



# CREATING A CULTURE OF CALLING

## Adolescent Faith Formation Program *Discovering Your Calling*

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### Program Design

This program incorporates two activity plans: #1. Discovering the Ways We Are Called, and #2 Discovering Your Call as Young Person. Each activity plan is designed as a 90 minute experience. Each activity plan can be conducted as individual sessions or combined into an extended program or as part of a one-day retreat experience. Add an opening and/or closing prayer experience to each session. You can select a prayer from *To Bless Our Callings: Prayers, Poems, and Hymns to Celebrate Vocation*. Laura Kelly Fanucci (Wipf & Stock, 2017) or a resource of your choosing. Also be sure to include a community building activity to open the sessions.

**Activity #1: Discovering the Ways We Are Called**

**Activity #2: Discovering Your Calling as a Young Person**

### Leader Preparation

Leaders should be familiar with the content in *The Stories We live* by Kathleen Cahalan (Eerdmans, 2017) to lead Activity #1. Leaders should view the video, “Discerning God’s Call” with Jennifer Haworth in preparation for Activity #2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVq3DBiYOYw>.

The two activities in “Callings and Vocation in People Today” (Activity #1) require preparation: preparing for a panel interview and/or previewing videos to show during the session. Activity #2 uses the Visual Faith Images: Calling and Vocation (purchase from [www.VibrantFaith.org](http://www.VibrantFaith.org)).

## Program Introduction

Vocation embraces who we are, how we live, and what we do—identity, relationships, and work. Vocation includes the diverse ways God calls people within their particular circumstance. It embraces how to find meaning and purpose in work and relationships, how to balance multiple responsibilities, how to connect personal concerns to the common good, how to listen deeply to God, and how to respond with faith and courage. (Laura Kelly Fanucci)

Vocation is a central part of the Christian life, encompassing:

- *who we are called to be*—the core of our identity, as created by God and baptized in Christ, and sent forth to serve by the power of the Holy Spirit;
- *how we are called to live*—our commitments of lifestyle and relationships, including marriage, parenting, or the single life;
- *what we are called to do*—the work, service and activities that fill our daily lives, including paid or professional work, volunteering, homemaking, raising children or caregiving.

As a theological concept, vocation has received renewed attention in recent years, expanding beyond traditional definitions of ordained ministry to include the diverse ways we are called:

- by the God who created us
- to particular kinds of work and relationships
- as the people we are, with our gifts, talents and resources
- in a variety of circumstances, whether joyful or difficult
- from difficult situations or times of transitions
- through the example, invitation or mentoring of other people
- for the service of others
- within the life of God who is love

We are called *by* God, who is the source of our callings. We are called *to* follow the way shown by Jesus and taken up by his disciples; this calling we share with each other. We are called *as* unique persons with a particular history and circumstance. We are called *from* the losses and grief we suffer over time, so that we can embrace life again. We are called to give our lives *for* others, not simply for our self-improvement or fulfillment. We are even called *in* our deepest suffering to carry out God's purposes in mysterious ways. We are called *through* the people in our lives, because vocation takes root in community. And, finally, we are called together to live *within* God's loving embrace, both now and in the life to come. (From: *The Stories We Live: Finding God's calling All Around Us*. Kathleen Cahalan. Eerdmans, 2017.)

# Activity #1: Discovering the Ways We Are Called

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## Resources Needed:

- Leader: *The Stories We live* by Kathleen Cahalan (Eerdmans, 2017).
- Young People: Bibles

## Preparation

- The two activities in “Callings and Vocation in People Today” require preparation: preparing for a panel interview and/or previewing videos to show during the session.

## Introduction: What is a Calling?

Begin the session by introducing the concept of “calling.” Ask the young people to share their responses to the following questions:

- When you hear the word “calling” or “vocation” what comes to mind?
- What are illustrations of the use of the word “calling.” Who does it apply to? What situations is applied?

Then share with them how the dictionary defines “calling” in the following way (see (Cambridge Dictionary and Oxford Dictionary):

- *A strong wish to do a job, usually one that is social valuable* (I’m glad she’s going into medicine. It’s a very worthy calling.)
- *An activity that is persons’ most important job, especially one in which the person has an unusually strong interest and ability* (She believes the medical professional should be thought of as a calling)
- *A strong urge towards a particular way of life or career; a vocation* (Those who have a special calling to minister to others' needs.)
- *A profession or occupation* (He considered engineering one of the highest possible callings.)

