

# LEADER GUIDE



LEADERSHIP TRAINING 2022

VOCATION:  
*Right Here, Right Now*

**Youth**  **Lead**



# YouthLead

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VOCATION:  
*Right Here, Right Now*

## LEADER GUIDE



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# CURRICULUM INTRODUCTION

## CURRICULUM INTRODUCTION

In *Vocation: Right Here, Right Now*, we will explore your unique vocations as a gift of God from your Baptism. God works through you to care for His creation every day and everywhere you go. Vocation gives you purpose in your identity as God's child, even when other people and culture point you away from being God's hands and feet. Vocation isn't a long way off or limited to a few situations; it is right here and right now.

### SESSION ONE > My Unique Vocation

This session serves as an introduction to vocation as the way God works through young people now and over time in their many roles and responsibilities. It reminds them of the many people God can impact through them.

### SESSION TWO > Perspective, Not Plans

This session reminds participants that their vocation doesn't depend on following the "right" plan. Instead, God will use them wherever they are, whatever they are doing right now. The Holy Spirit will direct them

and make them aware of opportunities they have right where they are.

### SESSION THREE > Step Boldly

This session focuses on how participants are equipped to be bold, not timid, in their vocations. Being bold doesn't depend on them, but instead it depends on the Holy Spirit who gives Christians the fruit of the Spirit.

### SESSION FOUR > Clear Eyes, Full Hearts, Lead Now and Later

This session is like a pep talk that reminds participants that God is going to use them in ways they do not expect. God sent people to share the Gospel with them, and now He sends them to share Jesus through God's Word with others.

## TRAINING VISION

From its very beginning as Lutheran Youth Fellowship, YouthLead Training has had teens at heart. Teen representatives from various districts asked LCMS Youth Ministry to create a leadership development training



designed specifically for teens. Each year, a new group of teen representatives from various districts and congregations gathers and consults on the training for the upcoming year. In this way, the themes and topics of the trainings reflect the needs and concerns of teens. Each training combines aspects of leadership development and spiritual growth.

Not only are the resources written for youth, they are intended to be led by youth. Every three years, teen participants at the training event elect five of their peers to facilitate the training sessions for the next three years. This executive team is trained and mentored throughout the three-year term to develop their leadership skills and prepare them to serve.

Once a teen has experienced YouthLead Training as a participant, he or she is encouraged to partner with an adult leader to facilitate the training with another group of youth. The adult leader should take the initiative in the event planning and arrangements for the training experience, while the teen prepares to facilitate the training sessions. In this way, teens are given the opportunity to model leadership, inspire other teens to service leadership and live out their role as an active part of the church. The goal of this ministry model is like a ripple in a pond: The circles of influence spread as teens lead teens through the leadership training process.

## PARTICIPANT AND LEADER GUIDES

The facilitator guide walks teens through the process of facilitating the training. It gives detailed instructions to help teens effectively lead the training and develop their leadership skills.

Each teen leading the sessions should have a facilitator guide, and each participant should have a copy of the participant guide. For ease, all the same questions and space for notes in the participant's guide are included in the facilitator's guide, so you don't have to go back and forth. The information included on the participant's guide is indicated between the orange lines.

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

Start with prayer. Before you begin to prepare to lead this training, ask the Lord to guide you. Ask Him for guidance and wisdom. Ask Him to guide your motives and actions so the message of His Word is clearly spoken and eagerly understood by the participants. Start now and continue to pray through the entire process, asking your heavenly Father to prepare the hearts and minds of the participants to learn, grow and apply what they have learned.

You should know the resources well by studying the written material and videos in advance. Read and study the Bible verses used in advance. Be completely comfortable with all aspects of the training ahead of time.

Arrange the room so that participants have space to interact as a large group and break into small groups of 8 or less if needed. (For more information about how to lead a small group, see our resource on How to Lead a Devotion.) The video presentations are a key component. Before the group arrives make sure the necessary audio/visual equipment is available, set up and working. A large monitor and speaker can be used, but a laptop projector, screen and speakers would be best. Arrange the equipment and seating in the room so all participants can clearly see the screen and hear the audio.

