

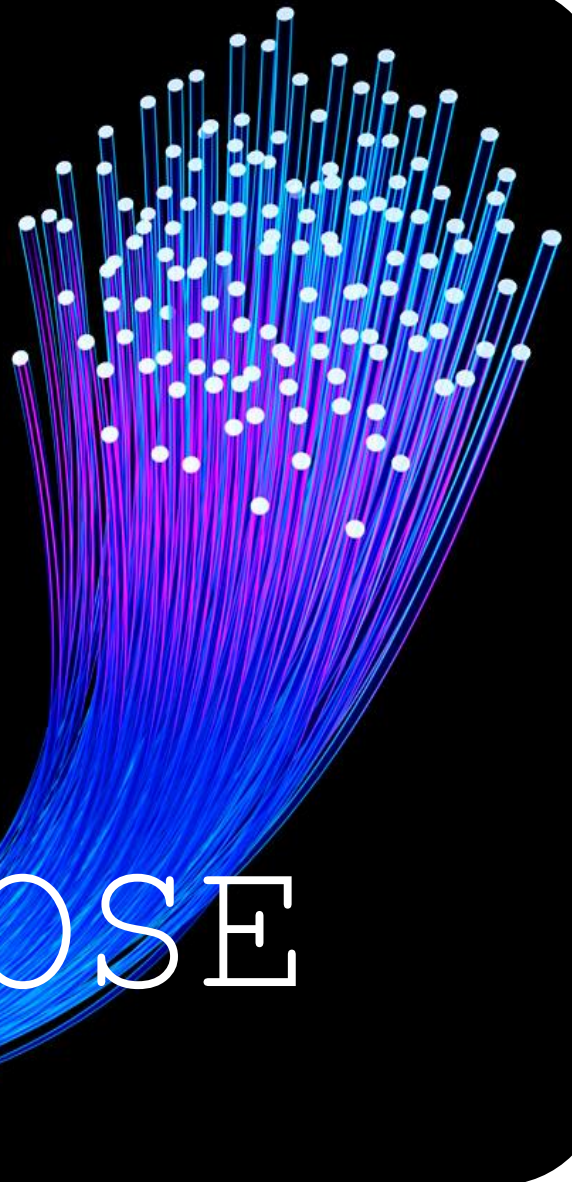


NARARAVALLEY
BAPTIST CHURCH

WIRED

for

PURPOSE



Discover your personal ministry profile....

- you have been uniquely wired for God's purpose
- you have been entrusted with spiritual gifts
- you have your own unique personal style and experiences
- God calls you to make and nurture disciples, and to serve one another

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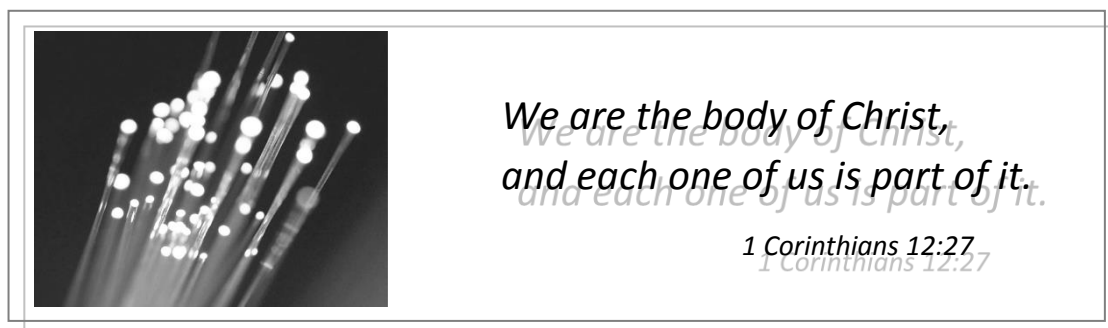
Introduction:

Discover Your Personal Ministry Profile

The goal of these studies is to help you understand how God has created and grown your unique giftedness as a person, so that you may:-

- recognise your unique gifts, talents and abilities;
- understand how God has individually shaped you;
- seek God's direction;
- identify opportunities to serve God

Every Christian has a unique role to play in the body of Christ:



We pray these studies will help you understand how God has shaped you for His purpose and entrusts you with abilities and gifts that can bring glory to Him. We are the means of God – we are the vehicle – to bring the Kingdom of God on earth.

