

**Lesson Plan: “What Am I Doing with My Life?”**  
**Workshop for Montreat College Conference 2018**  
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Age group: College students (ages 18-22)  
Group size: 30 - 50  
Time: 90 minutes

**Materials Required:**

- Large post-it pad for notes
- Markers for note pad
- Print outs of scripture OR Bibles
- Computer with PPT
- Projector/TV hook up
- Sheet of paper for each participant
- Writing utensil for each participant

**Room Set Up:**

- Tables of 6-10
- Chairs around tables
- Projector/computer set up in the front where all can see

Welcome and introduction (5 min)

This workshop aims to give you tools for discernment throughout your life – whether it be for your vocation or anything else – the path God wants you to follow. As Christians we believe God calls us all to ministry – no matter what we find God calling us to do in our vocation. Share about ourselves as presenters:

- Name
- Basic outline of life journey thus far
- What we wanted to be when we were little
- How that path has changed

Ice breaker (15 min) - LINDA

Talk with those at your table:

- What did you want to be when you were little?
- What do you want to be today?

- How has your path changed and why?

## Define call and vocation [participants to define] (7-10 min) – MAIRI

### Pre-discussion

On big post-it, draw a line down the middle of the page. Write “call” on one side of the line (at the top of the page) and “vocation” on the other. Ask participants to define each term, writing down their ideas.

### Watch clip

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihnzFH2L818>

### Reactions

Ask for reactions to the clip. Any new understandings?

### Questions

- What does it mean to belong to others?
- What does it mean to be part of God’s story?
- In what ways do you see your current life playing God’s story?
- What excites you and what scares you about this?

## Scripture (15-20 min) – LINDA

Give each table a different passage of Scripture: Different groups; speak about different call stories; bring it back together.

- Jeremiah 1:4-10
- Esther 3:8-11; 4:13-17
- Acts 8:26-38
- Matthew 4:18-22

Ask the groups to do the following: read the passage out loud as a group/one to the group, then read the passage silently. Identify words that stand out to you, what challenges you about the passage, and questions about the passage. Ask: where do you see God? Where don’t you see God? Where do you see yourself? Discuss in a group.

After about 10 minutes, gather everyone for a large group discussion. Ask each group to present an overview of their Bible story and their basic findings. Then ask the group to identify what was similar and different from each story. Ask: What questions do you have now?

## Stretch break! (5 min)

## What does this mean for us? (5 min) - LINDA

One way to know how we are called is to begin looking at our gifts.

- Read aloud 1 Cor 12:4-11 to group.
- Read aloud “Your Gifts” poem by Rebecca Parker.
- Ask: what sticks out to you about these? Do you now understand gifts differently?

## Venn diagram discussion (27 min) – MAIRI

“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” – Frederick Buechner

### Project Venn diagram (10 min)

Show Venn diagram. Have students trace own circles on their own sheets of paper and fill them in as much as they can, noting that there’s no right way for it to be done AND it will change throughout their lives.

### Small group discussion (5 min)

Ask participants to share what they wrote with their table. Ask them to discuss: Was this easy or hard? Why? Are you surprised by anything you wrote down?

### Large group discussion (12 min)

Invite participants back to the larger group. Invite them to share anything they’d like from small groups. Ask them:

- What is our purpose?
- Does purpose change for those who don’t identify as Christian?
- How does your faith play into your purpose?
- Bring in idea of community discernment – where does community fit into this as well?

“Calling is 10% between you and God, and 90% God speaking to you through those who love you.” – Ted Wardlaw

## Tools for discernment (tool box) (5 min) - LINDA

So where do we go from here? How do we continue to listen to God in discernment? Ask the group if anyone has any sort of practice they currently do that they’d like to share.

Then invite discussion: Raise your hand if you talked with your parents about where you were going to go for college? What to do after? Where to work this summer? Talk about a decision with anybody else? These are tools for discernment.

### Online toolbox – LINDA

Walk quickly through resources available in Google drive:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ReqtB3GgQ0De9c5ApeNSiCALumj33UrQMMCPBhQWFQs>

### Examen – MAIRI

Another tool for your toolbox is the practice of examen.

## Closing prayer – LINDA

Lord, we know that you love us and that you have great plans for us.

But sometimes, we are overwhelmed by thoughts of the future.

Show us how to walk forward one day at a time.

As we explore the various options that lie before us, help us listen openly to others

And to pay attention to what is in the depths of our own hearts.

In this way, may we hear your call to a way of life that will allow us to love only as we can, and allow us to serve others with the special gifts you have given us. Amen.