



MM101B Vocation, Work And Ministry 2: Calling & Vocational Discernment

Rev Dr Tan Soo-Inn | 1.5 CR

About the Course

This course aims to help students answer three key questions:

1. What does the bible actually teach about calling?
2. How am I to go about discerning my personal calling?
3. How do I live my life in a way that helps me do the work to which I have been assigned?

Credits

1.5 CR

Fees*

S\$225(Credit)

S\$120 (Audit)

Class Format

Online

* Alumni are entitled to 10% discount on audit course(s)

Through lectures, small group interaction and personal reflection, this course will help the participant better understand the Bible's teaching on work and vocation, and to discover what one has been called to do to be part of God's purposes.

About the Lecturer

Rev Dr Tan Soo-Inn is the director of Graceworks, a ministry committed to promoting spiritual friendship in church and society. He has a BDS from the University of Singapore, a ThM (NT) from Regent College, and a DMin from Fuller seminary. He has served as the lead pastor of two churches and as the executive leader of a major para-church ministry. His passions include connecting the Word of God to the struggles of daily life, and the mentoring of emerging leaders. He wants to do fresh thinking on the meaning of discipleship



Course Objectives

1. To help students understand what the bible teaches on the topic of personal calling, or personal life mission.
2. To help students gain a better understanding of what he or she has been called to do. This includes some teaching on how one can discern what one has been called to do.
3. To help students understand what spiritual disciplines they need to finish the race that God has assigned them.

Course Outline

Session	Lectures	Pre-class Reading
1	<p>A Theology of Vocation</p> <p>-- The various calls of life -- What is my personal life calling? What have I been called to do?</p> <p>What is "calling?" What is my personal life calling?</p>	<p>Kevin Brennfleck & Kay Marie Brennfleck, <i>Live Your Calling</i>, p. 3 - 11.</p>
2	<p>Living Vocationally</p> <p>-- What does it mean to live vocationally? -- Vocation and the different stages of life</p> <p>What does it mean to live vocationally and what does that mean at the different stages of our adult life?</p>	<p>Kevin Brennfleck & Kay Marie Brennfleck, <i>Live Your Calling</i>, p. 12 - 25.</p>
3	<p>Discovering my Vocation (1): Discerning God's will</p> <p>-- The classic approach -- The wisdom approach -- The relational approach</p> <p>An integrated approach and applying it to vocational discernment</p>	<p>Kevin Brennfleck & Kay Marie Brennfleck, <i>Live Your Calling</i>, p.35 - 47.</p>

4	<p>Discovering my Vocation (2): Clues from my life</p> <p>---The ABC of vocational discernment --- abilities, burdens and critical defining moments of my life.</p> <p>-- My abilities/gifts -- My burdens and passions</p> <p>Each of us is unique. By understanding our strengths and our burdens we begin to get some idea of what we were meant to do. This needs to be tested by community.</p>	Kevin Brennfleck & Kay Marie Brennfleck, <i>Live Your Calling</i> , p. 76 - 82.
5	<p>Discovering my Vocation (3): Clues from my story</p> <p>-- God at work in my life from day one -- How to reflect on your life and identify key defining moments, the critical moments of your life</p> <p>We believe God has been working in our lives throughout our lives. As we identify the defining moments of our life we get a better idea of what He wants us to do with our lives.</p>	Kevin Brennfleck & Kay Marie Brennfleck, <i>Live Your Calling</i> , 83 - 91.
6	<p>Living out my calling</p> <p>-- What does it mean to live out my calling? -- How do I pursue my vocation in the context of my duties and responsibilities? -- The work-sabbath rhythm</p> <p>We don't pursue our vocation in a vacuum. How do I have a realistic approach to live vocationally in the context of the realities of life?</p>	Kevin Brennfleck & Kay Marie Brennfleck, <i>Live Your Calling</i> , p.193 - 196.

Course Requirements

1. Short book review (30%): A 6-page review of David G. Benner, *The Gift of Being Yourself*, (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004.)
2. Major book review (50%): A 12-page book review:
Chris Lowney, *Heroic Living*, (Chicago, IL: Loyola Press, 2009)
3. A personal reflection paper (20%): This is a 7-page paper that should include the following:
 - I. A one page summary of each of the assigned readings from Kevin Brennfleck & Kay Marie Brennfleck, *Live Your Calling*, (San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2005).
 - II. A one page summary of your tentative understanding of your calling and three action steps you will take to pursue your calling in the next three years.

COURSE ASSIGNMENT POLICIES

1. For **style and formatting** of assignments, please refer to the section on “General Formatting for all Assignments” available on the BGST Online Student Manual.
2. ALL assignments are to be submitted by uploading via Moodle. Alternatively, assignments can be sent via email [to assignments@bgst.edu.sg](mailto:to_assignments@bgst.edu.sg) without the need to cc. the lecturer (**unless requested by the lecturer**).
3. Students must submit all their assignments **6 months** after the course registration date

Students are advised that BGST **strongly discourages plagiarism**. For more information on this point (what plagiarism is, how BGST penalises it), please consult the BGST ‘Guidelines for Academic Papers’.

Course Bibliography

Required texts

Brennfleck, Kevin & Kay Marie. *Live Your Calling*, San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2005.

Benner, David G. *The Gift of Being Yourself*, Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004.

Lowney, Chris. *Heroic Living*, Chicago, IL: Loyola Press, 2009.

A short select bibliography of recommended texts

Bolles, Richard N. *What Color Is Your parachute?* New York, NY: Ten Speed press, 2018.

Huffman, Douglas (editor). *How Then Should We Choose?* Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2009.

Labberton, Mark. *Called*, Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2014.

Smith, Gordon T. *Consider Your Calling*, Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2016.

Smith, Gordon T. *Courage & Calling*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2011.

Waltke, Bruce. *Finding the Will of God: A Pagan Notion?* Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2002.

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