The dictionary defines “vocation” in the very similar ways to “calling.”

- *a strong feeling of suitability for a particular career or occupation*
- *a person's employment or main occupation, especially regarded as particularly worthy and requiring great dedication.*
- Synonyms: calling, life’s work, mission, purpose

Ask the group who they think has a “calling” or “vocation.”

## Present: Callings and Vocation

Use the following information to present a brief understanding of calling and vocation to the group. Emphasize the diverse ways people experience callings. For more information consult: *The Stories We live* by Kathleen Cahalan (Eerdmans, 2017).

Vocation is a central part of the Christian life, encompassing:

- *who we are called to be*—the core of our identity, as created by God and baptized in Christ, and sent forth to serve by the power of the Holy Spirit;
- *how we are called to live*—our commitments of lifestyle and relationships, including marriage, parenting, or the single life;
- *what we are called to do*—the work, service and activities that fill our daily lives, including paid or professional work, volunteering, homemaking, raising children or caregiving.

Vocation includes all of us – it’s more than people who are in ordained ministry. It includes diverse ways we are called:

- by the God who created us
- to particular kinds of work and relationships
- as the people we are, with our gifts, talents and resources
- in a variety of circumstances, whether joyful or difficult
- from difficult situations or times of transitions
- through the example, invitation or mentoring of other people
- for the service of others
- within the life of God who is love (prayer, silence, reflection)

Emphasize that *everyone has a calling from God and we experience difference callings as we grow and mature.*

## Explore: Callings and Vocation in the Bible

This activity engages young people in exploring how people are called by God in the Bible. Assign the following 14 Bible stories on calling to each young person (for more than 14 people organize the group into pairs or small groups). Ask the young people to read the story assigned to them and then discuss which of the 7 ways God calls people applies to their story. One story might illustrate multiple ways God calls people.

1. Called by God in Multiple Ways
2. Called as We Are
3. Called from People, Places, or Situation
4. Called for Service and Work
5. Called through Each Other
6. Called in Suffering
7. Called by the God Within

### Bible Stories

1. Abraham: Genesis 17:1-9
2. Moses: Exodus 3:1-17
3. Deborah: Judges 4:1-16
4. Ruth: 1:1-17

5. Samuel: 1Samuel 3:1-10
6. Elijah: 1Kings 19:1-16
7. Jeremiah: Jeremiah 1:4-10
8. Isaiah: Isaiah 6
9. Mary: Luke 1:26-38
10. Disciples of Jesus: John 1:35-51
11. Zacchaeus: Luke 19:1-10
12. Samaritan Woman at the Well: John 4:1-42
13. Paul: Acts 9:1-30
14. Timothy: 1Timothy 4:6-16

Here are examples of how these stories seek to capture one or more of the ways that God calls us.

- Called by God in Multiple Ways (e.g., Mary—Acorn, Timothy—Pilgrimage, Paul – Surprising Discovery,
- Called as We Are (e.g., Moses)
- Called from People, Places, or Situation (e.g., Abraham)
- Called for Service and Work (e.g., Paul)
- Called through Each Other (e.g., Deborah)
- Called in Suffering (e.g., Ruth and Naomi)
- Called by the God Within (e.g., Elijah)

After the young people have read and discussed their Bible story, invite them to share a brief summary of the story and which of the 7 ways God calls us was illustrated in that story. You might want to record the answers on newsprint or on a PowerPoint slide.

After all 14 Bible stories have been presented, invite the young people to share their insights on how God calls us, what these people in the Bible can teach us about calling, and how it can influence the way they think about calling.

## **Explore: Callings and Vocation in People Today**

### **Preparation**

This activity is designed to guide young people in exploring how people are called today through stories. Once again you will use the 7 ways God calls to select and analyze stories of calling.

1. Called by God in Multiple Ways
2. Called as We Are
3. Called from People, Places, or Situation
4. Called for Service and Work
5. Called through Each Other
6. Called in Suffering
7. Called by the God Within

Here are two ways to engage young people in the activity. You can do one or both of these activities.

## Option 1. A Panel on Callings and Vocation

The purpose of this panel presentation is to expose young people to the stories of calling from people in the church community. To organize your panel, use the following process. You will serve as moderator for the panel. Consider video or audio recording the panel presentations.