Make sure you have a participant guide and pen for each participant. Ask participants to bring their Bible to the training but also have a supply available.

## TRANSITIONS

If you are doing these sessions in a retreat, give yourself and your participants a break in between to stretch. Lead some stretches and simple motions. You may feel silly doing this, but it will help the participants switch gears and reengage in the next section.



# SESSION 1:

## † MY UNIQUE VOCATION

### SESSION GOAL

This session serves as an introduction to vocation as the way God works through young people now and over time in their many roles and responsibilities. It reminds them of the many people God can impact through them.

### OPEN WITH PRAYER

### COMMUNITY BUILDING

Build a positive and open environment by helping participants feel comfortable with each other. Start with a set of opening questions to facilitate the first step of relationship building. These could include:

- What's your name?
- What is the most daring thing you have ever done?
- What is a responsibility you have to friends or family every week?
- What is something you look forward to being or doing someday?

- What's a random fact about the world that other people might not know?

### VIDEO AND OPENING DISCUSSION

**LEADER'S NOTE:** Make sure everyone has a pen, a copy of the participant guide, and their Bibles with them. Let them know there is a square at the start of the lesson to take notes or write questions. We will address those in small group time.

### SHOW VIDEO #1: MY UNIQUE VOCATION

### VIDEO NOTES OR QUESTIONS



**LEADER:**

During the video you had some space to take notes. What is something that stood out to you? What did you hear that you want to dive deeper into? What might have been new to you or left you with questions?

**LEADER'S NOTE:** Take time here to let people share. Participants may not have any notes to share, so don't feel you have to linger here. If they do have questions you aren't confident to answer, be sure to note that we can follow up with other resources or trusted sources like pastors and other church workers. If it's an area you will cover later in the study, acknowledge the thought and let them know you will circle back. Don't feel like you must answer everything right now.

**GOD'S INFLUENCE THROUGH YOU****LEADER:**

In the video, Chad described an activity to help you picture your vocation. If you didn't finish then, please do that now. You were asked to put your name in the circle, then in the space around that circle put down the different labels you might give yourself. Connect the label circles to your name with lines. Around those labels you can put the people you interact with in those roles. Connect those names back to your labels. Finally, write what you do to fulfill those roles around those names.

**LEADER'S NOTE:** Give everyone in the group time to fill out their page. If a participant gets stuck, you can prompt them with some ideas. When you are done, have participants share some of what they put on the page. They don't need to share the whole diagram, but in sharing they may spark people to think of even more labels (or roles), people and responsibilities.

Vocation is a term that literally means "calling." God calls His baptized children to love Him and serve their neighbor. Every Christian is called to unique roles or tasks through which God cares for His creation. Vocation encompasses all the ways we are Christ's hands and feet in our home, church, community, school and beyond.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- When you hear the term "vocation" what do you think about? Have you heard this term discussed before?
- How did you feel writing out your diagram?
- As you look at your diagram, what are some of the ways God uses you to care for His creation?
- Do you think of these relationships and responsibilities as a part of your baptismal identity? Why or why not?
- How is living out your vocation different than just "being kind" to others?

**LEADER:**

Vocation is rooted in our gift of faith through our Baptism. It can't be separated from God's work in and through us, otherwise it becomes us trying to save ourselves on our own. It's important that we both identify the relationships, roles, and responsibilities where God uses us, but also remember that our vocational work doesn't depend on us. On our own, we would never be able to live out our vocation in all these places and with all these people. Instead, it is God working through us and despite our sinful nature.

My name is ...

## STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE

READ THE SCRIPTURE PASSAGE BELOW THAT WAS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE VIDEO, 1 PETER 4:10-11.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen

— 1 PETER 4:10-11

If you have time, you might read it more than once. Ask these questions, giving plenty of time for people to look over the verse and think.

- › What does this verse tell us about God?
- › What does this verse tell us about who we are?
- › When you look at the many roles we have, what does this verse tell us about what God calls us to do?
- › How can we get the focus wrong when it comes to trying to fulfill all the responsibilities and expectations we have?
- › How can we see our vocations as the outflowing of how we have been loved and saved by God?

