

It has to be said, I am not a fan of that song. But I found myself singing it as I read the reading today, and reflected on God's calling. Each and every one of us has a calling, a vocation. God gives us skills, gifts and talents, and sends us out to play our part in His mission in the world. We're not all called to ordination, leadership, or preaching. But we are all called to share the Good News of Christ.

In today's reading, Jesus says, "As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give." We receive salvation freely, and so Jesus calls us to freely give to those we meet in using our gifts, and in sharing the message of the kingdom. For some of us, that might mean being called to physically go. I've known since I was about 14 that I was being called to physically go and proclaim the Good News, and minister to God's people wherever He leads me. For others of us, that means using our gifts to minister to those around us, where God has placed us. Perhaps an expression of your faith is the time you give to volunteering for a charity. Perhaps it's supporting the Foodbank. Perhaps it's being willing to get stuck in with the washing up after an event. Perhaps it's the financial gift you give quietly but cheerfully to the church.

Whatever and however you are called, it doesn't change the fact that you are called by God. 1 Peter 3:15 says, "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect". We don't need to make a massive song and dance about the fact that we're following Jesus, nor are we all called to stand in the streets proclaiming the Good News. But we *must* all be ready to share gently and with respect why we have hope in Christ.

One of the ways I can share about the hope I have in Christ is by reflecting on the journey I've already been on with Him. I can look back and see how He has been faithful, and so I have hope, because He is always faithful. On the next page, there are some feet you can print off to help you reflect on the steps in your journey of faith. In each one, write a meaningful point in your walk with God. Perhaps you can think of a time God taught you something. Perhaps you can think of a time when He asked you to use your gifts. Perhaps you can think of specific instances of God's goodness and grace. Sometimes, we can go long periods of time and then take a giant leap of faith. Sometimes, our journey goes through a period of lots of little steps. They might be high points, they might be low points.

Being 'church' means being on the journey of faith together. We walk alongside each other, supporting each other, helping each other out. I wonder where God is calling you. I wonder what He is asking you to do with the gifts and talents He has given you.

Pray over your journey that you've mapped out, ask Him where He's leading you, and what you can do as you take your next step along the world.

