

ELEVATE 2025

Midwinter Christian Education Conference

When God Calls and We Hesitate: Scripture and Reflection

This reflection is provided to ground your work in Scripture and reminds us that hesitation, fear, and uncertainty are part of faithful leadership.

Scripture (NIV)

Jonah 1:3 – But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish.

Exodus 4:10 – Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.

Judges 6:15 – “*Pardon me, my lord,*” *Gideon replied*, but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.”

Reflection Questions

Where do I hesitate when God invites me to lead or serve?

What fear, resistance, or limitation am I carrying right now?

What might God be inviting me to do next?

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Funding and Stewardship Pathways for Christian Education

Christian Education is strengthened when funding is diversified, strategic, and aligned with mission.

Community-Based Funding and Product Development

- Educational workshops, conferences, or forums.
- Experience-based events (concerts, cultural celebrations).
- Product sales.
- Skills-based fundraisers (resume clinics, financial literacy).

Strategic Alliances and Grants

- Local employers and corporate giving programs.
- Community and family foundations.
- Government education grants (non-religious programming only).
- Colleges, universities, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) partnerships.

Grants are strategic, not quick. Start with one program.

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Listening Circles: Reflection and Action Sheet

Use this sheet during the Listening Circles to capture insights, needs, and your next faithful step.

What Am I Carrying Right Now?

Where Do I Need Support? (check all that apply)

- Budgeting/Funding
- Christian Education and Life Materials
- Communication
- Programming
- Staffing
- Technology
- Other: _____

What Has Helped (Even a Little)?

My Next Faithful Step (Next 30–60 Days)

One step I will take: _____

One support I need: _____



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Start Where You Are – One-Step Ministry Planner

This tool is designed to help you focus on one faithful step rather than many competing priorities.

My Focus for the Next 6–12 Months

One ministry or educational focus: _____

One age group or audience: _____

My One Step

One program, practice, or idea to explore:

My Boundary

One thing we will not add right now:

Faithfulness grows one step at a time.