

Christian Vocation Resource

A Youth Group Lesson Plan

Assist young people in beginning to think about their gifts and the ways they can be used to glorify God throughout all aspects of their lives.

Materials

Magazines, catalogs, and/or newspapers that can be cut up

Markers

Scissors

Glue

4"x6" index cards

Colored paper (can be scraps)

Bible

Individuals willing to share their stories of "call" (optional)

In Preparation

Create a space for making the "name" tags as described in *Opening*. This is the location for the markers, scissors, magazines/catalogs/newspapers, glue, index cards, and colored paper.

The Plan

1. *Opening*

As the participants enter the meeting space, invite them to create "name" tags. Explain that these tags, though, won't include actual names but, instead, symbols of the person they represent. Encourage the young people to cut pictures and/or words that symbolize their interests, talents, and gifts and glue them to one side of an index card. Paper and markers are available for the purpose of adding personalized drawings or words.

After the group members have had time to work on their tag, offer a prayer of thanks for the variety of individuals gathered.

2. *Exploring*

If the group has been meeting together for a significant amount of time and has formed relationships, consider spreading the created tags in the middle of the group and giving an opportunity for group members to guess who is represented by each tag based on the words and pictures included. For a group that is new to each other, give time for each participant to introduce themselves to the rest of the group by explaining their symbols.

After the variety of talents and interests has been explored, read **Ephesians 4:11-12** aloud and connect the Scripture to the previous exercise, pointing out that each person has unique gifts to be used to glorify God. Engage the group in a discussion about baptism, our initial call by God to live as new people.

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3. *Reflecting*

Create an opportunity to talk together about how the young people might use their talents and interests to glorify God. Consider providing examples from your own life or invite guests to join the group and tell about their own experiences. These may be call stories that connect to the following activity.

If the group is large enough, consider dividing into pairs or smaller groups. Some young people will be apprehensive about sharing their ideas aloud in a large group.

Read Moses' call story from **Exodus 3:1-6a**. Make the connection, again, with God's call but stressing, as the personal call stories most likely did, that our call, our Christian vocation, is not necessarily as earth shattering and clear as a voice from a burning bush. If appropriate for the tone of the group, allow time for the young people to reflect on something that God might be calling them to do or live through journaling or prayer.

4. *Closing*

Invite each participant to pick up his or her "name" tag made during the opening activity and stand in a circle. Invite each group member to pray for the Christian vocation of the person to their right by offering thanks and praise for that person as the prayer moves around the circle. As the leader, begin the prayers of thanksgiving to get the prayer moving around the group. Close the prayer by lifting the group up to God, asking for the strength and love to live as people of God.

Following the gathering, be available to young people who might want to talk further. Also, identify particular interests and gifts present in the young people that might be used in specific ways. God's call is often heard through the voice of others.

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