



SET APART ^{TO} SERVE

LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT



GOD'S CALLING FOR YOUR LIFE



**AN EXPLANATION
OF CHURCH WORK**



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GOD'S PLAN FOR YOU

While growing up, people often ask themselves the following questions:

- Who am I?
- Who do I want to be?
- What should I be doing now?
- How will I know that I'm making the right choices for my life?
- What should I do when I grow up?

These are very normal questions. Kids and teens think about this, and so do adults! As Christians, we know the first and best place to look for answers is the Bible. You might be surprised by the wonderful comfort that God gives as you deal with these questions. This booklet will walk through these questions and more, using God's promises as a guide.

YOUR IDENTITY

One of the best promises God gives is the certainty of our identity. This world is full of uncertainty. If our identity is based on what we think or do, our identities would change all the time! Think about it. If you love cats so much that you have cat stickers, cat sweat-shirts, and cat pajamas, that might make you a cat person. But what if your family gets a dog and you realize you like dogs even more? Does that mean you're a different person? Or maybe you love playing basketball so much that it's all that you ever think and talk about. What happens if you get cut from the team? Does that mean you've lost your identity? Your favorite band has shaped how you see the world, but their latest music was terrible and they split up. What now?

We are dynamic people, which means that there are aspects of our lives that might change and grow. But our actual identity is rooted in our faithful and changeless God. That is certain!

Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine. (Isaiah 43:1)

God gave this promise to the Old Testament believers: He chose them and He loves them. The same is true for us!

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ. (Romans 8:16–17)

God the Son, Jesus Christ, became the perfect child we could not be. We sinned, but Jesus—both God and man—lived a perfect life in our place. He lived, died, and rose again.

God gives us faith in Jesus. God gives us grace and new life. God gives us our identity. All of these incredible blessings are certain gifts from God. Because of Jesus, all believers are beloved children of God. That is your identity, and nothing can take that away. Not even a change in pet preference.

So, whenever you ask yourself, “Who am I?” you know you’ve got a rock-solid answer. You are a child of God. You are dearly loved.

This is great news because all the other answers fall into place accordingly. And as your life and goals may change over time, your identity will not.

UNIQUE AND LOVED

Makeovers are a huge part of contemporary culture. Whether an entire series or a brief reel, the before-and-after narrative is a daily occurrence. This might influence us to think that we can be self-made or transform ourselves into anything we want. A new haircut or pair of shoes can always be fun, but is there sometimes pressure to keep changing ourselves with each new trend? Who are we trying to impress? Are we finding ourselves or losing ourselves? Are we being authentic?

Now is a good time to look back on that foundational promise: your identity is, first and foremost, in Christ, the One who loved you enough to die and rise to redeem you. You were created by your heavenly Father, who knows you better than you know yourself.

But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. (Matthew 10:30)

There might be times when you're not sure who you are or who you want to be. But the triune God knew you before you were born, and your Lord knows what your future holds. This can be a huge comfort!

For You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother's womb. . . . Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in Your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.
(Psalm 139:13, 16)

God created you to be uniquely you, and He knows you intimately well. No matter how we might try to portray ourselves or what we might try to become, we know we can trust our God to know us best. This can be a great comfort! We can have fun exploring hobbies and hairstyles and outfits, but the One who knows us best loves us most.

YOUR CALLINGS

God the Father has already given you the certain identity of a forgiven and beloved child of God through the faith the Holy Spirit has given you in Jesus Christ. There is nothing you can do to make God love you more or less. Your salvation has nothing to do with any of your actions. Faith in Jesus Christ is the only requirement for eternal life with Him. There is beautiful freedom in knowing that your actions do not impact your identity.

So now what? If you don't have to earn your way to heaven, what do you do with your life? Christians respond to the joy of this freedom by loving others as Jesus loves us. Because of who we are and whose we are, we live in love, set apart to serve one another.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. . . . We love because He first loved us. (1 John 4:7, 19)

God calls His children to live lives that witness to His love so that others may know the Good News of salvation in Jesus. He calls us to live out our daily lives in love and service

to Him and to our neighbor. A word we use for “callings” is *vocation*. God gives you vocations, callings, roles, in life so that you can be an instrument of His love to other people.

So what are your vocations? Some people use the term *vocation* to mean a job. Your job might be one vocation, but everyone has many vocations all at once. After all, even if you don't have a job, you definitely have vocations.

Vocations do not have to be a mystery. If vocations have to do with the roles that God has given you, you only have to look around and notice a few things: Where has God placed you right now? Who is your neighbor? What roles do you have right now? Here are just a few examples:

- *Family vocations.* You might be a child, grandchild, sibling, cousin, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, and more. Likely, you have a few of these vocations.
- *Social vocations.* You might be a friend, classmate, teammate, neighbor, and more. When you are in community with others, you have a calling to care for those around you.

- *Hobby vocations.* If you love to sing, dance, knit, bowl, or care for animals, these interests might offer an opportunity to serve others.
- *Occupational vocations.* Some people are “occupied” as students, which is definitely an important role. Others might be “occupied” as full-time volunteers, serving in ways that many others cannot. Others work and have an “occupation,” a job. People tend to put a lot of emphasis on jobs as the most important vocation as well as the sole identity of a person. But as we’ve already seen, jobs make up just one vocation of many, and our identity is rooted in Christ.
- *Unlimited vocations.* It would be difficult to categorize every single vocation there is. Every vocation is a calling from God and a gift from Him. As we live out our many vocations within our communities of family, church, and world, we can rest in the fact that we know our vocations are valuable because they are given to us by God.