

Session 1.

The Question Before the Business

Who are you, and what is work actually for?

Name:	Service Category:	Date:
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THE ANCHORING IDEA

Vocation as Response

What Scripture says about work, calling, and why any of this matters.

Most people think of their career as something they choose: a path selected based on interest, ability, and opportunity. That is not a wrong way to think about it. But Scripture suggests it may be an incomplete one.

Genesis 1:26 to 28 tells us that human beings are made in the image of God, the God who creates, cultivates, and works. Genesis 2:15 tells us that before sin entered the world, God placed man in the garden to work it and keep it. Work is not a curse. It is a calling, given before we were old enough to choose anything.

Os Guinness, in *The Call*, presses this further. Vocation is not just something we do. It is a response to Someone who calls. That changes the nature of the question entirely.

"Calling is the truth that God calls us to himself so decisively that everything we are, everything we do, and everything we have is invested with a special devotion, dynamism, and direction lived out as a response to his summons and service."

— Os Guinness, *The Call*

What am I for, and who put me here?

THE FIVE FORMATION PILLARS

Truth	How you represent yourself and your work. Are you honest about what you offer, what it costs, and what went wrong?
Beauty	The standard you hold yourself to. Does your work reflect care, precision, and excellence, regardless of whether anyone notices?

Justice	How you treat the people you serve. Do you price fairly, deliver what you promise, and treat every customer as someone who matters?
Stewardship	What you do with what you have been given: your time, your money, your tools, your reputation.
Human Dignity	How you see the person across from you. Every customer is a human being made in the image of God, not a transaction.

SESSION REFLECTION

Think Before You Write

Spend a few minutes with these questions. You do not need to answer them here.

1	Genesis 2:15 says God placed man in the garden to work it and keep it, before sin and before the Fall. What does it mean to you that work was given as a gift, not a punishment?
2	You are made in the image of God, a God who creates, cultivates, and sustains. What does that say about the kind of work you are built for?
3	Think of someone whose work you respect, not because of what they earn, but because of how they do it and who they are in it. What do you notice?
4	Is there a difference between being good at something and being faithful in it before God? What is it?

SESSION 1 ACTION

Vocational Statement, First Draft

Your first serious attempt to answer: What am I for, and how does my work reflect who made me?

WHAT THIS IS

By the end of this semester, you will have written a Vocational Statement, a personal document that articulates who you understand yourself to be as someone made in God's image, what kind of work you are drawn toward, why it matters beyond income, and how you intend to carry yourself in it as a faithful steward.

Write in your own voice. Write what is true, not what sounds right.

PART 1: WHO I AM

Describe yourself, not your skills or achievements, but who you actually are as someone made in the image of God. How do you think? What do you care about? What kind of person are you trying to become? What has God placed in you that shapes how you see the world?

PART 2: WHAT I AM DRAWN TOWARD

What kind of work do you find yourself drawn toward, not just what you are good at, but what feels like it fits? What kinds of problems do you want to solve? What does a day of meaningful work look like to you?

PART 3: WHY IT MATTERS

Why does the work you do, or want to do, matter beyond what it pays? Who benefits from it? How might God use this kind of work, done well, for the good of the people around you?

PART 4: HOW I INTEND TO CARRY MYSELF

Describe the kind of worker you intend to be: the committed version, not the best-case. What commitments will you hold regardless of whether anyone is watching, because God is? What does faithfulness in your work look like as someone representing more than yourself?

BETWEEN SESSION 1 AND SESSION 2

Your Assignment

Complete the following before our next session.

- ☐ Expand what you wrote today into at least one full page. Add to any section that felt unfinished.
- ☐ Read Genesis 1:26 to 28 and Genesis 2:15. Write one sentence on what each says about the purpose of work.
- ☐ Read the assigned excerpt from *The Call* by Os Guinness, chapters 1 through 3.
- ☐ Talk to one adult whose work you respect, about how they think about their work and calling. Write two sentences below.

WHAT I LEARNED FROM THAT CONVERSATION

A NOTE ON THIS WORKBOOK

Keep everything you write here. Do not edit or erase earlier drafts. Write new versions alongside them. The distance between your first draft and your final Vocational Statement is part of the record of this semester.

At the end of Semester 1, you will read both. You may be surprised.