

Developing a passion for vocation in the life of the parish

1. outline session
2. learning objectives (key takeaways)
 - theological underpinning
 - ideas to build a culture of response to God's call
 - community of support
 - resources
3. evaluation

Developing a passion for vocation in the life of the parish

1. What is vocation? often in terms of needs
2. Organisational chart
 - vs organic: passions, gifts, opportunities, and above all else, God
 - normative language
 - past vs. future
3. Where is God calling?
4. Bible Study: Ephesians 4
5. Discussion
 - What was the first time you remember a sense of being called by God?
 - What were the key influences in your moving toward ordained ministry?
6. Draw out key things (visibility/normalise)
 - bible study, sermons
 - stories
 - relationships/mentoring
 - giftedness
 - risk and experimentation
 - community
 - training
 - developing culture of trial and error - okay to fail
 - starting early - what is this child called to do at this time in their lives?
7. Building a culture of call - force field analysis
 - brainstorm
 - barriers - uncomfortable
 - commitment
 - God
8. Key takeaways
 - theological underpinning
 - ideas to build a culture of response to God's call
 - community of support
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Bible Study: Ephesians 4:1-16

¹I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷ But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it is said, 'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.'

⁹(When it says, 'He ascended', what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Some other passages on vocation:

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Matthew 28: 16-20

Romans 12:1-13

1 Corinthians 12: 1-31

1 Peter 4: 10-11

Resources

Diocesan Website!!! (including brochures)

On vocation

How to Find your Vocation, John Adair (Canterbury Press, 2000)

Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation, Parker Palmer (Jossey-Bass, 1999)

Callings: Twenty Centuries of Christian Wisdom on Vocation, William C. Placher (Eerdmans, 2005); study guide at http://theoledu.3cdn.net/473890f0687e730a26_bdm6b5rlt.pdf

Revealing Vocation: Finding God's Story in our Lives, http://theoledu.3cdn.net/e0fb9ba34612f533e1_jtm6b2408.pdf

www.cofe-ministry.org.uk

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihnzFH2L818

Fund for Theological Exploration, <http://fteleaders.org/resources>

On discernment

Listening Hearts: Discerning Call in Community, Suzanne G. Farnham et al (Morehouse Publishing, 2011).

On younger vocations

Hearing the Call, Jonathan Lawson and Gordon Mursell (SPCK, 2014)

www.callwaiting.org.uk

On ordained ministry

Ministry without Madness Gordon Oliver (SPCK, 2013)

Stories of ordained ministry

Being a Curate, Jonathan Ross-McNair and Sonia Barron (SPCK, 2014)

On Reader ministry

Reader Ministry Explored, Cathy Rowling and Paula Gooder (SPCK, 2009)

www.readers.cofe.anglican.org

On the Church Army

www.churcharmy.org.uk

On Spiritual Direction

www.spiritual-direction.co.uk

On Youth Ministry

www.going4growth.com

On the Anglican Church

Anglicanism: A Very Short Introduction, Mark Chapman (OUP, 2006)