

Overview

What do I currently give my attention to in my daily work and life? What might God be calling me to give more or fresh attention to? How might that affect how I spend my time and what I get actively involved with? God calls us to participate in his kingdom building work as partners in creation. In this session we will think about what God is calling our attention towards and what we engage with now, and in the future.

This is your worksheet; for notes, ideas and questions

Activity

On one side, list all the areas of your life. On the other side, list what you choose to give specific attention to in these areas.



Question

What does this activity tell you about how you see your current priorities?

Activity Share newspapers, magazines, news stories and new experiences from 'Read All About It'

Question What has caught your attention and why?

Activity Share newspapers, magazines, news stories and new experiences from 'Stop, Look and Listen'

Question What has caught your attention and why?

Perspective

The Four Ps

Here are four broad kinds of ways in which our attention is attracted:

Pending A sense or an idea or thought that has been with you for some time that you haven't done anything about yet. 'If I had time, I would.....'.

Prodding A definite niggles, or tug. These may happen frequently or infrequently and can be from many different sources – conversations, media, relationships. The 'prod' draws you towards something or somewhere.

Possibility An opening or opportunity, which makes it possible for you to move forward and do something.

Passion A long term deep desire, which doesn't change through time and experience but may grow in intensity

Activity

What are your **Pendings, Proddings, Possibilities and Passions?**

Pendings	Possibilities
Passions	Proddings

Perspective

This is our Call

“Our calling as Christians is to continue God’s work of reconciling the world to himself, our mission in Christ is to continue the work of the incarnation. St Teresa of Avila expressed this in characteristic, down-to-earth, style when she wrote:

*“Christ has no body on earth but yours,
no hands but yours, no feet but yours;
yours are the eyes through which is to look out
Christ’s compassion to the world,
yours the feet with which he is to go about doing good,
and yours are the hands with which he is to bless us now.”*

Suddenly our vocation to be Christ’s takes on a sharper focus. We are the co-workers of God, doing what we can to discern the movement of the Spirit in the world around us trying to cooperate with the Spirit in the fulfilment of God’s will.

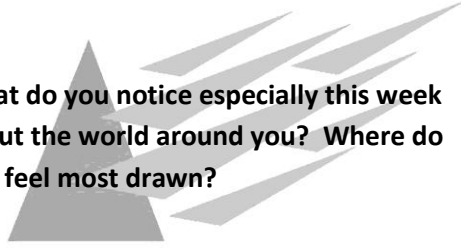
Our vocation is less about our role within the life of the Church. It is more to do with the Kingdom of God – that time and space where God is God and everyone and everything is in union with God. It is ensuring that we ourselves are signs of the Kingdom and that we give our lives to working for supporting the values of the Kingdom. This vocation is lived out in the world.... The world is where we encounter God and where we have opportunities to discern God's will and co-operate with his Spirit....Being alive to God's presence within the world also has the effect of making us sensitive to people or situations where there is suffering or exploitation or wickedness. We sense God's suffering in the midst of his creation and we recognise our own calling to bring light into dark places, to bring hope where there is despair, to bring life where there is death. Our ongoing vocation is to struggle for peace and justice within the world whether it be situations we ourselves encounter, or situations we read about in our newspapers and watch on television...they become channels by which God calls us to action in working for the Kingdom.

From 'The Call to Continue' by Stephen Ferns, in 'This is our Calling' edited by Charles Richardson (SPCK, 2004)

Question

How do you connect your attention, both now and in the future, to God's kingdom building work?

During the week, you might like to reflect on :



What do you notice especially this week about the world around you? Where do you feel most drawn?

Facilitator

Encourage people to spend few minutes pondering on what they feel they have learned from the session and ask them to share quickly 1 or 2 points.

Ponder

What did you learn from this session?



TURNING OUTWARD

Topic VOC5

Prayer

In this crowd of common people
Once unknown, whom we revere
God calls us to share his purpose
Starting now and starting here.
So we celebrate his calling
So we prize and praise his choice
And we pray that through this company
God will act and raise his voice

From the hymn 'God it Was' © The Iona Community