

# Resource sheet for Vocation workshop: Vocation definitions

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Use these definitions to introduce the idea of vocation. You could:

- Put them up on a projector.
- Stick them up around the room on big bits of paper and ask the group to go round and read them.
- Give people handouts in small groups and ask them to read the definitions together.

“Vocation; noun 1. a strong feeling of suitability for a particular career or occupation. 2 a person’s employment or main occupation, especially one requiring dedication. 3 a trade or profession. Origin: Latin, from vocare ‘to call’.” *From the Oxford English Dictionary*

Vocation is about the idea of doing a Job, often used to mean the Job to which you are suited, and is often closely linked to calling; which is the idea of God calling you to do a Job or task. This can be anything, a lifetime task, or a two minute thing.

“Vocation is about the whole of life – not just about ‘being a vicar’. Traditionally, the word has been used to describe a calling to the ‘religious life’, but the Christian understanding is that God calls everybody to respond to him and to become fully the person he created them to be.”

“Vocation doesn’t just happen, once and for all, at a fixed date... It happens from birth to death; and what we usually call vocation is only a name for the moment of crisis within the unbroken process.”

*Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury*

You might like to read 1 Samuel 3.1-4.1, Isaiah 6.1-8, Jeremiah 1.1-10, Luke 1.26-38 or Luke 5.1-11

Try <http://www.biblegateway.com> or <http://bible.oremus.org/> (NRSV)

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