## UNIQUELY YOU

God has formed us for this moment, for these vocations, and with these gifts and abilities. He gives us His Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide us no matter the moment or task. As we fulfill our vocation, we get to experience the body of Christ in action. God has uniquely created you to be who you are, in the situations you find yourself in, to share who God is.

### LEADER:

There can be times when we don't feel up to the tasks in front of us. We can feel like a square peg in a round hole. But God has made you unique and placed you in

this time for a purpose: to point others to Jesus.

**LEADER'S NOTE:** You may opt to give participants time to answer these on their own before sharing with the group.

- › Skills are things you have learned and practiced doing. What are some skills you have?
- › Gifts are things you are naturally able to do or that come easily to you. What are some gifts you have?
- › Experiences can give us understanding, empathy and confidence in the situations we find ourselves in. What kinds of experiences have you had that may help you in your vocation?
- › Have you ever struggled with appreciating the skills and gifts God has given you?
- › How does understanding your unique vocation change how you see your identity and value?

### LEADER:

Think of a time that you had the right gifts or skills at just the right time. It could be when you had a technological skill that helped at church. It could be when you knew exactly how to help a little kid who was upset. Or maybe it was insight that helped you care for a friend exactly when they needed it. Share that story with a partner next to you.

When you get back together, discuss these questions:

- Was your situation expected or a surprise?
- How did it feel to use your gifts and skills from God to share God's love with others?
- How does living out your vocation encourage you for the future?



## SAVED BY GRACE TO BE HIS WORKMANSHIP

### LEADER:

In his letter to the Ephesians, one of the things Paul addresses is those in early Christian communities who thought everyone, including new Gentile converts, had to follow all the Old Testament laws in order to be saved. In Ephesians 2:4-10, Paul reminds us that it isn't our actions that save us, but God's grace even when we don't deserve it. God is merciful and sent Jesus to come and die on our behalf. Our salvation is a gift, not something we earn with good works.

READ THE SCRIPTURE PASSAGE THAT WAS FEATURED IN THE VIDEO, EPHESIANS 2:4-10.

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

— EPHESIANS 2:4-10

If you have time, you might read it more than once. Ask these questions, giving plenty of time for people to look over the verse and think.

- › What does this verse tell us about God?
- › What does this verse tell us about who we are?
- › When you look at the many roles we have, what does this verse tell us about what God calls us to do?
- › How can we get the focus wrong when it comes to trying to fulfill all the responsibilities and expectations we have?
- › How can we see our vocations as the outflowing of how we have been loved and saved by God?

### LEADER:

Our vocation, how we live out our faith in our every-day lives, is not the cause of our salvation, but a result of it. We are God's hands and feet in the world because God loves us, redeems us and works through us. We can't point people to Jesus on our own. We can't live up to everyone's expectations on our own. But God can work through us to do wonderful things.

## PERSONAL PROCESSING AND PLANNING

- › Below write out Ephesians 2:8-10. Highlight or draw around it to help you remember this verse.
- › How has God uniquely placed and gifted you to share God's love where you are and with people you encounter every day?
- › Through the power of the Holy Spirit, a few ways this study has encouraged me to live out my vocation are...

## PRAYER

## NOTES



# SESSION 2:

## PERSPECTIVE, NOT PLANS

### SESSION GOAL

This session reminds participants that their vocation doesn't depend on following the "right" plan. Instead, God will use them wherever they are, whatever they are doing right now. The Holy Spirit will direct them and make them aware of opportunities they have right where they are.

### OPEN WITH PRAYER

### VIDEO AND OPENING DISCUSSION

**LEADER'S NOTE:** Make sure everyone has a pen, a copy of the participant guide, and their Bibles with them. Let them know there is a square at the start of the lesson to take notes or write questions. We will address those in small group time.

