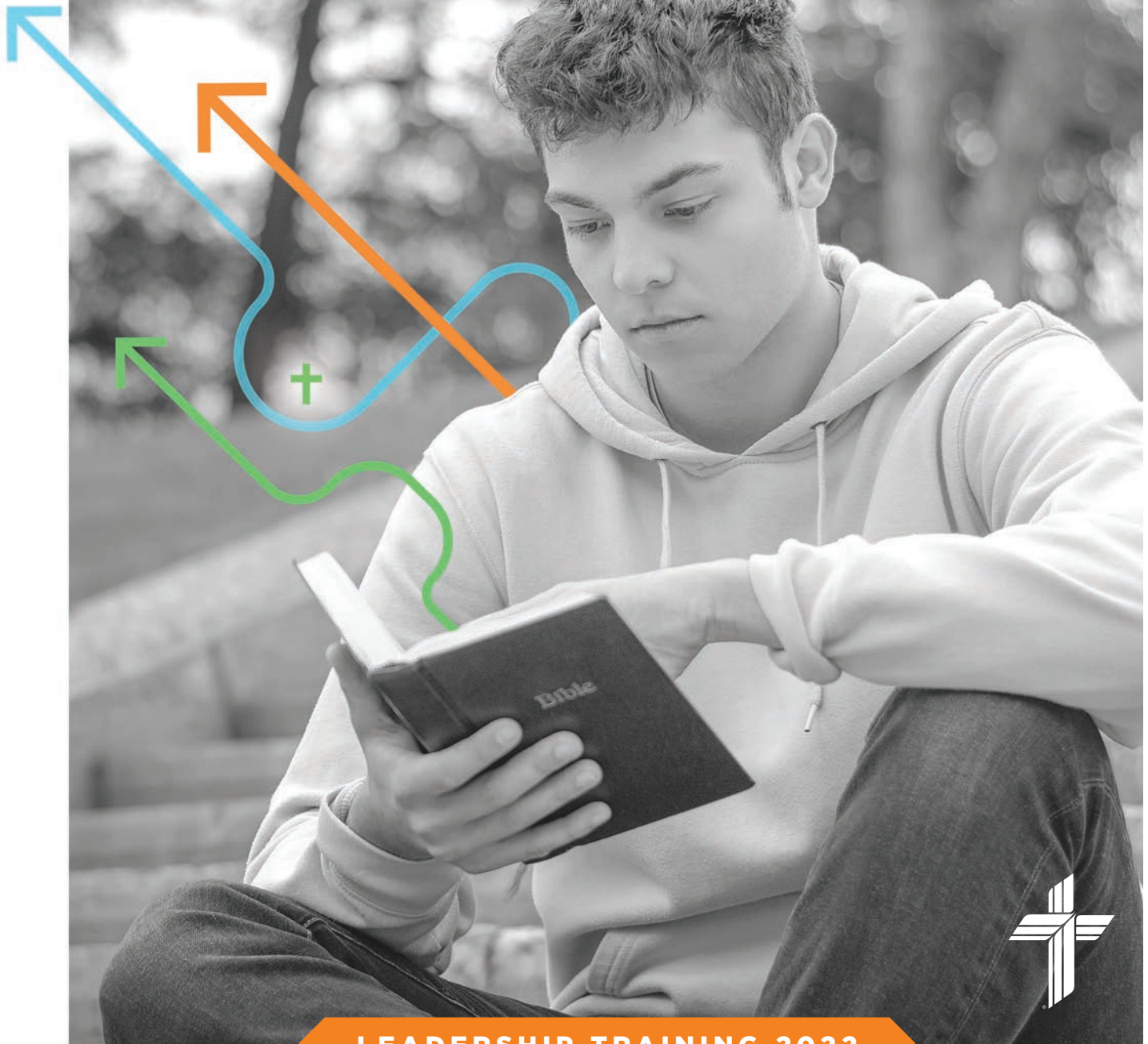


## PARTICIPANT GUIDE



LEADERSHIP TRAINING 2022

VOCATION:  
*Right Here, Right Now*

Youth  Lead





LEADERSHIP TRAINING 2022

VOCATION:  
*Right Here, Right Now*

**PARTICIPANT GUIDE**

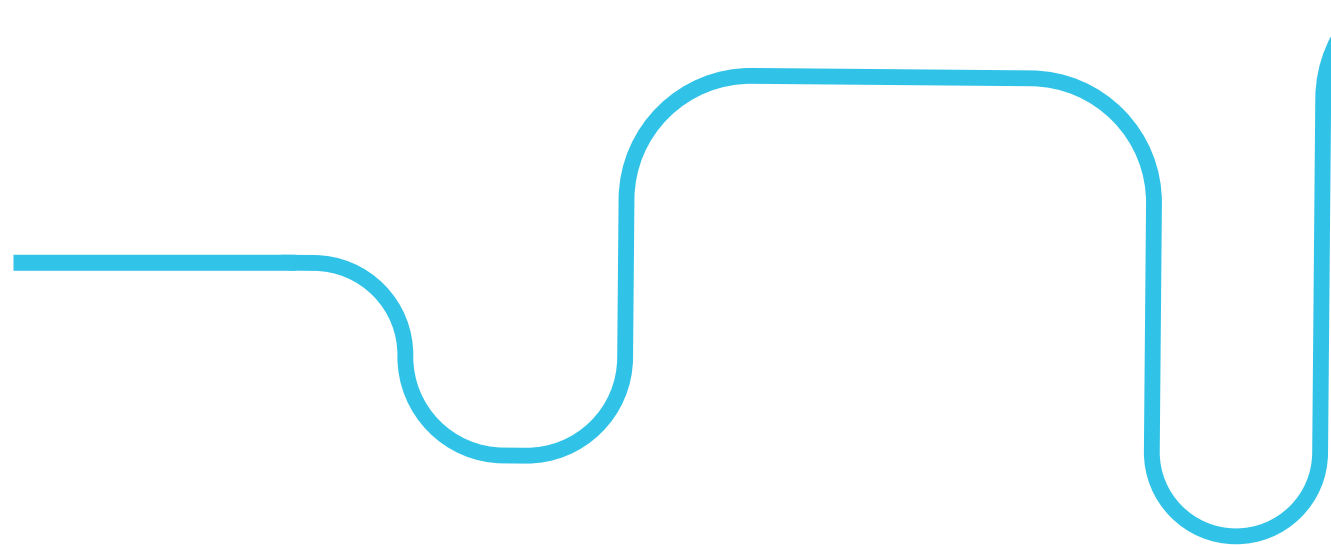


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# CURRICULUM INTRODUCTION

## 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**

**SESSION TWO** > **Perspective, Not Plans**

**SESSION THREE** > **Step Boldly**

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

## 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.





# SESSION 1:

## + MY UNIQUE VOCATION

During the video, jot down anything that sticks out to you. It might be something new you hear, something that stood out to you, something you might want to take a deep dive into learning or a question you might have.

## GOD'S INFLUENCE THROUGH YOU

My name is ...

**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.**

- › 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?

## STEWARDS OF GOD’S GRACE

**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

- › 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.**

- › 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?



## SAVED BY GRACE TO BE HIS WORKMANSHIP

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

- › How has God uniquely placed and gifted you to share God's love where you are and with people you encounter every day?

- › 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?

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

## PERSONAL PROCESSING AND PLANNING

- › Below write out Ephesians 2:8-10. Highlight or draw around it to help you remember this verse.





## SESSION 2: PERSPECTIVE, NOT PLANS

During the video, jot down anything that sticks out to you. It might be something new you hear, something that stood out to you, something you might want to take a deep dive into learning or a question you might have.

### 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?

#### 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.*

- › 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**

- › 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?

**FOCUSED ON NOW, FILLED WITH JESUS**

**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.**

- › 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?