These studies have been designed to be completed and explored within a group. This may be a growth group, a men's group, an accountability group, or mentoring group etc. A group setting should allow participants to confidentially share their journey of discovery, provide a forum for discussion, allow prayer for one another, offer supportive affirmation and, if appropriate, safe challenging. "Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour". Romans 12:10

After exploring what ministry is about and its importance to Christians today, the study will lead us on a discovery of how we have been wired for purpose – God's purpose. In other words your unique shape (S.H.A.P.E):

- S** Spiritual Gifts – God's enablement for ministry
- H** Heartbeat – what are your passions and what is your focus
- A** Ability – your God-given natural talents and acquired skills
- P** Personal Style – plugging into your God-given temperament
- E** Experiences – your know-how, personal experiences and history

In the last section of this booklet there is space to write your conclusions that emerge from each part of these studies. This will provide a guide as to who you are at the moment; how God has wired you uniquely, what your strengths are, where your passions lie, how your experience has shaped you, and what gifts and talents God has entrusted to you.

This summary of yourself is all very good, but where to from there? The study concludes with the opportunity to explore what ministry/s may suit you best, evaluation of where you are serving now, and investigate where you may serve in the future. It is our prayer that you can use this study as a tool to explore your 'best fit' in ministry.



Most importantly, we encourage you to cover this entire process with prayer because it is God who can bring wisdom in understanding who He has created you to be; it is He who ignites and fuels a passion for serving Himself and others; it is He who provides the strength and wisdom to serve in ministry; and it is God who calls us and directs us into and working within His ministry.

GROUP MEMBER PARTICIPATION

- Encourage everyone to do preparation as an indication of ownership and personal discovery.
- Invite one member to answer a question and only 'additional' information from other members as appropriate.
- Encourage members to take notes (to benefit from other members input).

Study 1:

YOU ARE MADE FOR MINISTRY

What Jesus accomplished through his physical body:

Hebrews 10:5-7 _____

Acts 10:36-38 _____

We are one in Jesus as his 'spiritual' body:

1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 27 _____

Acts 2:41, 47 (Acts 5:13, 14) _____

We have been made for ministry. It is an expression of our new life in Christ:

Ephesians 2:10 _____

Ephesians 4:11-13 _____

1 Peter 4:7-10 _____

We have also been called to intentional mission, which involves reaching people with the gospel of Jesus Christ, and growing them up into maturity in Him.

Matthew 28:18-20 _____

Luke 4:18/19 _____

Acts 1:8 _____

Colossians 1:28/29 _____

Your ministry is greatly determined by God's shaping of your life. How he made you to be determines what he intends you do and how he wants to use you. The Scriptures tell us that God made you unique; that there was purpose in His making; our calling was not only to salvation but servanthood.

Read Romans 12:3-8

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.



What do you think are the main issues Paul is seeking to pass onto the Christians at Rome and how can they relate to you today? Share these with your group.

(“DO IT” NIV)

Some additional thoughts about this passage by Royce Gruenler:

“Paul’s argument is that God by his sovereign grace has made a varied distribution of gifts so that the many members of the one body “do not all have the same function” (v.4)... that the sober judgment each should exercise “in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you” (v.3) implies a recognition of equality in unity and that the gifts are for serving others. A servant-like attitude of disposability is what Paul is urging, in contrast to a prideful flaunting of one’s superior gifts.’



Next session we will explore “Spiritual Gifts”. In preparation, complete the SPIRITUAL GIFT SURVEY questionnaire at the back of this document and bring to the next session, prepared to share with the group some of your answers.

An interesting exercise is to ask someone else to complete the survey based on what they know of you. Of course they’d need to know you fairly well and someone who you can safely share with, especially if you come to differing answers. Our hope is that if there areas that you under-value or under-estimate your gifting that the other person will be able to affirm this gift in you and provide a sounding board of honest and loving feedback. We have provided a second survey should you decide to do this.

Spiritual Gift Descriptions

ADMINISTRATION

The gift of administration is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to understand clearly the immediate and/or long-range objectives of a particular unit of the Body of Christ and to devise and execute effective plans for the accomplishment of these objectives. It is the ability to lead others and manage the affairs of the Church; to guide and steer the practical life and order of a ministry.

1 Corinthians 12:28; Acts 6: 1-7

APOSTLESHIP

The gift of apostle is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to assume and exercise general leadership over a group of believers with extraordinary authority in spiritual matters which is spontaneously recognised and appreciated by the group. It is also the ability to begin a new work for the Lord through the ministry of the Word.

1 Corinthians 12:28; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 3:1-9; 4:11

DISCERNMENT

The gift of discerning of spirits is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to discern the spirits of truth and error; to know with assurance whether certain behaviour purported to be of God is in reality divine, human or Satanic.

1 Corinthians 12:10; Acts 16:16-18; 1 John 4:1-6; Philippians 1:9-10

EVANGELISM

The gift of evangelism is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to draw closer to non-Christians and effectively communicate God's message of love and redemption so that people respond to Jesus and become responsible disciples in a local church.