SHOW VIDEO #2: PERSPECTIVE, NOT PLANS

### VIDEO NOTES OR QUESTIONS

#### LEADER:

During the video you had some space to take notes. What is something that stood out to you? What did you hear that you want to dive deeper into? What might have been new to you or left you with questions?

**LEADER'S NOTE:** Take time here to let people share. Participants may not have any notes to share, so don't feel you have to linger here. If they do have questions you aren't confident to answer, be sure to note that we can follow up with other resources or trusted sources like pastors and other church workers. If it's an area you will cover later in the study, acknowledge the thought and let them know you will circle back. Don't feel like you must answer everything right now.

## PRESSURE TO FOLLOW THE PLAN

- › What kinds of plans do you have for your future? Or do you struggle with knowing what your plans should be?
- › How do you answer when people ask you about future plans? What are your feelings when they do?
- › Do you feel pressure to follow a specific plan for your life or to achieve in a certain time frame?
- › Where does that pressure come from? Is it internal? From family? Teachers? Others?
- › How does that pressure make you feel? Why?

### LEADER:

There may be many places where you will feel pressure to follow a specific plan for your life. In fact, the desire to set goals and achieve them isn't always bad. It is good to want to be good stewards of our time and gifts to the glory of God. But often we equate our plans and goals with God's. We can get caught up in getting where we want to go, and not see what God is calling us in our vocation to do right now.

### LEADER:

God tells us what it is He wants in His Word. One good synopsis is found in the Small Catechism. In the section following the third petition of the Lord's Prayer and its meaning are these questions and answers:

**What is the good and gracious will of God?**

*It is God's will that His name be kept holy and that His kingdom come, that is, that His Word be taught correctly and that sinners be brought to faith in Christ and lead godly lives.*

**How is God's will done in our lives?  
God's will is done when...**

- a. *He breaks and hinders the plans of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which try to destroy our faith in Christ Jesus.*
- b. *He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith and helps us lead God-pleasing lives;*
- c. *He supports us in all our troubles until we die.*

## ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- › What does Luther say God wants for our lives?
- › If you are looking for God's will to make your plans, what direction does the answer to the last question give you when thinking of the future?
- › Through the Holy Spirit, we try to follow God's will. How does this help us use our gifts and skills right now? How does it give us freedom for how we use our gifts and skills in the future?
- › Why is it important to prioritize reading Scripture, worship, prayer and taking Communion?
- › As sinners, we wander away from God. Why is it important that we pray God's will be done? What promises does God make to us that we can trust always?

## JONAH'S JOURNEY

### LEADER:

The story of Jonah is an example of how our expectations and God's plan can diverge. Every day we plan our future, but Jonah's story reminds us just how far God will go to make sure that His plans prevail.

Look at the whole book of Jonah. It's only four chapters, so you are going to read it as a group. You can go section by section with different readers. Or you can assign people to read for Jonah, the captain, the king and then read it that way.

Once you are done, ask these questions, giving plenty of time for people to look over the book and process.

- › This is a story that people know, but was there anything that surprised you in reading it again?
- › What about Jonah stands out to you as you think about his vocation as prophet?
- › What does this book tell us about the character of God? How can we see God's will being done in Jonah?

- › Have you ever experienced not wanting to or not seeing how God is working to bring people to faith?
- › Have you ever not wanted to share repentance, grace and the Good News of Jesus with others? Why or why not?
- › Who else in Scripture can you remember God using even when they didn't seem to want to or have the skills to do what God called them to?
- › How do those people change how we think about our plans and vocation?

## ACTIVITY

### WOULD YOU RATHER...

Have participants listen to an either/or statement. As they do, they should walk to opposite sides of the room with others who would pick the same option. If you have time, you can have participants share why they picked what they did and even let them convince people on the other side to join them. You can pick some fun ones to start, but the include statements that make the group think about how they make choices. Options for statements might include:

- Would you rather have a job which paid you a lot of money or a job you knew was having a positive impact on the world?
- Would you rather be in a job you love, far away from family, or in a job you don't like close to your family?
- Would you rather give a presentation about the Gospel in a culture you knew nothing about or with a room full of people you know?
- Would you rather teach preschool Sunday school or Bible class for retired adults?
- Would you rather share Jesus by talking or by writing?

