



reflecting Jesus

BETA

Jesus calls me to join him in his work **27**



did you know...

Jesus has been working continually in our world...

1. Jesus created our world
(Colossians 1:16)

2. Jesus appeared to many people in the Old Testament including:
Abraham (Genesis 18), Hagar, (Genesis 16:7) Jacob (Genesis 32), Moses (Exodus 3:2), the whole

of Israel (Judges 2:1-4), Gideon (Judges 6:11)

3. Jesus came to earth as a baby
(Matthew 1:21)

4. Jesus is at work for us right now
(Hebrews 4:14)

5. Jesus is returning again
(John 14:1-3)



photo: sxc Avalore

...and he's longing for us to join him in his work



the facts of his story

God works around us in many different ways. How does God get his work done in the following situations?

1. Exodus 23:20-21 _____
2. Acts 16:7-10 _____ and _____
3. Acts 8:26-29 _____ and _____
4. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 _____
5. 1 Corinthians 12:27-28 _____ and _____
6. Genesis 16:7-13 _____

How does God invite me to join him in what he is doing? This is how Jesus thought about this:
(from John 5:17, 19-20)

1. The Father has been working up until now
2. God now has me working
3. I do nothing on my own initiative
4. I watch to see what God is doing
5. I do what I see the Father is already doing
6. I remember that my Father loves me
7. He shows me everything he is doing

From Experiencing God, Henry Blackaby



thinking it through

1. What do you think God might be doing around you at the moment, and why?

2. How does it make you feel to think that the King of the whole universe wants you to work with him?
Why would such a God want you to help him?



habits for reflecting the work of Jesus ~ adventures with God

what Heaven is doing

Right now, God is at work. His Holy Spirit and angels are tirelessly working to prepare people to meet Jesus — who is coming very soon. God's angels are around us all the time. They are very busy, and they don't waste any time.

God is always at work in our world. So the question Henry T. Blackaby likes to ask us is, "Will we join God in what he is doing?" And of course, what God is doing is to point people to see his Son, Jesus, and the salvation he brings.

As we can see all around us, there is plenty of work for us to do for God's kingdom. So if you are willing to reveal Jesus, God will definitely use you — no question about that. As long as you are willing to do whatever he asks you, God can use you!

God will never say...

God will never say to you, "You are not old enough" (or "too old") or, "You are not clever enough", or "I can't use you because you don't know enough yet." God specialises in using people who don't think they are good enough — like Moses who asked "O Lord, please send someone else to do it." (Exodus 4:13) . Or who think they are too young — like Jeremiah who complained, "'Ah, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child.'" (Jeremiah 1:6)

Do not insist that God give you something that you think you are ready for. That could lead to your ruin.

God is far more interested in accomplishing His kingdom purposes than you are. He will move you into every assignment that He knows you are ready for. Let God orient you to Himself.

Henry Blackaby

God chooses the weak things of the world...

The reason God chooses people who don't think they can do the job is because only such people are willing to depend on God 100% for their ideas and strength. We normally like

Two important factors that will enable me to recognise when God is at work around me are:

1. I need to be living in an intimate love relationship with God
2. God must take the initiative to open my eyes so I can see what God is doing

Henry Blackaby

to think we are really clever and strong, but as humans living in the middle of a battle between two supernatural superpowers, we don't have what it takes to live for God without complete dependence on his power.

This is why Paul says, "we have this treasure [the glory of God] in jars of clay [us] to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." (2 Corinthians 4:7) Later Paul notes God's promise to him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9) So no matter who you are or how weak you think you are, God can use you. And he is ready to start the moment you are willing.

getting into the habit of being on an adventure with God

God's willingness to use us makes every day an adventure with God. If you want to have an adventure with God, when you wake up each morning, you could do the following:

1. Pray that the Holy Spirit and the angels will guide you to serve or witness to someone today.
2. As you go through the day, keep a prayerful attitude, asking God to open

your eyes to the service and witnessing opportunities around you.

3. Be bold to move forward when God opens up an opportunity, but don't be frightened about what to do or say. God will make this clear to you as you step out.

You can use your Journal to write about your adventures. How did God use you? How did the Spirit direct you? If you couldn't see that

God did, think back to the places you visited, the people you spoke with, the things you did. Were there any times that God used you, but you didn't realise? Or were they any chances to serve him but for some reason you missed the opportunity? Why was that?

The good news is that every time we will pray to be used, God will bring us together with people to serve—we can count on that!



putting the pieces together

In "did you know..." we began to see that Jesus has been at work on our earth from the very beginning. Nothing happens in our world without him knowing.

In "the facts of his story" we saw many ways in which God is at work around us. He is at work 1) as he directs the circumstances of his people, 2) through the Holy Spirit directing our circumstances and through visions, 3) through angels that speak directly and by the words of the Holy Spirit to us, 4) by words written down on paper, 5) giving us spiritual gifts to use for the church body, and by 6) his personal appearance.

In "habits for reflecting the work of Jesus", we looked at a simple way to join Jesus in what he is doing all around us. To be involved in working with the God of the whole universe will always be an adventure!



my time with God

As you go through this week, try to practice the habit of having an adventure with God each day.

Also, you can read the follow passages to explore how God uses us in more depth. In each situation, what was God wanting to do, and why did he communicate with his people in this way? What can you learn from these situations yourself?

1. God's promise to personally walk with his people to the promised land in Exodus 23:20-32.
2. The Holy Spirit's direction of Paul's trip and the vision to go to Macedonia in Acts 16:1-16.
3. The Holy Spirit's involvement in Philip's ministry in Acts 8.
4. God's personal appearance to Hagar in Genesis 16.
5. The importance of writing down God's thoughts and instructions in 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
6. God's giving of spiritual gifts in the church in 1 Corinthians 12:12-30.



pass it on!

How would you explain to a friend how to have an adventure with God?



extra help

1. Experiencing God, by Henry Blackaby.
2. Steps to Christ chapter 9, *The work and the Life*. Ellen White.