Ephesians 4:11; Acts 8:5-6; 8:26-40, 21:8, 14:21; 2 Timothy 4:5

EXHORTATION (ENCOURAGEMENT)

The gift of exhortation and encouragement is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to minister words of comfort, consolation, exhortation and counsel to other members of the Body in such a way that they feel helped and/or healed; the ability to bring out the best in others and challenge them, especially when they are discouraged or wavering in the faith; the ability to encourage others to grow into their full potential in Christ.

Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 10:25; Acts 14:22

FAITH

The gift of faith is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to discern with extraordinary confidence the will and purposes of God for the future of His work. It is the ability to trust God beyond the probable and raise the vision of others.

1 Corinthians 12:9; Acts 27:21-25, 11:22-24; Romans 4:18-21; Hebrews 11

GIVING (CONTRIBUTING)

The gift of giving and contributing is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to give their material resources to the work of the Lord with generosity and cheerfulness; the ability to earn and manage money so that it may be given to support the ministry of others.

Romans 12:8; 2 Cor. 8: 1-7; 2 Corinthians 9:2 6-8

HEALING

The gift of healing is the special-ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to serve as human intermediaries through whom it pleases God to heal a person spiritually, emotionally, or physically and restore health apart from the use of natural means.

1 Corinthians 12:9, 28; Acts 3:1-10; Acts 5:12-16; Acts 9:32-35

HELPS (SERVING)

The gift of helps and serving is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to invest the talents they have in the life and ministry of other members of the Body, thus enabling them to increase the effectiveness of their own spiritual gifts; to lend a hand wherever a needs appears and do it in such a way that it supports and encourages others spiritually; the exercise of this gift makes possible the ministry of others and increases the effectiveness of the one being helped without the need for recognition.

1 Corinthians 12:28; Romans 16: 1-2; Acts 9:36

HOSPITALITY

The gift of hospitality is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to provide acceptance, value and a warm welcome for those in need of food, safety, security or accommodation.

Romans 12:9-13, 16:23; Hebrews 13:1-2; Acts 16:15

INTERCESSION

The special ability to pray from the heart with intensity, fervency and perseverance on behalf of the needs of others for their wholeness in Christ, for extended periods of time and on a regular basis, and seeing frequent and specific answers to their prayers.

Romans 8:26-27; Colossians 4:12-13; 1 Timothy 2: 1-2; Romans 15:30-31

LEADERSHIP

The gift of leadership is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the future and to influence others in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish those goals for the glory of God.

Romans 12:8; Luke 22:25-26; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; 1 Timothy 3:1-13, 5:17-25; Hebrews 13:17; Matthew 20:25-28

MERCY

The gift of mercy is the special ability the God gives certain members of the Body of Christ to feel genuine empathy and compassion for individuals, both Christian and non-Christian, suffering physical, mental or emotional problems and to translate that compassion into cheerfully done deeds that reflect Christ's love and alleviate the suffering.

Romans 12:8; Acts 16:33-34; Luke 10:33-35; Mark 9:41

MESSAGE OF KNOWLEDGE

The gift of a message of knowledge is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to obtain information from the Holy Spirit about someone or something that could not be known from any other source.

Matthew 16:13-17; Acts 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:8, 13:2, 13:8-10; Colossians 2:2-3; Ephesians 3:14-19

MESSAGE OF WISDOM

The gift of a message of wisdom is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ of insight into the ways of God, into the understanding of life situations and into the linking of the two, so that one knows what to do and how to do it.

1 Corinthians 2:1-13, 12:7-8, 10, 28, 13:1; Acts 2:1-2, 6:3,10; 2 Peter 3:15; James 1:5-6; Colossians 19-12; 2:1-23

MIRACLES

The gift of miracles is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to serve as human intermediaries through whom it pleases God to perform powerful acts that are perceived by observers to have altered the ordinary course of nature. It is the ability to perform acts seemingly contrary to the natural laws, with power beyond human capacity.

1 Corinthians 12:28; Acts 19:11-20, 9:36-42; Romans 15:18-19

PASTORING

The gift of pastor is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to assume a long-term shepherding responsibility for the spiritual welfare of a group of believers, and to equip them for ministry.

Ephesians 4:11; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; John 10:1-18; 1 Peter 5:1-3; Acts 20:28-29

PROPHECY

The gift of prophecy is the special ability to receive and communicate an immediate message of God directly to His people in a given situation. Often this gift reflects special insight into the truth and calls people back to obedience to God's ways. The word of prophecy is tested by the congregation and must be consistent with Biblical revelation.

