

Christian Vocation Resource

Conversations about Vocation

Six Ideas for Raising the Conversation About Vocation in Your Congregation

1. Write a paragraph articulating your congregation's belief about the connection between the way one makes a living and the making of a life as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Share this informally with different groups as a work in progress.
2. Convene a reading group of adult leaders to do theological reflection about vocation. Try reading *Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and the Ethics of Ambition* by Brian Mahan and *Work in the Spirit: Toward a Theology of Work* by Miroslav Volf to get started.
3. Create a series titled "What I Do and Why it Matters" in which adults present a 10-15 minute talk about their work, how they came to be doing it, what it has to do with the life of the world and why it matters for them as a person of faith. They might practice by talking to each other, but eventually the series should be presented to the young people. (Few people talk to teenagers about real work.)
4. Help your youth start to reflect on what they will do with their life's work. Take a group of your youth to meet with a professional career counselor or bring in a professional to do gifts assessment, interest inventories or personality profiles. Discuss what the findings mean for how they might shape their lives, in their choice of work or in what they will want to invest their energies.
5. Hold Vocation Movie Night once a quarter and show a movie with the theme of vocation at the church or in homes of members of the congregation. Print or post on your website a list of conversation-starter questions. Check out "Movies" in the Resources section of www.ptev.org for ideas.
6. Pray for particular workers during the pastoral prayer or prayers of the people, giving thanks and asking for their work to be blessed. Take a particular kind of worker each month ranging from leaders of nations and companies to workers who grow, harvest, process, ship and deliver our food to traditional helping professionals to those who invent and maintain technology to parents and so on. Publicly bless these people during worship.

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