1. Identify 4-6 people from the church community, representing different age groups, to share their stories of being called by God.. Try for a mix of ages and lifestyles. Involve single and married people, 20s through 90s.
2. Contact the people you've selected asking about their availability and willingness to take part in an educational program. Emphasize the informal nature and brevity (7 or 8 minutes) of the presentation. Let them know you will provide them with several key questions to guide their presentation and that you are willing to meet or work with them as they gather their thoughts and ideas. Invite them to bring information about their ministry or agency to distribute to the young people.
3. Share with the panelists an overview of the session and the role they will play in it. Meet or talk with them beforehand to make sure they are comfortable and prepared. The format around which the panelists will build their presentations is simple. Here is a basic process. Feel free to add questions for them to prepare.
  - Introduce yourself. (Who are you? Where do you live? What do you do?)
  - Share your story of how God is calling you today? How did you recognize God's call? When?
  - Is this a new calling or vocation(e.g., becoming a parent, beginning a career, entering retirement)?
  - How do you live your call or vocation in everyday life?
4. Gather the panelists just prior to the session to meet each other and decide the order in which they will speak.
5. Introduce the panel members to your group at the start of the panel presentation. Explain that you have asked them to share their story of God's calling in their life. Ask group members to write down any comments or questions that come to them as the panelists are speaking.
6. Allow each panelist 7 or 8 minutes for his or her presentation (total time: approximately 30 -40 minutes). When the panelists are finished, allow time for a stretch or refreshment break.
7. Invite the group members to ask questions to explore calling and vocation in the lives of the panelists. Keep the questions focused on calling and vocation.
8. Have the group think about the kind of kinds of calling and vocation stories they heard using the 7 ways God calls:

- Called by God in Multiple Ways
- Called as We Are
- Called from People, Places, or Situation
- Called for Service and Work
- Called through Each Other
- Called in Suffering
- Called by the God Within

9. Thank the panelists for their contributions.

## Option 2. Video Stories of Calling and Vocation

Video stories are a great way to explore calling and vocation in the lives of people today. Select several videos from the following sources. After each video ask the young people to reflection on what kind of calling and vocation they saw reflected in the story using the 7 ways God calls:

- Called by God in Multiple Ways
- Called as We Are
- Called from People, Places, or Situation
- Called for Service and Work
- Called through Each Other
- Called in Suffering
- Called by the God Within

In addition to your own research of people in your community and church, here are video sources to consult in preparing for the session:

**Current Events:** Think back over the past year to see people who have demonstrated a call. For example the young people of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School have demonstrated a call born out of suffering to take a stand for peace over violence. They were listed in the 100 most influential people of 2018 in *Time* Magazine: <http://time.com/collection/most-influential-people-2018/5217568/parkland-students>.

**CNN Heroes:** Each year CNN selects the heroes of the year – many, if not all, of whom demonstrated a special calling and vocation. The 2018 CNN Heroes (and past year’s Heroes) can be found at <https://www.cnn.com/specials/cnn-heroes>. They have also selected CNN Young Heroes. You can find them at: <https://www.cnn.com/2017/12/12/us/gallery/cnn-young-wonders-2017/index.html>.

**Lives Explored Videos on Calling and Vocation** (Collegeville Institute Lives Explored Video Program): <https://collegevilleinstitute.org/vocation-projects/resources-for-congregations/lives-explored> and YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR5ELYhtrvW7rnThE8aBnYQ>. There are several videos in this collection that focus on stories that can connect with young people. Here are a few suggestions. You can preview all of these on the Collegeville Institute website.

- **Obey’s Story:** As a young child, Obey felt a calling to serve. Watch how his community led him into new (and messy!) service he never expected.
- **Sarah’s Story:** In college, Sarah decided to step outside her comfort zone—even with the risk of failure. Discover how she brought her authentic self to her work in corporate America.
- **Jane’s Story:** Jane had just gotten her biggest break as a Hollywood actor. But when she walked onto Sunset Boulevard, she felt empty. See what happened when Jane made a surprising career change.
- **Francois’ Story:** As a new immigrant in New York City, Francois found himself in crisis, wondering what God wanted from him. Discover how a career he never expected brought him deep joy.
- **Lauren’s Story:** Lauren struggled in her 20s with loss and uncertainty. Hear how work became her saving grace.

**Vocation: How Does God Call Us to Live our Faith?—Visual Poems** (Faith and Leadership, (Duke Divinity): <https://www.faithandleadership.com/vocation-how-does-god-call-us-live-our-faith> and YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/FaithandLeadership/videos>. There are four videos in this collection to review. You can preview all of these on the Faith and Leadership website.

