

LIVING LIKE THEY BELIEVE

VOCATION

How does God call us to live our faith?

A Duke Youth Academy and Faith & Leadership curriculum

Spiritual practices are an opportunity to go more deeply, embodying what the group discusses. These practices are designed for you to do throughout the week between group gatherings.

PRACTICE 1: ELLA

Sometime this week, indulge yourself with your favorite treat. In your journal, reflect on these questions:

- What do you love about this treat?
- How might the preparation of this treat have been an act of worship?
- How can you express gratitude to the maker and to God for the delight it provides?
- How can you be inspired to incorporate worship into your daily life?

PRACTICE 2: JOSHUA

Using the printed weekly time inventory, make notes of a typical week in your life. Then, using two pens of different colors, mark when you feel drawn deeper into the kind of loving service Jesus offered in footwashing and when you feel pulled away from that kind of loving service. Reflect:

- When is your greatest joy in a typical week? When do you experience the greatest connection to God and other people?
- Which color was more dominant? Are you surprised by what you found?
- Are there times in your week that are neutral, neither drawing you toward nor pulling you away from loving service?
- Could you change your mindset about the times of neutrality or pulling away to transform them?

PRACTICE 3: JILLIAN

Choose a person you respect in your faith community to spend some time with this week. In your conversation, ask the following questions:

- What do you understand to be your vocation -- God's calling on your life? How do your various roles and obligations connect to your vocation? How do they bear the fruit of Jesus' love?
- What challenges have you faced over the years in living out your vocation?
- How has your relationship to God empowered you to overcome the challenges?

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- What practices would you encourage someone to adopt to cultivate a lifetime of bearing the fruit of Jesus' love?

PRACTICE 4: ANTHONY

Post the commission you received during your small group meeting in a place where you will see it every day for a week (bathroom mirror, cellphone lock screen, refrigerator door). Pray over the commission each day and determine at least one concrete action that you can do to begin living out the story of God's love.

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Creating a vocation time inventory

Using the weekly time inventory below, make notes of a typical week in your life. Then, using two pens of different colors, mark when you feel drawn deeper into the kind of loving service Jesus offered in footwashing and when you feel pulled away from that kind of loving service. Reflect:

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	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Morning							
Afternoon							
Evening							

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Resources

If you're interested in exploring the topic of vocation more deeply, we invite you to engage these resources.

BOOKS

["Way to Live: Christian Practices for Teens," edited by Dorothy Bass and Don C. Richter](#)

["The Call to Discernment in Troubled Times," by Dean Brackley](#)

["Visions of Vocation: Common Grace for the Common Good," by Steven Garber](#)

["The Quotidian Mysteries: Laundry, Liturgy and 'Women's Work,'" by Kathleen Norris](#)

["Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation," by Parker Palmer](#)

["Callings: Twenty Centuries of Christian Wisdom on Vocation," edited by William C. Placher](#)

["Transforming Vocation," by Sam Portaro](#)

["An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith," by Barbara Brown Taylor](#)

FILMS AND VIDEOS

["Driving Miss Daisy"](#)

["Finding Forrester"](#)

["Schindler's List"](#)

WEB RESOURCES

[Theology of Work Project](#)

[Practicing Our Faith](#)

FAITH & LEADERSHIP

[Allison Backous Troy: Livelihood and the path between vocation and work](#)

[Andrea Palpant Dilley: It's time to honor the hard work of raising children](#)

[Dave Young Kim: Living out a calling as a muralist](#)

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[Katherine Leary Alsdorf: We're made to work](#)

[Living out the gospel by teaching, not preaching](#)

[Martha Simmons: I love the work of the church](#)

[Scott Holmes: Lawyering, the Quaker way](#)

[The woman behind Textweek.com](#)

For additional resources on vocation, visit Faith & Leadership's [vocation](#) page.

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Vocation: How does God call us to live our faith?

Vocation as worship

PSALM 65

Praise is due to you,

O God, in Zion;

and to you shall vows be performed,

O you who answer prayer!

To you all flesh shall come.

When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,

you forgive our transgressions.

Happy are those whom you choose and bring near

to live in your courts.

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,

your holy temple.

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,

O God of our salvation;

you are the hope of all the ends of the earth

and of the farthest seas.

By your strength you established the mountains;

you are girded with might.

You silence the roaring of the seas,

the roaring of their waves,

the tumult of the peoples.

Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;

you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

You visit the earth and water it,

you greatly enrich it;

the river of God is full of water;

you provide the people with grain,

for so you have prepared it.

You water its furrows abundantly,

settling its ridges,

softening it with showers,

and blessing its growth.

You crown the year with your bounty;

your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

The pastures of the wilderness overflow,

the hills gird themselves with joy,

the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,

the valleys deck themselves with grain,

they shout and sing together for joy.