WHEN YOU HAVE DONE THAT, YOU CAN ASK THE FOLLOWING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Was it hard to decide which you would rather do? Why or why not?
- What makes decisions difficult for you? How do you usually make difficult decisions?
- How does it help your decision-making when you know God is with you and working through you no matter what happens?
- What are ways you can keep the right perspective when where you go and what you do isn't what you expect?

## FOCUSED ON NOW, FILLED WITH JESUS

### LEADER:

Thinking about the future is important, and we should strive to use our gifts and skills to the best of our ability. But sometimes our planning takes us away from what is going on right in front of us. Vocation is not just future, it is right now where you are. You are called and empowered by your Baptism to be God's hands and feet all day, every day.

God sent Jesus to live the life you could not live, to die the death that you deserve, and to rise again to give you hope and the promise of life everlasting. We seek out our vocation, asking God to direct us, grant us wisdom by the Holy Spirit, and make us aware of the opportunities we have right where we are to be used by Him.

ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- › How can being overly focused on the future impact how you live out your vocation right now?
- › What vocations might you be ignoring right now as you think about the future?
- › How might living out your vocation right now open up new doors and opportunities for vocations in the future?
- › How does knowing you will always have vocation in your Baptism change how you think about your future or your achievements?

### LEADER:

Let's go back to 1 Peter 4:11. We were just here in session one, but we are going to take a second look.

Whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies — in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

— 1 PETER 4:11

**ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

- › When you think of your future plans, are they centered in serving others or serving yourself?
- › When do we need to ask forgiveness when we fail in our vocation?
- › How does knowing that God supplies what we need to glorify Him change how we frame what we define as accomplishments?

**PERSONAL PROCESSING AND PLANNING**

- › Below, write out Jonah 2:9. Highlight or draw around it to help you remember this verse.
- › How can thinking about how God is using you in everyday situations help you think about now and the future differently?
- › Through the power of the Holy Spirit, a few ways this study has encouraged me to live out my vocation are...

**PRAYER**

**NOTES**





# SESSION 3:

## STEP BOLDLY

### SESSION GOAL

This session focuses on how participants are equipped to be bold, not timid, in their vocations. Being bold doesn't depend on them, but instead it depends on the Holy Spirit who gives Christians the fruit of the Spirit.

### OPEN WITH PRAYER

### COMMUNITY BUILDING

#### MINGLE, MINGLE

Have the entire group in the middle of the space. Say out loud, "Mingle, Mingle," over and over until everyone is moving. At random intervals, yell out a number smaller than half the size of the group. Participants should scramble to make groups of exactly that size. Those who don't make it into an appropriately sized group are out. In a group or not, ask participants to share the answer to a question with each other, such as "What is your favorite color?" or "What is your favorite pizza topping?" Continue until you get down to only 3 participants playing.

- Did you always know who was in your group? Was it hard to find your friends quickly as everyone was trying to come together?
- Did anyone's answers surprise you?
- What is something you learned about someone in playing this game that you didn't know before?
- In what kind of life circumstances might you find yourself interacting with people you don't know or sharing in a way you don't expect?

### VIDEO AND OPENING DISCUSSION

**LEADER'S NOTE:** Make sure everyone has a pen, a copy of the participant guide, and their Bibles with them. Let them know there is a square at the start of the lesson to take notes or write questions. We will address those in small group time.

SHOW VIDEO #3: STEP BOLDLY



## VIDEO NOTES OR QUESTIONS

### LEADER:

During the video you had some space to take notes. What is something that stood out to you? What did you hear that you want to dive deeper into? What might have been new to you or left you with questions?

**LEADER'S NOTE:** Take time here to let people share. Participants may not have any notes to share, so don't feel you have to linger here. If they do have questions you aren't confident to answer, be sure to note that we can follow up with other resources or trusted sources like pastors and other church workers. If it's an area you will cover later in the study, acknowledge the thought and let them know you will circle back. Don't feel like you must answer everything right now.

## THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

### LEADER:

The Fruit of the Spirit is a set of verses that many of us are familiar with. We may even have learned the song that lists them when you were a child in Sunday School. But it is an important thing for us to when we talk about vocation is what it looks like in our lives when the Holy Spirit works through us.

READ GALATIANS 5:22-25 TOGETHER.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

—GALATIANS 5:22-25

If you have time, you might read it more than once. Ask these questions, giving plenty of time for people to look over the verse and think.

- › What do these verses tell us about God's perfect love for us?
- › Look at the context around these verses. What does it say about our sinful selves? Do we naturally lean towards the fruit of the Spirit?
- › If we are equipped with the Holy Spirit, how does the fruit of the Spirit help us in our vocations?
- › We know that our sinful selves get in the way of sharing the fruit of the Spirit with others. Are there certain people, activities or other things in our lives that tend to push us away from bearing the fruit of the Spirit?
- › What does it look like when we are boldly empowered to live out the fruit of the Spirit?
- › As the Spirit empowers us, how does His fruit make us stand out to others? How does it empower our vocation?

**LEADER'S NOTE:** This can be a great time to talk about how bold doesn't have to mean aggressive or hurtful. For Christians, being bold often looks like what the world perceives as weakness. In a culture that likes to fight and be angry, there is intense boldness in peace, patience and self-control.

### LEADER:

In the video, Chad asked some important questions. Take some time to consider the various relationships within your vocations.

- How can you reach out to your neighbor to care for them and share God's love with them?
- In what ways does the fruit of the Spirit bless that relationship?
- What promises from God can we trust if we mess up or fall on our face in our vocations?

## BOLDLY LIVING OUT VOCATION

### LEADER:

There are lots of times where we might not feel bold in living out our vocations. When we think about our many roles, responsibilities and relationships, we might be intimidated into hiding our faith from parts of our life. It may seem easier to keep our faith separate from our school, our teams, even sometimes our family. We often compartmentalize God into certain parts of our

lives. But that is not what God desires from us. God's love and grace in our lives are too important to not share with every part of our world.

**ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

- › In what places in your life do you hesitate to share your faith? What makes you hesitant?
- › Where does it feel wrong or hard to show the fruit of the Spirit?
- › Do you feel like there are places where there could be negative consequences for sharing your Christian faith?
- › How do you handle situations where being a Christian is not always supported or encouraged?
- › What might it look like to step boldly in your vocations through the power of the Spirit?

God didn't call His baptized children into our vocations to be timid, but He also knows that left to ourselves we lack the skills and resources we need to meet our calling. God gives us everything we need to care for His creation as His hands and feet.

**LEADER:**

God promises to be with us and give us everything we need to show the fruits of the Spirit in all our vocations. We can step boldly in faith, knowing God goes with us all the way. You can see that promise in a verse we have already looked at: 1 Peter 4:11. "Whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies — in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ."

**ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

- › What encouragement does this verse and God's promises give us?
- › Even if we are scared, what does it look like to be confident in where God's calling may lead?

**PERSONAL PROCESSING AND PLANNING**

- › Below, write out 1 Peter 4:11. Highlight or draw around it to help you remember this verse.
- › How has God uniquely placed and gifted you to share God's love where you are and with people you encounter every day?
- › Through the power of the Holy Spirit, a few ways this study has encouraged me to live out my vocation are...

**PRAYER**

# NOTES

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# SESSION 4:

## CLEAN EYES, FULL HEARTS, LEAD NOW AND LATER



### SESSION GOAL

This session is like a pep talk that reminds participants that God is going to use them in ways they do not expect. God sent people to share the Gospel to them, and now He sends them to share Jesus through God's Word with others.

### OPEN WITH PRAYER

### COMMUNITY BUILDING

#### GUESS WHO

Before this session, write the names of famous people in history on index cards. When it is time for the game, hand out the cards, with the names facing down. Have each participant hold their card to their forehead, name out, and walk around the room asking yes or no questions to others. After five minutes or so, have everyone guess what they think the name is before revealing it.

