

HOW COULD I MAGNIFY MY CALLING?

By Faith S. Watson

I couldn't see how I could even begin to measure up as a teacher, let alone magnify my calling.

I had just been called to teach early-morning seminary. The person I was replacing was a master teacher who had taught seminary for years. He knew the scriptures better than I did, had more teaching experience than I had, and knew countless awesome sports stories. The class of mostly ninth-grade young men loved him.

We are taught to magnify our callings. I had interpreted that to mean we must spend more time, prepare greater lesson aids, and do better than the person who had previously held the calling. I couldn't see how I could even begin to measure up, let alone magnify my calling.

After I had spent a few days in frequent prayer and had endured several restless nights, a quiet thought crept into my mind: Did I really know what

magnify means? I turned to several scriptures that speak of magnifying our callings (for example, D&C 84:33; 88:80), but they didn't explain what *magnify* means. Then I went to my dictionary and read, "To cause to be held in greater esteem or respect."

I had a firm testimony and love of Heavenly Father and His Son, Their chosen servants, and the gospel. Drawing on my testimony and love, I increased my efforts to keep the commandments, nurture my family, pray, and study the scriptures. As I did these things, I realized that if I prepared diligently for my class, prayed to know the needs of my students, and shared my testimony and love of Heavenly Father and His Son, I could help them learn the gospel and strengthen their own testimonies. I also realized that I would

be magnifying my calling.

My students didn't seem to mind that they didn't hear great sports stories any longer and that they now had a homemaker for their teacher. We had great experiences together nonetheless.



HOLD UP YOUR CALLING

"The Prophet Joseph Smith was once asked, 'Brother Joseph, you frequently urge that

we magnify our callings. What does this mean?' He is said to have replied, 'To magnify a calling is to hold it up in dignity and importance, that the light of heaven may shine through one's performance.' "

President Thomas S. Monson, "Our Sacred Priesthood Trust," *Ensign*, May 2006, 56.

On one occasion, I went to the home of one of my students. He had some challenges, I was worried about him, and I hoped to visit with his single parent.

As I stood on the doorstep, I could see him through the front window sitting at a table studying his scriptures. In front of him stood a small photograph of the Savior I had framed and given to each of my students. Tears ran down my cheeks, and I left without ringing the bell. I was no longer worried about him.

Magnifying my calling, which seemed like an impossible task, turned out to be a sweet experience. ■

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