- **Vocation as Worship:** Ella Russell, the creator and owner of E-dub-a-licious Treats, sees each task of her work in the bakery as an opportunity to honor God. As God provides Ella with the resources and opportunities to do good work, Ella returns to God thanksgiving and praise and leads a community of people to delight in what God is doing in her life. Ella compels us to reflect on how our daily lives become an act of worship.
- **Vocation as Service:** Entrepreneur and boot-maker Joshua Bingaman encourages us to reflect on how Christian vocation goes beyond service to the self and connects to the deep needs of the community. Joshua’s story of healing and transformation in community is creatively retold through his work as a boot-maker. Joshua challenges us to humbly serve others in all that we do.
- **Vocation as Obligation:** Jillian “JJ” Simmons invites us to consider how Jesus’ love obligates us to live differently, reflecting Christ in the world. JJ’s faith in Jesus compels her to go about her work as a radio personality, nonprofit leader and mother with a drive to bring change in the world. Her grateful obligation inspires a renewed courage to follow the call God places in our lives.
- **Vocation as Commission:** Sculptor Anthony Suber challenges us to get to the work of telling the story of God’s love in tangible ways, fulfilling Jesus’ Great Commission. When we answer God’s call and begin to see the imperfect parts of ourselves and others with new eyes—God’s eyes of love—we are able to tell a different story about those imperfections. With God’s eyes of love, we are commissioned to live differently.

## Conclusion

Conclude by engaging young people to share what they learned from the two activities. You can do this in small groups or the large group.

- What did you discover about calling and vocation from the people in the Bible stories?
- What did you discover about calling and vocation from the stories of people today?
- Which of the seven ways God calls us was the most common in the stories from the Bible and from people today?
  1. Called by God in Multiple Ways
  2. Called as We Are
  3. Called from People, Places, or Situation
  4. Called for Service and Work
  5. Called through Each Other
  6. Called in Suffering
  7. Called by the God Within
- How did the stories from the Bible and from people today help you identify your own calling or how you might live your vocation?

# Information for “Calling & Vocation” Panelists

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## Concept of Calling and Vocation

Vocation embraces who we are, how we live, and what we do—identity, relationships, and work. Vocation includes the diverse ways God calls people within their particular circumstance. It embraces how to find meaning and purpose in work and relationships, how to balance multiple responsibilities, how to connect personal concerns to the common good, how to listen deeply to God, and how to respond with faith and courage. (Laura Kelly Fanucci)

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We are called *by* God, who is the source of our callings. We are called *to* follow the way shown by Jesus and taken up by his disciples; this calling we share with each other. We are called *as* unique persons with a particular history and circumstance. We are called *from* the losses and grief we suffer over time, so that we can embrace life again. We are called *to* give our lives *for* others, not simply for our self-improvement or fulfillment. We are even called *in* our deepest suffering to carry out God’s purposes in mysterious ways. We are called *through* the people in our lives, because vocation takes root in community. And, finally, we are called together to live *within* God’s loving embrace, both now and in the life to come. (From: *The Stories We Live: Finding God's calling All Around Us*. Kathleen Cahalan. Eerdmans, 2017.)

## Questions to Prepare

- Introduce yourself. (Who are you? Where do you live? What do you do?)
- Share your story of how God is calling you today? How did you recognize God’s call? When?
- Is this a new calling or vocation (e.g., becoming a parent, beginning a career, entering retirement)?
- How do you live your call or vocation in everyday life?

# Activity #2: Discovering Your Calling as a Young Person

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## Resources Need

- One set of Visual Faith Images: Calling and Vocation (purchase from [www.VibrantFaith.org](http://www.VibrantFaith.org))
- Paper and pens

## Introduction

If these session follows Activity #1 then continue to the visual faith experience.

If this is used as a stand alone activity, use the Introduction information in Activity #1 to orient the young people.

Explain to them: *Discovering your call and vocation is the not the work of one season of life, but is central to each and every stage from childhood through older adulthood. We are called to discover God’s calling and our vocation in each season of life including youth.*

## Experience: Visual Faith

Use the visual faith process to help people name how they think God is calling them today. Spread the “Calling Images” on the table for all to see. Organize people into groups of 4-6 people.

Ask people to select an image that reflects how they see God calling them today. Then ask them to share their story in small groups:

- What aspect of this image most grabs your attention?
- What emotions or feeling surface in you as you look at this image?
- What does this image say about the way God is calling you right now? What is God call you to?

