

“The World for God”
By April Barthau

Leader Guide

Target Group: Young adults 14-22 years old (challenge for a youth group)

1. Start with a word of prayer
2. Introduce the topic. **The World for God** focuses on our calling to lead lives that glorify God whether that be ministering abroad or in our own communities. Each of us is a part of the body of Christ with our own special talents and gifts and it is our responsibility to use them in the work God has called us to do. By work we mean more than just our job, but also the work we do at church and even in our social circles.
3. Hand out pages 2-4 of this resource and read the section: *Childhood reflections*
4. Ask the youth to reflect on this question: *What is God’s calling for your life?*

Have the youth individually reflect and **pray** for 5-10 minutes on the calling for their life. Moving around to their own spaces can help, as can drawing a picture or writing. When the time/mood has passed, have the youth return to their seats (a circle is best for sharing as everyone can see one another). Ask if anyone wants to share, but ensure that no one feels pressured.

5. Debrief

Read **Romans 12: 1-16**. Reinforce the point that everyone has their own calling. The hand is not better than the foot, the nose is not better than the knee, but rather all have to work together to carry out the work of the body of Christ. If we ignore our calling we will hinder the body’s capacity to work. We must find our area of ministry and do as Jesus did when he set the example by coming to earth in order to minister to those in need; this is perfectly illustrated in the calling of Levi found in Mark 2:13-17.

Whether you are called to work abroad or in your local community, God has a ministry for vulnerable people.

(Excellent Resource: <http://www.intothyword.org/apps/articles/default.asp?articleid=37331>)

(Complementary Bible verses: James 2:14-17, 1 John 4:19-20, Matthey 25: 44-45, Luke 12:33-34)

6. Inspiration: Have youth turn to page 3 and 4 of this resource and read: *Calling Turns into Ministry*.
 - Discuss Global Issues and Challenges.
 - What would we be able to do at a community level?

7. Closing Prayer

I would encourage all youth leaders to have follow-up conversations with their youth. Some possible ways to do this include: individual conversations, especially if you notice the youth struggles/was challenged/has a calling already and requires extra prayer, or you can simply reflect on this session in future youth groups.

Childhood Reflections

Hi, my name is April Barthau. I was born in Kenya, Africa because my parents were serving God's people there through the work of The Salvation Army. I have also lived in Nigeria, The Czech Republic, Canada, Chile, Papua New Guinea, and have visited many more countries. Growing up, no matter where we lived, my parents always were focused on loving and caring for the people in our community. They would make me help as they were serving food to the poor, cleaning the community, preaching to all kinds of different people from old to young, single or with families, poor, or even homeless. I watched as they rejoiced in people's achievements and cried in their sorrows.

These experiences have given me a heart for God's people around the world. Seeing my parents work in Africa led me at an early age to know my calling was for medical missions. That passion has never left me and has given me direction and perseverance to study for God's calling in my life.



Hi, my name is Marco. My parent always told me that I was born in an airplane. 9 months after I was born my parents, as Salvation Army Officers, were moved to Brazil. By the age of 5 I had lived in 5 different houses and learned 2 languages. Coming back to my home country of Chile really confusing. People couldn't understand what I was saying and I had speech difficulties when I started school as we spoke Spanish in Chile and Portuguese in Brazil. Before finishing primary school we moved around Chile from extreme to extreme. From the south of Chile to the desert in the north. After attending 6 different schools I graduated and started University in my 3rd country, Ecuador.

Calling Turns into Ministry



After many years of hard work and education both Marco and April are happy to say they are following their calling by being Salvation Army Medical Missionaries in Papua New Guinea.

We have learnt much along the journey to get here and really this is only the beginning to our ministry for Christ. We are working at an Urban Health Center where we see over a thousand patients every month which include outpatients, trauma, gender based violence (especially against women), immunizations, antenatal care, TB screening and HIV treatment. Our work is not simply about the physically sick (though that is often the focus in health care), but to help reach out to the great spiritual needs of the people as they suffer not knowing Christ their Saviour.



The main challenges that we experience and witness on a daily basis are:

- Poverty
- Lack of food (affordable and nutritious)
- Lack of clean water
- Lack of resources and waste management which leads to poor hygiene
- Lack of access to **basic** health care (both medications, imaging, and professional competencies)



- Education is not universally accessible which makes employment and getting out of poverty difficult
- Corrupt leadership and government (Power and wealth with a select top few people, so that the general population suffers from poor management and distribution of resources)
- Transportation difficulties due to difficult terrains and poor infrastructure
- Cultural norms and customs (polygamy, bride price, tribal disputes over land and resources, etc.)