1 Corinthians 12:10, 28, 14:29, 32; Romans 12:6; Ephesians 4:11; Acts 15:32; Acts 21:9-11; Luke 7:26

TEACHING

The gift of teaching is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to communicate God's truth to others in such a way that it brings understanding and application.

1 Corinthians 12:28; Romans 12:7; Ephesians 4:11-14; Acts 18: 24-28; Acts 20:20-21; 1 Timothy 5:17; 2 Timothy 2:2, 24-25, 3:14-17, 4:2-3, Hebrews 5:11-14

SERVICE

The gift of service is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to identify the unmet needs involved In a task related to God's work, and to make use of available resources to meet those needs.

Acts 6:1-7; Romans 12:7; 2 Timothy 1:16-18

SPEAKING IN TONGUES

A supernatural outpouring and sign to unbelievers (Acts 2:4, 11).

As a private prayer language (1 Corinthians 14:2 & 4)

For the strengthening of the church - requires an interpretation (1 Corinthians 14:27)

Study 2:

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

SHARE: Briefly share with the group what comes to your mind when you hear the phrase “spiritual gifts”.

Let’s explore some bible passages, sharing what you think the main points are and then discuss how these should impact our use of spiritual gifts, our attitudes and motivations.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

1 Corinthians 12:14-20

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (Galations 5:13-15)

1 Corinthians 14:1 and following:

a) v1 (1 Cor 12:11) _____

b) v3, 4, 5, 12 _____

c) v2 & 4 (see description p11) also 1 Cor 12:30; 14:5 & 13) _____

d) Sample of ‘body life’ 1 Cor 14:26-33:

i) v26a _____

ii) v26b _____

iii) v27-33/39 & 40 _____

1 Peter 4:10/11

SHARE with members of your group your 'discovery 'about spiritual gifts in the light of the survey

There are some people who are naturally talented or gifted. Discuss as a group the difference between a spiritual gift and a natural gift, and their similarities?

Here's a couple of definitions of spiritual gifts:

"a special ability given by the Holy Spirit to be used for the benefit of others in the body of Christ"

"a supernatural ability given by the Holy Spirit to do things, to make a contribution to the building up of the body of Christ which cannot be explained by natural means"

When you consider the results of the survey, there are a number of things to think about...as you share with each other, feel free to stop and discuss each point as the group directs.

- It is a snap-shot of where you have been in your life-journey and where you are right now. This questionnaire is not designed to impede the work of God in your life, as He may choose to develop and grow new gifts in you. God is sovereign and He may choose to call you in new ways
- Spiritual gifts are God's gracious ways of enabling the body of Christ to minister to each other and reach out to those not yet in relationship with Him. Where people deny or inhibit the use of spiritual gifts the body of Christ may suffer because God builds His church through each person who holds a unique place and role within the body.
- Spiritual gifts are to be exercised within the framework of the fruit of the Spirit[1 Cor:13; Galatians 5:22-23]

- No gift is more superior than another, nor is one person more important on the basis of having several gifts. We do not own our gifts; we are instruments of God, serving Him, for His glory.
- Though some people may be given a revelatory gift on a regular basis [healing, word of Knowledge, prophecy, tongues] all Christians should be open to God gifting them for his Sovereign direction and intervention in any immediate situation. David Posthuma[Made for a Mission p.183]describes the nature of a revelatory gift:-“a second category of spiritual giftedness exists that is strictly revelatory in nature. In other words, God “reveals’ them through us only at the moment the specific gifts are needed. The revelatory gifts are distinctively different in nature from the practical ministry gifts. While the practical gifts are augmentations of our created nature and their utilisation is filtered through our personalities, this is not the case with revelatory gifts. Instead they are used in the moment as directed by the Holy Spirit. For example, a follower of Christ may have a sudden urge/overwhelming by God to pray over someone for their healing....and God heals. That person may or may not ever be able to repeat the use of such a miraculous gift.”



Attaining spiritual gifts is not the goal – they are the gateway. They are not a hobby to play with; they are tools to build with; weapons to fight with. We will be more effective as we put them to use for God’s glory and not our own.

New Believer’s Bible p.1027

...a final thought about Spiritual Gifts:

To illustrate how spiritual gifts work in combination with all of who we are, think about the gift of teaching. Some people will say they have a gift to teach children. Their spiritual gift is teaching, not teaching children. No where in Scripture does God categorize gifts according to age levels, gender, or other distinctions within which they operate.

Someone with the gift of teaching could teach any age if gifting was the only factor. The bent toward children comes from the person's passions and past experience. Certain personality temperaments do better with children than others.