When all of the groups have concluded storytelling, invite people to share their insights about calling and vocation the emerged from their image experience.

## Video Presentation: *Discerning God’s Call* with Jennifer Haworth

Show the video *Discerning God’s Call* with Jennifer Grant Haworth from the Practicing Our Faith project. Go to YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVq3DBiYOYw>.

After watching the video, invite the group to share insights about calling and discernment they discovered while watching the video.

Jennifer draws on Frederick Buechner’s definition of vocation as “the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet” (*Wishful Thinking: A Seeker’s ABC*). *Can you think of someone who seems*

to be living exactly in that place? What is appealing about his or her life? Ask for examples of people who are living their “deep gladness.”

Conclude with these words from Jennifer Haworth:

At its core, vocation is a call from God to love and to grow in love—with self, others, and God. We respond to this invitation by listening carefully to our own experience in the light of God’s loving presence. In doing so, we discern what the writer and theologian Frederick Buechner says “is the place where deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” Each person’s unique calling gathers together those talents and passions that bring joy; and it discloses where, how, and with whom sharing those talents and passions will bring more love and life into the world.

(Jennifer Haworth. “Discerning God’s Call” in *On Our Way*, edited by Dorothy C. Bass and Susan R. Briehl. Upper Room Books, 2010. Page 37)

## Explore: Jesus Discerning God’s Call

Use the following introduction and questions to engage people in the story of Jesus’ temptations in the desert after his baptism by John.

Immediately after Jesus is baptized by John in the Jordan River he is “led by the Spirit” into the wilderness where the devil tempts him.

Read Matthew 3:13-4:17.

Suggest that people pay attention to who is speaking and who is acting. Notice the various settings or locations.

Discuss the Scripture passage in small groups of 4-6 people. Use several of the following questions to discuss the story.

- In what ways is this story about Jesus “discerning God’s call?”
- How is “listening” part of discernment for Jesus? for you?
- Why is the wilderness the setting for Jesus’ temptation? What has wilderness looked like for you during a time of discerning God’s call in your life?
- Do you think “fear and doubt” were part of Jesus’ discernment? How have you experienced fear and doubt in discernment?
- Have “angels” attended you in the wilderness? How?

Invite people to reflect on how Jesus’ story can inspire, support, sustain, and challenge their own sense of calling and vocation.

Conclude with reflections from the group: What new insights did they gain about Jesus discerning his call?

## Explore: Discovering Your Calling and Vocation

Begin with the video presentation and then select one or more of the options for helping young people discover their calling. Select the one(s) you think is most appropriate for your group. Feel free to combine activities and adapt the handouts for your purposes.

### Video Presentation

Begin by showing the short video clip from the 2009 **Star Trek** movie (the 2009 reboot of the Star Trek story with Chris Pine and Zachary Quinto).

Star Trek Movie Clip (3 minutes): <https://c3project.weebly.com/youth.html>

After showing the clip, ask the young people to share their insights on how this story illustrates people discovering their call. Ask them if there have been people in their life who helped them see their calling and potential.

### Option 1

Ask the young people to close their eyes for a moment and silently think about the questions you are about to ask them. After each of the following questions, pause for a few moments to give the young people time to think about their response before moving on. When you have completed the questions, give them time to summarize their thoughts. You can also create a worksheet with these questions and have the young people answer each question as you guide them through the process.

- If you woke up one morning and were told you could do one activity for as long as you wanted all day, what activity would it be?
- When in your life do you feel happiest? What are you doing at those times?
- Are there times when you lose track of time because you are so absorbed in an activity? What are you doing then?
- Is there something you are really interested in?
- Is there an activity you are really good at?

Conclude by giving them time to summarize their thoughts and identify some of their gifts, talents, and skills.

Ask the young people to complete the “Discovering Your Calling as a Young Person: An Inventory of Gifts, Talents, and Skills.” Explain that one way to discover God’s calling in their lives is to reflect on the gifts, talents, and skills they possess.

After they complete the inventory, have them share with the group two or three of their gifts, talents, and skills. Then discuss how these gifts point to how God is calling them today. Ask each person to think about how God is calling them today and how God is asking them to use their gifts, talents, and skills. Invite those who are comfortable to share their insights.

## Option 2

Ask the young people to complete the “Discovering Your Calling as a Young Person: An Inventory of Gifts, Talents, and Skills.” Explain that one way to discover God’s calling in their lives is to reflect on the gifts, talents, and skills they possess.

