

# CALLING AND CAREER

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Project Assignment  
A Vocational Inventory

## *A Vocational Inventory*

**Purpose:** This survey is based on the idea that design reveals purpose and that God equips each of us for his specific purposes. The survey is *not* designed to give you an in-depth look at your personality or work style, but to help you identify *abilities, interests, resources* and *opportunities* that can give clues to how you might best develop your career.

**Objective:** To begin thinking about your vocation/career in light of your design and to consider *next-steps* for personal and professional development so that you might marshal your career for the greatest good.

**Instructions:** Complete the Vocational Survey. Take time to contemplate your own design and possible career choices. Summarize your thoughts.

**Bonus:** After completing *The Vocational Inventory* seek the input of a trusted friend. Make an appointment with at least one person who is close enough to know you well and share your observations from *The Vocational Inventory*. Along with your observations consider discussing the questions below.

- What kind of needs am I designed to meet? Think of the needs of individuals as well as the needs of society.
- What can you envisioning me doing well for the benefit of society?
- What am I doing when I am most fulfilled and happy?

# A Vocational Inventory

Exploring vocation in light of design  
*Abilities - Interests - Resources - Opportunities*

## **Natural Abilities and Acquired Skills** - *What am I good at?*

Our abilities consist of the things that we do well. Some of our abilities are natural or inherent while others are acquired, or a combination of both. When a person is very good at something it is most often because they have worked really hard to develop natural talent. The drive to develop our natural abilities comes from the fact that we usually enjoy those things at which we are good.

*Note:* Abilities can fall into a wide variety of areas including interpersonal, physical, intellectual or artistic, to name a few. Try to take into account all of your special abilities not just work related abilities.

### 1. Inventory your abilities

- Make a list of the things that you are naturally good at.
- Make a list of the skills and abilities that you have developed and acquired.
- Make a list of your primary personality or character strengths.
- Where is there overlap in these lists?

### 2. Thought Questions

- Which achievements have given you the greatest satisfaction?
- At what have you excelled, in your work experience? In your leisure or hobbies?
- Where, outside of work are your talents being utilized? Hobbies? Clubs? Civic Groups?

### 3. Evaluate

- Does your current work *utilize* or *conflict* with your natural abilities?
- What kind of work might utilize your abilities? Your personality strengths?
- In what ways are you interested in developing your abilities?
- If you lack skill in your work, how can you acquire it?
- In what ways have your specific abilities been utilized in developing shalom? How might they be utilized for shalom?
- How can your specific abilities be used to gain influence in your work or in your city?

### 4. Summarize

- List any insights you have gained through this exercise.
- Are you using your greatest abilities in your work?
- According to your abilities are you suited to your work? If not, what work would best suit you?
- What changes if any need to be made in your vocation?

## **Interests - What do I enjoy?**

Though all work will have some aspects that are not enjoyable, your vocation may involve doing some of your favorite things. The following questions are designed to help you take an honest look at your desires and to think through how your interests reflect God's design.

*Note:* Interests can fall into a wide variety of areas including interpersonal, physical, intellectual or artistic, to name a few. Try to take into account a wide array of your interests not just those related to work.

### 1. Inventory your interests

- Make a list of the things that you love to do.
- Make a list of the things that you are compelled to do.
- Make a list of the ideas and topics that intrigue you.
- Where is there overlap in these lists?

### 2. Thought Questions

- What captures your imagination, grips your heart or challenges you?
- What topics do you wish you knew more about? What kind of books do you enjoy?
- What do you enjoy doing in your free time?
- What do you most enjoy at work?
- What hobbies or clubs are you involved with?

### 3. Evaluate

- Does your current work *utilize* or *conflict* with your interests?
- What kind of work are you most interested in, (not because of money but for the work itself)?
- In what ways can you pursue your strongest interests?
- In what ways have your specific interests been utilized in developing shalom? How might they be utilized for shalom?
- How can your specific interests be used to gain influence in your work or in your city?

### 4. Summarize

- List any insights you have gained through this exercise.
- Are you using your greatest interests in your work?
- According to your interests are you suited to your work? If not, what work would best suit you?
- What changes if any need to be made in your vocation?

## Resources - *What do I have?*

Our resources consist of the things that we can employ in pursuit of shalom. They are external and don't reflect design so much as capability. Resources can be material or immaterial, inherited or earned. They can grow or shrink in both quantity and value. Time and money are the most obvious resources. Other resources might include knowledge, prestige, relationships, experience, influence or even things like trust or charisma. When we think about our resources in light of calling we need to consider what we have, what we need and how to manage them.

### 1. Inventory your resources

- Make a list of your material resources.
- Make a list of immaterial resources.
- Make a list of resources you would like to attain in pursuit of shalom.

### 2. Thought Questions

- What is your formal and informal education - what degrees have you earned?
- What social capital do you have? Consider family background, social recognition and expertise.
- What kind of financial resources do you have?
- Who do you know? What social networks are you a part of? \*\*Be careful to think of this appropriately.
- What work experience do you have?

### 3. Evaluate

- Are you planning to get additional education? How would this increase your influence?
- What would it take for you to become an expert in a given field? Are there areas where you should intentionally establish yourself as an expert? How might this be done?
- How can you continue to develop your networks, both professionally and socially? What value do you add to the networks and individuals of which you are part?
- How will you spend, invest and give financially to promote shalom?
- How do plan to develop your career for the most leverage in pursuit of calling?

### 4. Summarize

- List any insights you have gained through this exercise.
- How are you using your resources to promote your career?
- What changes if any need to be made in your vocation?

## Opportunities -

Our calling is shaped by the times in which we live and the unique opportunities that present themselves. Sometimes our interests and abilities are subjugated to the opportunities in our path. It is often only in retrospect that we see God's purposes in given situations. This is particularly true when the opportunities we are presented with are unpleasant or unavoidable. When we view our work and calling as a means of doing good for the benefit of the greater community we may find ourselves choosing between personal fulfillment and doing greater good.

### 1. Inventory your opportunities

\*\* Opportunities may appear suddenly, seemingly out of the blue, so it can be hard to inventory the opportunities you will come across.

- Make a list of any special opportunities you may have at this time.
- Make a list of specific issues and needs that exist in the city that need gospel solutions.

### 2. Thought Questions

- What social issues are you in a position to address?
- What professional opportunities do you have to increase your influence or productivity?
- What social opportunities do you have to increase your influence or productivity?
- What opportunities do you have to build your social capital?

### 3. Evaluate

- What can you do to build shalom that won't get done otherwise?

### 4. Summarize

- List any insights you have gained through this exercise.
- How are you using your opportunities to build your career?
- What changes if any need to be made in your vocation?