



Intentional Conversations Pt. 2

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Beginning as early as pre-school, you are constantly asked the question “what do you want to be when you grow up?” When you were five-years-old, it was probably one of the fab-four: doctor, firefighter, veterinarian, or whatever-my-dad-does. Once you reach middle-school, career aptitude tests are given to students, and the career options that will be best-suited to your personality type and natural-born abilities are established. Then, once you reach high-school you are expected to have your college major decided, the perfect balance of extracurricular activities and AP classes on your transcript, and your career path written in blood. Ok, so maybe it’s not that serious. But, as a high-school student, it felt that serious to me. And I would imagine it felt the same for you and many of the young adults you lead. It’s a lot of pressure. And oftentimes, the pressure placed upon young adults is filtered through the parental lens of “I want you to have a better life than I did.” Which is a completely understandable perspective. And parents are much wiser than you think. And the crazy thing is, the older we get the wiser they become. However, it is important to have the conversation often with young adults about not only their career choice, but how their choice aligns with their God-given purpose.

Below are some ideas for questions to ask young adults in a small group setting or to give out as questions to simply reflect upon to begin the conversation carefully and prayerfully considering their career path. These questions were developed to target seniors in high school to young adults in their twenties and thirties. Perhaps you may want to create a Bible study tailored to the specific needs of your young adult group based on the questions below. Regardless of the method of implementation, the questions below have served as catalysts of meaningful conversations and have often led young adults towards establishing clear and purposeful career paths in my husband and I’s experience in working with young adults of various ages.

1. Is there any specific trade or vocation you feel that God has called you to? If so, have you discussed this with your parents and pastor? What is their response?
2. Have you set aside consistent times of prayer and fasting regarding your career path? If not, this is the first step. Repeat until you have a sense of general direction. Invite your parents and pastor to join with you in prayer.
3. What are your natural abilities? Out of these abilities, do you particularly enjoy any of them?
4. What abilities, traits, or skills do others often compliment you on?
5. Are there any tasks, skills, or trades that you find fulfilling?
6. If your desired career path requires a specific set of skills or education, what is your plan to meet these requirements?
7. Have you considered the physical demands of your ideal career path? (ie: Does it provide adequate financial provision? Does it require you to move to another location? Is it a marketable skill in your area? Do you have the means to gain the necessary training? If not, have you sought the guidance of leaders in your life to obtain these resources?)
8. (Once you have selected a career path) Have you created a 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year plan to help you obtain a feasible plan to meet your goals?



9. Have you met with a mentor or experienced person that is successfully working in your field of interest? If so, what information has their insight provided you? How has this information influenced your decision?
10. Are your parents and pastors supportive of your decision? You are an adult and are capable of making your own choices. But, having the blessing of your leaders will only provide protection and provision for you regarding major life choices.
11. Most importantly, does your desired career path align with God's specific call on your life?