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At the session's conclusion, transfer your top 5 spiritual gifts to the summary on page 26.



Next session will be in two parts. We will explore “Your Heartbeat” (Study 3a) and “Your Abilities” (Study 3b). In preparation, complete the questionnaire (page 15) and bring to the next session, prepared to share with the group some of your answers.



Complete the following questions in preparation for this session. There is no right or wrong answer, rather it's about jotting down the things that fire you up and you're passionate about. If you've not explored a particular issue or concept too deeply yet, these may be areas that, for example, you find yourself extra attentive to when you read a newspaper, find yourself actively listening to on the television, or a group or need you feel drawn toward. A particularly useful exercise is to compare your answers with how you feel and respond to issues during the rest of the week.

1. Imagine that you and I are meeting for the first time. In the course of our conversation, we talk about a variety of topics. Then we turn to a new subject. As you are talking to me about it, you start speaking a little faster. You become increasingly animated. Your voice goes up a little. Your passion may be indicated by more active body language. What are we talking about?

2. Your passion will energise you. Not only will you become more alive emotionally, but the activity or thoughts about your passion will actually give you energy. This is God's way of moving you toward those people, roles, or causes that are his created agenda for your life. His will for you is partly revealed in your God-given passion. What energises you?

3. Reviewing you responses, how might you summarise your passion in a word or phrase?

I have a passion for/to:

Study 3[a] :

YOUR HEARTBEAT

Your ministry will be most effective and fulfilling when you are using your gifts and abilities in the area of your **heart's desire**. We instinctively feel deeply about some things and not about others. What is it that “drives” you to do what you do; to live the way you do....what kind of a commentary on your life are the following scriptures;-

- Matthew 22:37-39_____
- 1 Samuel 12:24_____
- 1 Kings 15:3 [Acts 13:22]_____
- Ephesians 6:6b-8_____
- Philippians 1:21 _____

Those who are expressing their heart's desire will find greater energy and focus as they positively impact those around them. Of course, the process of fulfilling your passion will not always be easy or fun. But in the midst of moving toward your passion, there is an inner confidence that you are doing what God wants you to do in the way he wants you to do it. There is an assurance that you are where he wants you, and that he is using you according to his divine purposes. *

Whether subtly or overtly, you are making a difference. Where do you believe this is happening? In what area would you like to see it happen? Share your answer, as well as your Heartbeat Session Preparation answers. Affirm in others where you see them making a difference and what you have observed ‘lights’ them up.

You probably were aware that a number of areas touched your heart..... there are so many needs in the world, so many opportunities to help, so many things that prick our conscience or call to us for a response; how do we know which one to respond to? Maybe you are already working and serving in that area, but if not, the first part of this session may have helped you already discern some of the things that ‘push your button’, areas of discontent or areas that you have a passion to fix. Yet being a disciple of Jesus and serving in ministry is not about just doing what we want; it’s a partnership with God to do His will and an aligning of our heartbeat to match God’s heartbeat.

In the book ‘Holy Discontent’, Hybels explores the concept of intentionally moving past being discontent to having a holy discontent. But what makes our discontent ‘holy’? It’s about aligning ourselves with God’s priorities and choosing “to act on the dissatisfaction that’s been brewing deep within your soul and compels you to say yes to joining forces with God so that the darkness and depravity around you gets pushed back.” (p.26)

Discuss in your group the following statement:

“If you expose yourself to all that’s broken in our world but neglect to view the brokenness from heaven’s perspective (which promises that everything is in the process of being restored), then you’ll get sucked into an impossible, downward spiral of aggravation and anger. Things will seem so bleak that you will wind up taking up residence inside your firestorm of frustration instead of allowing it to propel you toward positive action.” (p.26)

Are you willing to take ‘time out’ in order to be quiet before the Lord; to listen to Him, to be instructed by Him, in order to be obedient to the vision God might ‘birth’ in you. (Isaiah 50:4-7) Can we say “I have been trusted to carry God’s message of hope to an aching, fractured world in need, and I refuse to rest until my role in that is fulfilled.’ Hybels (p134)*

At the session’s conclusion, transfer your answer to question 3 ‘I have a passion for/to’ of the Heartbeat Session Preparation to the summary on page 27. Maybe after having shared your answers, received feedback from your group and spent time with God in prayer, you may want to review, and possibly ‘fine-tune’ your answer. Maybe your heart breaks with God’s regarding inward-focused Christians, lacklustre worship, isolated mothers, homeless people, struggling families in crisis, injustice, inequality, leaders left to clean up after an event, broken or inadequate facilities, lack of communication, financially strapped families, unsupported grieving people, lonely, elderly, unsafe conditions, neglected single mums, lack of prayer, children far from God, lack of biblical teaching etc.

FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

What groups, needs, or ministries do I feel compelled to help the most?

While we'll explore this more in the last session of "Wired for Purpose", begin now to listen for others whose hearts beat with the same passion as you so you may join with them as Christ's body to make a difference. Start looking for the gaps that exist within your church and community that align with your heart beat. Consider what church ministries and community programmes already exist that will allow an outworking of your passion.



Next session we will explore "Your Abilities".

Study 3[b] :

YOUR ABILITIES

One of the most common excuses people find for not getting involved in ministry is “I just don’t have the ability or skills to be able to offer”. You will be surprised to discover that over the period of your life you have accumulated a range of skills, abilities and talents, of which can be used to glorify God.

- Some skills seem to be inborn, or developed very early in infancy. [“He/she just seems to have a natural ability for..”]
- Every ability is given by God [Exodus 31:3] We need to be careful not to overemphasize spiritual gifts to the detriment of our natural abilities
- Every ability can be used for god’s Glory [1 Corinthians 10:31] and the advancement of His Kingdom
- If we don’t use our abilities we may lose them!!! [Matthew 25:14-18; 28-30]

In preparation for this session complete the following information about what you have accumulated over your lifetime.

Do not worry about any repetition or overlap as this is more about giving you the opportunity to explore what you are good at.

Current Vocation

Educational training

Interests, skills

Hobbies, leisure activities

Share some highlights with the rest of the group.

Transfer your top answers to page 28



Next session we will explore “Your Personal Style”. In preparation complete the Personal Style Questionnaire (pages 20 and 21) and one character study on page 23 and bring to the next session. Be prepared to share with the group some of your answers.



PERSONAL STYLE SESSION PREPARATION

Complete the following questions in preparation for this session. There is no right or wrong answer, rather it's about evaluating how you interact, work, rest, and function.

How Are You Energised?

1. I'm more comfortable ...
doing things for people 1 2 3 4 5 being with people
2. When doing a task, I tend to ...
focus on the goal 1 2 3 4 5 focus on relationships
3. I get more excited about ...
advancing a cause 1 2 3 4 5 creating community
4. I feel I have accomplished something when I've ...
gotten a job done 1 2 3 4 5 built a relationship
5. It is more important to start a meeting ...
on time 1 2 3 4 5 when everyone is there
6. I'm more concerned with ...
meeting a deadline 1 2 3 4 5 maintaining the team
7. I place a higher value on ...
action 1 2 3 4 5 communication

Energized Total E = _____

How Are You Organised?

1. While on holidays, I prefer to ...
be spontaneous 1 2 3 4 5 follow a set plan
2. I prefer to set guidelines that are ...
general 1 2 3 4 5 specific
3. I prefer to ...
leave my options open 1 2 3 4 5 settle things now
4. I prefer projects that have ...
variety 1 2 3 4 5 routine
5. I like to ...
play it by ear 1 2 3 4 5 stick to a plan
6. I find routine ...
boring 1 2 3 4 5 restful
7. I accomplish tasks best ...
by working it out as I go 1 2 3 4 5 by following a plan

Organised Total O = _____

If your **E** total was 7-21 you are energised through *tasks*

22-35 you are energised through *people*

If your **O** total was 7-21 you are organised by being *unstructured*

22-35 you are organised by *structure*

Share your findings with your group...were there any surprises!!!

How do you see yourself?

1. Introvert 1 2 3 4 5 extrovert
2. Thinking 1 2 3 4 5 feeling
3. Competitive 1 2 3 4 5 co-operative

Transfer your answers to the summary on page 26.

Study 4:

YOUR PERSONAL STYLE

In discovering what energises you, and how you prefer to organise yourself, you can understand what types of ministries may suit you better than others and how to operate in ministry so that you thrive instead of burning out.

Your personality provides expression to how you use your gifts, abilities and experience in ministry. They determine your fervour, flair and style in which you pursue your God directed heart passion.

There is no 'right' or 'wrong' temperament. We need to appreciate God's love of variety within His people. Some people have strong personalities, others tend to be more passive. Some people are extroverts, some are introverts. Some are thinking types, others are feeling type people. Some tend to be more task oriented, while others are more people orientated.

Share with one another your understanding of the "personality style" of the following biblical characters:-

- GIDEON [Judges 6:11-13, 15-17, 25-27, 36-40]

- NAOMI [Ruth 1:8-13, 19-21; 2:19-22; 3:1-4, 16-18; 4:13-22]

- ANDREW [John 1:35-42; 6:8/9; 12:20-22; Mark 9:2; 14:32]

- JOHN [Mark 3:17; 10:35-39; Luke 9:46-55; John 13:21-27; 19:25-27; 20:2; 21:7; Revelation 1:9-11]

- BARNABAS [Acts 9:26-28; 11:22-26; 15:36-40]

Which 'personality type' do you most identify with?

