

## Reflecting on Your Calling

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[adapted from Schwehn & Bass, *Leading Lives that Matter*]

A shared characteristic of the most mature college students I've met is that they have taken time to thoughtfully reflect on their *calling* in the world. In a Christian context, this means thinking about how God has called you to serve your family, your community, and the world. More generally, finding a *calling* is about learning where you belong and how you can use your unique skills and passions for the common good. In the words of Frederick Buechner, this is *where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet*.

Here are a few thought-provoking questions to help me guide you in advising...

(1) When you look back in old age, how do you think you'll measure the *significance* of your life?

(2) What causes, ideas, issues, or activities are you *passionate* about? What things in your life give you the deepest sense of satisfaction?

(3) What are your gifts or strengths (i.e. communication, writing, the arts, leadership, compassion, service, creativity)? How are you *intentionally* developing them, or how might you start to do so?

(4) Think about a person you *admire*. What are the attitudes, traits of character, commitments, or achievements of that person?

(5) When you were younger, what did you dream about doing? Sometimes those dreams are “given up” as we become adults. Why do you think that is?

(6) When you reflect on your future direction, there may be *other voices* whispering in your ear about what you should do. Who are those important voices in your life?

(7) In 10 years, what kind of person do you want to be? Is your time at Simpson helping you learn to become that person? Why or why not?

(8) List some of your life experiences in serving others. Did they change you? Name one thing you hope to do *for the benefit of others* in your life.

(9) Take a few minutes to reflect... In thinking about these “deep” questions, did you learn anything new about yourself? Explain. Is there anything you want to *change* about your direction or how you spend your time/energy? If so, what positive steps will you take?