After they complete the inventory, organize young people in small groups to share their most significant gifts, talents, and skills.

Then discuss, with the whole group, how these gifts, talents, and skills point to how God is calling them today. Ask each person to think about how God is calling them today and how God is asking them to use their gifts, talents, and skills. Invite those who are comfortable to share their insights.

## Option 3

Ask the young people to complete the “Where Am I Called” questions. Explain that one way to discover God’s calling in their lives is to reflect on their life today and their hopes for the future.

After they complete the questions, have them identify their most significant gifts and talents on the handout.

In small groups of six invite the young people to share responses to some of their favorite questions, and then share with the group their most significant gifts and talents.

As a large group discuss how these gifts point to how God is calling them today. Ask each person to think about how God is calling them today and how God is asking them to use their gifts, talents, and skills. Invite those who are comfortable to share their insights about God calling them today.

## Option 4

Guide the young people through the process on “Discovering Your Calling and Vocation” at this time in their life. Organize people into groups of 4-6 people.

Introduce the activity by saying: *Uncovering your God-given desires is key to discovering your calling. For many of us, discovering your passion can seem like an overwhelming task, but there are questions you can answer that will help with your quest.* Explain the process and give people quiet time to reflect on the questions.

When they have completed the questions, have them share their story with their group. Remind each person to be attentive listeners. This is not a group discussion, but a storytelling experience.

Concluding by asking each person to think about how God is calling them today and how God is asking them to use their passions and gifts. Invite those who are comfortable to share their insights about God calling them today.

# Discovering Your Calling as a Young Person

## An Inventory of Gifts, Talents, and Skills

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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> loving / charitable</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> joyful</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> kind</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> generous</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> loyal</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> hopeful</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> detail oriented</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> organizes others</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> helps others to work together</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> works behind the scenes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> good with finances</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> likes to work with hands</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> leads / handles responsibility</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> good listener</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> sensitive to unspoken needs of others</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> handles conflict well</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> comforts sick people</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> seeker of justice for the weak</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> seeks truth despite resistance</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> merciful</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> prays for others persistently</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> encourages others, lifts people's spirits</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> good sense of humor</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> dedicated and determined in work</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> healer (spiritually, emotionally, or physically)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> hospitable to strangers</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> curious about new people and cultures</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> musician</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> artist</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> singer</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> writer</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> dancer</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> athlete</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> care for animals</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> public relations and public speaking</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> humility</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> teacher</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> courageous</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> reverent for God's people and nature</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> insightful about people's behavior</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> grateful</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> passionate</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> compassionate</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> self-control and integrity</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> serves others freely</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> resilient</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> photographer</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> videographer</li> <br/> <li><input type="checkbox"/> _____</li> </ul> |
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# Where Am I Called?

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What are two or three careers I would consider? Why?

What are two or three careers I would never consider? Why?

In my ideal life, my career . . .

People call on me to help with . . .

When people compliment me, they typically say . . .

I feel like I am good at . . .

I am happiest when I am . . .

I often bring happiness to others when . . .

I feel most unhappy or discouraged when . . .

When I look at the world around me, the needs of \_\_\_\_\_ (a group of people or something from the natural world) most moves my heart . . .

I feel like God is with me or is really proud of me when . . .

## **My Gifts and Talents**

# Discovering Your Calling and Vocation

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Uncovering your God-given desires is key to discovering your calling. For many of us, discovering your passion can seem like an overwhelming task, but there are questions you can answer that will help with your quest.

*What are you passionate about?* For some people this is an easy question to answer. For others it is difficult. Use the following prompts to help identify your passions.

- What gives you energy?
- What catches and keeps your attention?
- How do you choose to use your free time?
- What are you doing when you feel “fully alive”?
- How would your friends or others you trust answer this question for you?
- When were you last amazed with joy, overwhelmed with gratitude?
- What breaks your heart?

*What are doing to live your passion? Is it something that calls forth your gifts, engaging your abilities and talents, using them fully?*

*Does your passion serve others? Is this genuine service to others and to the wider society?*

*Are there fears and doubts that impact discovering and living your calling and vocation? How do you deal with this? Is there a community of people who can help you in times of fear and doubt?*

*How have you experienced God in the midst of your discovering and living your calling and vocation, and in dealing with fears and doubts? How has your relationship with God sustained and developed your calling and vocation?*