ATTENTION: Jesus, Son of Joseph,
Woodcrafters Carpenter Shop
Nazareth 91365

Dear Sir,

Thank you for submitting the names of the twelve men you have chosen for management positions in your new organization. All of them have now taken our series of tests; and we have not only run the results through our computer, but also arranged personal interviews for each of them with our psychologist and vocational aptitude consultant. The profiles of all tests are included and you will want to study each of them carefully.

It is the staff opinion, that most of your nominees are lacking in the background, education, and vocational aptitude for the type of enterprise you are undertaking. They do not have the team concept. We would recommend that you continue your search for persons of experience in managerial ability and proven capability.

Simon Peter is emotionally unstable and given to fits of temper. Andrew has absolutely no qualities of leadership and would surely stay in the background. The two brothers, James and John, Sons of Zebedee, place personal interests above company loyalty. Thomas demonstrates a questioning attitude that would tend to undermine morale. We feel that it is our duty to tell you that Matthew has been blacklisted by the Greater Jerusalem Better Business Bureau. James the Son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus definitely have radical leanings, and they both registered high on the manic-depressive scale.

One of the candidates, however, shows great potential. He is a man of ability and resourcefulness, meets people well, has a keen business mind, and has contact in high places. He is highly motivated, ambitious, and responsible. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your accountant and right hand man. All of the other profiles are self-explanatory and will follow. We wish you every success in your new venture.

Sincerely yours,
The Jordan Management Consulting Company
123 Money Changer's Court
Nazareth 91365

Sometimes our human evaluation of a person's suitability to ministry and God's evaluation are quite different. How do you respond when you read Jeremiah 18:1-6 (also Isaiah 64:8) and substitute your name in place of 'O house of Israel'? [v6]

Read 2 Corinthians 4:5-7. How does this passage encourage you; and how would you use it to encourage someone who says they are of "little" use to God?



In the last session we will explore "Your Experiences of Life". In particular complete the section from Study 5 under my Spiritual Journey.

Study 5:

YOUR EXPERIENCES OF LIFE

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU IS ALSO REVEALED IN THE
EXPERIENCES HE HAS GIVEN YOU.

- Interpreting my experiences

One of the most overlooked factors in determining God's ministry is our past experiences, particularly those times of pain and heartache and discomfort, which we have overcome with the grace of God.

Romans 8:28 "and we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose"

Philippians 1:12-17 "I want you to know brothers that what has happened to me has really served to advance the Gospel" [see also Genesis 50:20]

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 "{God} wonderfully comforts and strengthens us in our hardships and trials.....so that when others are in trouble, needing our sympathy and encouragement, we can pass on to them the same help and comfort God has given us"{LB}

There is no wastage with God in the seeming aspects of our lives. God uses every experience to shape us. HE IS PURPOSEFUL IN THE PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OF LIFE THAT COME OUR WAY.

- Examining my experiences

Use the following sections as a guideline and write down the many significant experiences that have been part of your life story.

MY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

How I became a follower of JESUS and what it has meant to since-

What are the times I have felt really close to God?

What kinds of trial, difficulty and pain have I experienced in such a way that I could relate to and encourage another person who is going through a similar experience

What are the times, places, and kinds of ministry that I have experienced so far in my spiritual journey?

Share with one another your spiritual journey.

Transfer a summary of your experiences to page 26

Continue on studies from page 28 to completion.

WIRED FOR PURPOSE

MY SHAPE FOR SERVING

Name: _____ Age: _____

STUDY 2 - My Spiritual Gifts (copy from page 14)

Spiritual gifts I believe I have

1. _____ Total _____
2. _____ Total _____
3. _____ Total _____
4. _____ Total _____
5. _____ Total _____

STUDY 3(a) - My Heart Beat (copy from page 19)

1. I love to _____
2. What I would attempt to do for God is _____

STUDY 3(b) - My Abilities (copy from page 20)

1. Current vocation: _____
2. Training/experience in other jobs, skills _____

3. Specialised abilities _____

4. Most valuable personal asset _____

STUDY 4 - Personal Style (copy from page 22)

E - I am energised through _____

O - I am organised by _____

How do you see yourself: _____

Where do you fit? (Mark with a cross(x))

(a) Introvert	(c) Thinking	(e) Competitive.....
↓	↓	↓
(b) Extrovert	(d) Feeling	(f) Co-operative

STUDY 5 - My Experiences in Life (copy from page 24)

1. Ministry experiences (past, present within or without the church)

2. Key experiences (ability to relate to other people who have had similar suffering/pain experience to myself such as:

WHERE TO FROM HERE???

