

PART 3

Offering Myself Wholeheartedly

Practicing faithful presence in our work is about viewing our lives as part of the bigger picture of God's good plan for shalom to be the culture of the world we live in. *Shalom* is a Hebrew word in the Old Testament that means holistic well-being. In the video, "Offering Myself Wholeheartedly," we meet the remarkable Dr. Daisy Dowell. She is a role model who shows us by example what it means to practice faithful presence on the job. Dr. Dowell shares her story of humble beginnings and persevering through hardship to give herself wholeheartedly to sharing God's faithful presence with others.

Day 1

Assignment

Watch the video "Offering Myself Wholeheartedly".

Reflection and Practice

1. What emotions come up as you listen to Dr. Daisy Dowell share her life story and where she is now?
2. In what ways does Dr. Dowell inspire you? How might she be a role model for you as you approach your own work or vocational dreams?

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Day 2

Reflection and Practice

1. How does Dr. Dowell's Christlike treatment of others reveal how God sees and cares for you? Journal as many attributes of God that you see reflected in Dr. Dowell's life. Meditate on that list of attributes, contemplating the truth of what God is like.
2. Dr. Dowell states, "The hand of God has been upon me for as long as I can remember, and He has been so good, so kind, so gracious . . . I'm just so grateful. I owe him all." Journal about how God has been present in your own life. How might that inspire you to give yourself wholeheartedly to God in your work?
3. What do you feel grateful for today? Spend time thanking God for those things. Begin a daily practice of gratitude as a way to stay inspired to embody Christ in your work.

Day 3

Assignment

Watch the video a second time.

Reflection and Practice

1. Dr. Dowell overcame many obstacles and hardships in her life to achieve her vocational goals. Write down each specific obstacle she faced. How did God help her through those hard times?
2. What obstacles have you faced, especially in pursuit of your dreams? How might her example give you perseverance in your work or vocational aspirations?

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Day 4

Reflection and Practice

1. Dr. Dowell says, “There’s so much wonder and beauty in what I do.” What are some of the beautiful things she notices?
2. What beauty do you see as you go about your daily work and tasks? Be specific, journaling what you notice. Begin a practice of noticing beauty in the ordinary, even in challenging circumstances.
3. In what ways are you embodying faithful presence and bringing God’s beauty into the world within your local context? Are there specific ways you would like to bring beauty to others?

Day 5

Assignment

Watch the video “Offering Myself Wholeheartedly” a third time.

Reflection and Practice

1. What prayer does Dr. Dowell pray over the babies she encounters in her work? Write down her prayer, word for word, stopping the video as needed. Then say this prayer over yourself.
2. How might you be an answer to this prayer by bringing “real hope” to the people in your local community, including the people you see every day? Ask God to give you discernment to know how you can embody faithful presence to others in your work.

Day 6

Reflection and Practice

1. What life experiences influenced Dr. Dowell's decision to go into medicine? What has influenced your vocational aspirations?
2. Spend some time daydreaming about what you would do if you could do any job you desired. Then draw a picture of yourself doing that (you don't have to be an artist! Draw stick figures if you have to). How would you practice faithful presence in that job? In what ways would that work contribute to the common good?