- How difficult was it to figure out whose name you had?

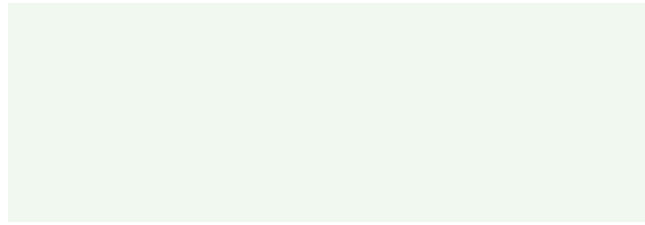
- As you tried to figure out the name, what kinds of questions helped you the most?
- What kind of impact did the person you had have on the world? Who did they impact?
- When we look back at famous people of the past, what things tend to be remembered?
- How do you think you will be remembered?

### VIDEO AND OPENING DISCUSSION

**LEADER'S NOTE:** Make sure everyone has a pen, a copy of the participant guide, and their Bibles with them. Let them know there is a square at the start of the lesson to take notes or write questions. We will address those in small group time.

SHOW VIDEO #4: CLEAR EYES, FULL HEARTS,  
LEAD NOW AND LATER

## VIDEO NOTES OR QUESTIONS



### MY BIGGEST DISTRACTIONS:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

#### LEADER:

During the video you had some space to take notes. What is something that stood out to you? What did you hear that you want to dive deeper into? What might have been new to you or left you with questions?

**LEADER'S NOTE:** Take time here to let people share. Participants may not have any notes to share, so don't feel you have to linger here. If they do have questions you aren't confident to answer, be sure to note that we can follow up with other resources or trusted sources like pastors and other church workers. If it's an area you will cover later in the study, acknowledge the thought and let them know you will circle back. Don't feel like you must answer everything right now.

### LOOKING AT PHILIP'S STORY

#### LEADER:

We heard a little of a story from Acts involving Philip and the Ethiopian. Philip was in a place where the Good News of Jesus was growing, but God told him to go to a place with few people. The man from Ethiopia that he met had a scroll and was reading it, which means that he was probably very well off and educated. Yet,

the Ethiopian didn't understand what he was reading. Philip might not have understood what God was calling him to do, but God was putting him in exactly the right place to help many understand who God is and what God has done.

#### READ ACTS 8:26-39:

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?"

And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. — ACTS 8:26-39

If you have time, you might read it more than once. Ask these questions, giving plenty of time for people to look over the verse and think.

- What do these verses tell us about God?
- How would you have felt if you were Philip in this situation?
- What do these verses tell us about how God built the Early Church? What do they tell us about how God works through us in our vocations now?
- How do these verses help us as God empowers us to share the Gospel?
- The Ethiopian was looking to understand God's Word. Do you and I always feel the same passion and interest in the Bible? Why or why not?

- How does this story illustrate the power of God's Word and how God works through it?
- What kinds of questions are you nervous to answer about God's Word? How might you find answers to those questions?
- What sources can you trust to help you answer the questions of others?

#### LEADER:

Sometimes we can be unsure about if we are going to have the right words or the best theological answers to the questions people have. We think we must know exactly what to say in order to share God's Word. God provided both the resources and the means for Philip to share his saving faith in Jesus, and the same is true for us. He put Philip in the right place, but more importantly, God gave him the words to witness about Jesus. The Holy Spirit used Philip to share Scripture and to baptize this man who had been brought to faith. We have God's Word that works in our lives and that will work in the lives of others as we share it with them.

- The Ethiopian was looking to understand God's Word. Do you and I always feel the same passion and interest in the Bible? Why or why not?
- How does this story illustrate the power of God's Word and how God works through it?
- What kinds of questions are you nervous to answer about God's Word? How might you find answers to those questions?
- What sources can you trust to help you answer the questions of others?