**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

- › 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?



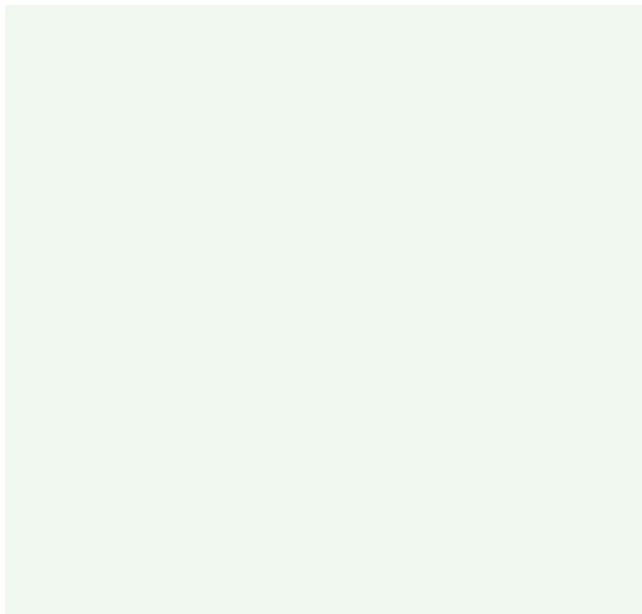
## PERSONAL PROCESSING AND PLANNING

- 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...



## SESSION 3: STEP BOLDLY

During the video, jot down anything that sticks out to you. It might be something new you hear, something that stood out to you, something you might want to take a deep dive into learning or a question you might have.



### THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

**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

- › 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?

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

- › 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.**

- › 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...



## SESSION 4: CLEAN EYES, FULL HEARTS, LEAD NOW AND LATER

During the video, jot down anything that sticks out to you. It might be something new you hear, something that stood out to you, something you might want to take a deep dive into learning or a question you might have.

### MY BIGGEST DISTRACTIONS:

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



## LOOKING AT PHILIP'S STORY

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**

- › 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?

## 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.**

- › "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?

Look back or finish listing distractions in your life in the list above.

- › 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 ful-  
filled their vocation by helping us  
keep our eyes fixed and focused on  
the cross and empty tomb of Jesus.**

- › 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

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.

•

•

•

- 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.

## NOTES

- 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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- 
-

**NOTES**





**NOTES**





THE  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
MISSOURI SYNOD

Youth Ministry

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