



**Educate
+ Engage**



THE CALL
OF GOD



Called to Be Different

~~THE~~ OVERVIEW

When God calls us to Himself, He also calls us to be different from the world around us. Being a Christian means standing out—not just to be noticed, but to make a difference. God calls us to live holy lives—not perfect ones—but lives that reflect Jesus. In this lesson, we will explore what it means to live set apart and how our faith should shape the way we talk, act, and love others. God doesn't just want us to blend in with the world. God wants us to stand out for Him in ways that draw others closer to Him.

Optional Activity

Instructions: Read out "Would You Rather" scenarios related to standing out or fitting in (e.g., "Would you rather wear a crazy hat all day or sing your lunch order in public?"). Have students choose sides and briefly explain their choice.

Follow-up: Use this to start a conversation on the tension between wanting to fit in and being called to stand out.

Scripture Passages

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light

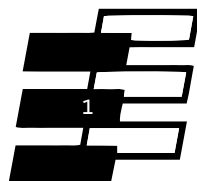
Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

Do not be conformed to this world,[a] but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

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Point 1: God calls us to live holy lives in a world that's often unholy.

The word holy means "set apart." It's not about being flawless; it's about being faithful. When God saves us, He doesn't just save us from sin; He saves us for a purpose. First Peter 2:9 reminds us that we are chosen and called out of darkness into light. We're meant to reflect the character of Jesus, not conform to the culture around us.



Lesson 2

Holiness isn't about being "better than" others. It's about being different for the right reasons—loving when others hate, forgiving when others hold grudges, and choosing integrity when it's easier to compromise. It means our decisions, our speech, and our relationships are shaped by God's Word and not the world's standards.

In what ways do you think Christians are supposed to stand out? What are the behaviors of someone who lives like that?

Sometimes it's tempting to just blend in because being different can feel uncomfortable. But when we choose holiness, we become a light in a dark place. Think about a flashlight in a dark room—everyone notices it. That's the kind of impact you can have when you live differently for God.

Teacher Note: Emphasize this by turning off the lights in the room and teaching with a flashlight in your hand for a few minutes.

Holiness also involves making choices that protect your heart. What music do you listen to? What content do you watch? Who do you allow to influence your thinking? Holiness is personal, and it comes from a heart that wants to please God above all else.

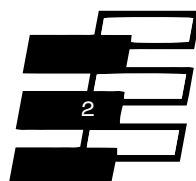
Point 2: Being different isn't about being weird—it's about reflecting Jesus.

One of the biggest misconceptions about Christianity is that being different means being strange, boring, or out of touch. But that's not what God means at all. Romans 12:2 challenges us not to copy the world's behavior, but to let God transform us from the inside out. When we allow God to change the way we think, it changes everything else. It changes our goals, our relationships, our reactions, our values.

Jesus was different. He loved the unlovable. He forgave sinners. He hung out with people others avoided. He chose humility over popularity. And when we reflect Jesus, we live in ways that don't always make sense to the world, but they make people curious. They notice.

What are some pressures you feel to fit in? What makes it hard to be different?

You've probably felt the pressure to laugh at a joke you didn't think was funny or to go along with something you knew wasn't right just to avoid being the odd one out. That's real. But God gives us strength to stand firm. When you choose not to gossip, when you walk away from drama, when you don't cheat on a test even though others do, it's not because you're better. It's because you want to reflect Jesus.



Lesson 2

And here's the awesome part: being different the right way draws people in. They start to see that there's something real and powerful about your faith. They may even ask you about it. That's your moment to share who Jesus is.

Point 3: God gives us the strength to live a set-apart life.

God never asks us to do something without giving us the power to do it. Living a holy, set-apart life isn't easy. It goes against the flow. But the Holy Spirit gives us the wisdom, courage, and strength to live differently.

Have you ever had to stand up for your faith? What happened? How did it feel?

The truth is, we will all face moments when we have to choose between pleasing people and pleasing God. Those are defining moments in our faith. But remember, you're not alone. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you (Romans 8:11). You are not doing this on your own.

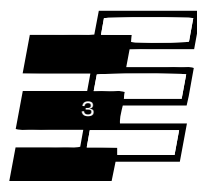
Prayer and reading Scripture help fuel our ability to live differently. Worship reminds us of who God is and who we are. Surrounding ourselves with godly friends strengthens us to keep going when it gets tough. Even Jesus had a close group of friends who walked with Him. We need that too.

When you mess up—and you will—God's grace is there to pick you back up. Holiness isn't about being perfect. It's about progress. It's about getting back up, staying close to Jesus, and saying, "I want to live for You."

Let's not forget that God uses different people to make a difference. Look at the Bible: Esther stood up to save her people. Daniel refused to bow to a king. Joseph stayed faithful in prison. Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter and chose instead to identify with God's people. All of them were different and God used them powerfully.

Being different impacts your relationships. When you decide to live for God, it affects your friendships, your social life, your family relationships, and your reputation. People might not always understand your choices. Some might even make fun of you or distance themselves. That's painful, but it's also part of following Jesus.

Don't be discouraged. The reward of following Christ is far greater than anything you might lose. God will bring the right people into your life. People who will cheer you on, pray with you, and walk beside you as you pursue Him. Being different may cost something, but it's always worth it.



Have you ever lost or gained friendships because of your faith? What was that like?

Closing

God doesn't call us to blend in—He calls us to stand out. That can be challenging, but it's also one of the most powerful ways to show people what Jesus is like. When you live differently, people notice. And when they ask why, you have the chance to point them to the One who changed you.

Being holy isn't about being perfect. It's about being real. It's about letting God shape your life in such a way that when people see you, they see Him. And when that happens, lives are changed, including your own.

ENGAGE

Where in your life do you need to be more like Jesus and less like the world?

Spend a few minutes asking God to help you stand out in the right ways—not in ways that impress others, but to reflect Him. Ask Him to give you the courage to say “yes” to Him even when it means saying “no” to the crowd.

Teacher Note: Invite students to share one specific area where they want to live differently. Pray together as a group for strength, courage, and boldness to live set-apart lives. Consider writing those areas on cards and placing them at the front as a symbolic commitment to live for Jesus.