### EYES ON JESUS

**Where am I? What am I here to do? You are uniquely created for this moment by God. God has given you every tool you need to succeed.**

#### LEADER:

In the video, Chad started by saying to the team there are times when we have to ask where we are and what are we here to do. Those are two important questions that we sometimes get too busy or distracted to ask. Instead, we just power forward without thinking. Instead, it's important for us to take a time out, look at where God has placed us, ask for forgiveness for the ways we have missed and messed up, and use God's eyes and the fruit of the Spirit to see what we are here to do. We know we are uniquely created for our vocations. But sometimes it can be hard to know how God is empowering us to live out our faith where we are.

#### ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

- "Where am I?" can be a simple question or a deeply theoretical one. Perhaps it's easier to ask, how would you describe where you are in life right now? What are the areas of your life where you are trying to figure out how to live out your faith?
- After thinking about your vocations right now in the previous sessions, what might God be empowering you to do? Where are there places or people in your life that need the grace and mercy of Jesus to be communicated?
- If you don't know, what are ways you can discover how God might use you where you are now?
- How does starting with the questions "Where am I? What am I here to do?" help you to see where God is sending you and what God wants to empower you to do?
- What tools has God given you to succeed where you are?

#### LEADER:

In the video we were asked to list our biggest distractions. These are things that take our eyes off God and put them on other things. That is our sinful nature at work. We can lose sight of the most important thing God calls us to do. Instead we become focused on ourselves or things that don't really matter. When we do this, we can miss opportunities God could use to share the Gospel and the love of Jesus with others. Look back over your list.

#### ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

- Would anyone like to share the distractions they listed above?
- As we confess these distractions, what can we do to avoid or lessen them?
- How can these distractions keep us from seeing and living out our vocations?

**Each of us in our vocations is called to be a "Philip" to those with whom we come into contact. And each of us has had a "Philip" in our own lives, someone who has fulfilled their vocation by helping us keep our eyes fixed and focused on the cross and empty tomb of Jesus.**



## ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

- › Who is a person God used to help you understand Scripture and to show you the Gospel?
- › What are things they did for you that you want to do for others?
- › Who in your life do you want to be a “Philip” for? What impact do you hope God helps you have in their life?
- › What prayers will you pray, and what opportunities will you look for, to help that person know more about Jesus?

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

### LEADER:

You did it! You’ve listened to the speakers, discussed the concepts and participated in

processing activities. Now it’s time to put it all together. To end this session, you have the opportunity to apply everything that you’ve learned. This strategy builder will guide you through the process of developing your own action plan.

Now you will be given time on your own to internalize and digest all you’ve learned. You will have some time alone to think things through for yourself and be challenged to form your thoughts and opinions into written words.

**LEADER’S NOTE:** Encourage people to find a space to work through the next section on their own. Make sure they can focus their thoughts, and find a space where they can read and write comfortably.

Write a response for each of the following sections before going on to the next one. It’s OK if you don’t know exactly what to write; just write whatever comes to mind. Even if you are just developing your thoughts, the process of writing any response will help you to form an action plan. You can go back and change your answers at any time; just don’t leave a blank.

- › Below write out Acts 8:35. Highlight or draw around it to help you remember this verse.
- › Who do you encounter who might need your help understanding God’s Word, like Philip and the Ethiopian? Who do you want to thank for being that person for you?

- › What is one thing from each of these sessions you want to carry with you, about who God is and what He has done for you?

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- › Write three important points from this training resource that are significant or meaningful to you.

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- › Write out the Bible passage that you found most helpful in this training resource. Highlight the passage in your Bible and leave notes to remember what you learned.

- › Through the power of the Holy Spirit, a few ways this study has encouraged you to live out your vocation are...

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## AFFIRMATION BOOKMARKS

**LEADER’S NOTE:** Bring everyone together and give each one a bookmark-sized piece of blank paper. Size can vary, but small enough to put into a Bible is best.

Every participant should put their name at the top of the bookmark. Then the sheet should be passed around by the group. When you get someone else’s sheet, write a word or two of affirmation to them. Think specifically about gifts and skills you see them use that show God at work. After everyone has had a chance to write on each paper, pass them back and then end with a prayer. If you have time, you can further decorate the bookmarks.

## PRAYER

**NOTES**





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