

Student Idea Grants | Sample Project Ideas

The Work with Purpose Initiative is awarding [Student Idea Grants](#). Need help coming up with a proposal idea? Here are some possible projects to get you thinking. Please note that these are only suggestions; feel free to create your own vision.

Weave Themes into Church Activities

Your church is already doing regular programming each week. Why not implement faith-work themes through those activities? Possible areas of engagement include sermons and teachings, small groups, Sunday school classes, reading groups, and more. These could have either a youth or adult focus.

Assemble a Focus Group

Workplaces contain all kinds of people who have a wide variety of opinions. Bring together a focus group of marketplace workers (including both believers and nonbelievers) and ask how they would like people of faith (pastors, parishioners, etc.) to relate to them. These individuals could come from a single workplace or multiple workplaces. Capture this information and report it back to the leadership of your church or faith community. Use this as an opportunity to help other Christians better understand what marketplace workers need and how those in vocational ministry can support them.

Engage with Communities of Color

Urban and inner city churches can be quite distinct from their rural and suburban counterparts. They are usually small- to medium-sized, have ethnically diverse congregations, are focused on social justice, and are commonly led by pastors who haven't had traditional seminary training. Moreover, these leaders are often bio-vocational; they have marketplace jobs in addition to their pastoral roles. Identify and implement some practical ways for these leaders to enter the faith-work conversation and embrace the idea that all work is ministry.

Launch a Vision Trip

Those who go on mission trips often report being deeply affected by the experience. What if we could translate that power into helping others see how much God cares about vocation? Start your own local "vision trip" by arranging a group of a dozen pastors or seminary students for a short visit with a key marketplace leader. Then meet with a small number of employees at the same workplace to ask about their faith and work dynamics. Debrief with the pastors or students after the meetings to capture what they learned and how it may impact their ministry.

Influence Youth Within the Church

Many people start thinking about their vocation once they reach college, but perhaps the process should begin long before that. Maybe we should encourage students in high school and younger to consider what God has planned for their occupation and how that fits into all of life. Using the Work with Purpose [Youth Vocational Stewardship Course](#) or some other curriculum, develop a framework for youth to process these ideas. Implement this framework with the Youth Group at your church or another faith community.

