah 43:1."

*Name, name, "I have called you by name, you are mine." Isaiah 43:1*

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**Invocation: (L: Leader; P: People)**

**L:** We make our beginning in the name of the Father who created us.

**P: God calls us by name.**

**L:** In the name of the Son Jesus who saves us from our sins.

**P: God calls us by name.**

**L:** In the name of the Holy Spirit who gives us faith and keeps it alive.

**P: God calls us by name.**

**All: Amen.**

**Opening Prayer:** Dear God, you call each of us by name through your Word and through the waters of baptism. Today we ask your blessing on our time together as we worship and praise your holy name. Please forgive us, Lord, for the times we fail you. Strengthen us all through your Word and help us remember that we are your children and we should show your love to everyone. Help us share Jesus' love with others. In the name of Your Son Jesus we pray. Amen.

**Opening Song Suggestion:** This is the Day

**Message:** Name Calling

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**Offering**

**Prayers**

**Blessing:** Let your blessing be on each one of us, Lord, and help us remember you have called us by name; we belong to you. Amen.

**Closing Song Suggestion:** Jesus Loves Me



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