

Anchor City Home Groups
Fall 2018: Myths of Vocation
Session 1 Discussion Guide

Note: Session 1 will cover the Intro, Story, and Name portions of Session 1. Session 2 will cover Explain, Reframe and Engage.

Gather

- During the meal or as an intro to the study time, ask the question, "When you were a child, what did you think a 'perfect life' meant? How has that changed as you've grown older? How has it stayed the same?" to get the conversation about vocation started.

Intro

- Have the group read the intro, taking turns to read it out loud.
- One of the values we teach at Anchor City is that our primary vocation (or calling) is being a child of God. This is our first and highest calling. This allows us to stay grounded in the fact that our value does not come from *what we do but who we are – the beloved of God.*
- Our secondary vocation, then, is everything we do that helps us to live out this identity as a beloved person. *It is an expression of our relationship with the One who loves us.*
- After having read the intro and going over how we define our primary and secondary callings, ask: **as you read the four myths (in the last paragraph of the intro p.6) was there one that particularly resonates with you?**

Story

- Read part 2, "Clarissa's Story", together. Depending on your group, you may want to take turns reading this out loud or giving several minutes to read on their own. Ask: **Was there a part of Clarissa's story that resonated with you?**
- Direct the group's attention to this sentence in the final paragraph on p 9, **"And the questions – Who am I? What is my purpose? – will always be a driving force in her life. When asked how long this search for herself might take, Clarissa only laughs and says, 'Forever!'"** –Two questions to start the discussion:
 - **What has the search for your identity looked like and how has that taken shape? (What are the identities that have been formed?)**
 - **How do you see it (or do you see it) changing as your life continues? How does it feel that identity formation could be a life-long search?**

Name

- Read part 3, "Name" together in the way that you've determined your group feels most comfortable. (*Note: Sometimes it's good to mix it up how you do these readings.*) Ask: **Was there a part of this reading that resonated with you? That you wanted to discuss or clarify?**
- Direct the group's attention to these passages for further discussion:

- **P. 11, “This approach to life is a byproduct of a larger Western narrative that inappropriate marries success and happiness...”** How have you seen that to be true in your life? If success doesn’t bring happiness, what does?
 - **P. 12 “Thus the myth manifest differently among different people...”** How might this myth manifest in your vocations of work, or being a parent, or being a son or daughter? (In other words, what does success look like in your particular vocational fields?)
 - *Note: these “boxes” are not necessarily bad things – so something that might be interesting to discuss is what makes these things that are seemingly good keep us from being content or happy?*
 - **P. 13, second column, starting from the 6th line down, “If God is ever forming us into the people God has made us to be, then central to our understanding of vocation must be that it is dynamic rather than static.”** How do you understand this sentence? How do you interpret it for yourself?
- Continue on with the discussion questions given on page 14.

Closing

- After finishing the discussion questions, read Philippians 4:11-12 together and spend some time contemplating and meditating on it together. How is the Holy Spirit speaking to each home group member through this verse?
- Close the time together by sharing any prayer requests and spend some time praying for one another.