Essential to the proper outworking of your ministry is a growing, close walk with God. Spiritual gifts, personality, heart passions, and experience blend together to yield a greater effectiveness in serving God, but they will only take you so far if they are not under the constant refining work of the Spirit of God. Your motivations are important. Your ministry should be built on wanting to glorify God not self, on wanting to live a life of worship rather than just a Sunday thing, and on aligning your heart with God's heart to serve him.

Consider the following questions and share with the group your thoughts: When thinking about various forms and opportunities for ministry, have you considered looking outside the church? Could the current ministry you are in widen its focus to encompass those outside the church walls? Are there community groups that would benefit from you being 'salt' and 'light' in the world (Matthew 5:13-14)? If you are considering setting up a new ministry, does one already exist in another church or community group that would benefit from your involvement rather than 'reinventing the wheel'?

Include discussion about this comment:



'To be the salt of society means that we are deeply concerned with its well being. We preserve cultural values and moral principles and make a contribution to the development of cultural and social life. We add taste and flavour to the common life. Because there are Christians in a city or in a village, its people should be able to praise God for the harmony and fellowship, joy and happiness which Christians bring to the common life. We are also called to be the light of the world. The New English Bible translates: 'You are the light for all the world'. It means we are to be light in all aspects of the world's life. It also means we are to be light for all the people of the world. It takes us out of our preoccupation with the welfare of the Christian community alone.'

(www.religion-online.org)

'I think it's quite natural to assume, in fact, that everyone who has ever made progress in repairing this broken world must have been smarter, stronger, richer, feistier, more talented, more ambitious, more energetic, more persistent and far more creative than you. Again, it would be easy to opt out. It would be easy to talk yourself into believing that this business is reserved for everyone else except you, but you, my friend, would be dead wrong.'

(Holy Discontent p.49-50)



We are God's handiwork, created in
Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us
to do.

Ephesians 2:10

We must choose to *opt-in* to God's plan for our lives to do good works. God works in our lives transforming us into more fully devoted followers of Christ and, therefore, into progressively more compassionate people. God grows our hearts and prompts us into action. As we explore in the next pages what ministry (or ministries) are YOUR ministries, maybe you will hear God calling you saying *'I know you are devastated by the same problem that grieves me, and I just happen to have in mind someone **exactly like you** to help me solve this!'* (p.54)

The next steps are simple, yet potentially profound – and it starts with

Prayer

You may remember from the introduction that we encourage you to cover this entire process with prayer because it is God who can bring wisdom in understanding who He has created you to be; it is He who ignites and fuels a passion for serving Himself and others; it is He who provides the strength and wisdom to serve in ministry; and it is God who calls us and directs us into and working within His ministry.

Spend time as a group in prayer for each other that God's revelation about the call to ministry or His confirmation of current ministry may be clear.



SEEK GOD'S DIRECTION

When we seek from God his direction with our ministry two angles to serving emerge.

- **General ministry call**

This is our response to God's commands within Scripture of serving God and others (such as the 'one another' verses in the bible)

- **Specific ministries call**

A ministry which God explicitly calls us into.



These are not limited callings separate from each other, that is, we don't have one and not the other. Our whole of life is meant to be a way of serving God and serving others

Pray to be Usable

Bill Hybels¹ writes:

Before Nehemiah was used to impact his generation in a positive, God-honouring way, we read that he mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven (Nehemiah 1:4). Same was true for Moses: before he led the children of Israel into the Promised Land, he faithfully obeyed God's commands. As a boy, Billy Graham spent many an afternoon on the farm where he grew up reading the Scriptures and praying to God. Mother Teresa engaged in long periods of solitude and rest throughout her seasons of ministry. Before God will move in our midst, you and I must be found usable too.

BEGIN SERVING

- Meet with a pastor/elder and share the findings of your "Personal Ministry Profile" summary.
- Choose a ministry that best matches your unique S.H.A.P.E.
- Start serving in the power of the HOLY SPIRIT
- Allow a "mentor" to monitor and encourage your progress until you are settled into that ministry, or needing to explore and experiment in another area.
- Your ministry should be the place in which you come alive and thrive {not just exist}
- Enjoy God as you experience the freedom of ministering firstly until Him ... "they gave themselves first to the Lord, and then to us in keeping with His will" (2 Corinthians 8:5)

¹ Bill Hybels 2007, *Living and Leading from your Holy Discontent*, Zondervan p. 146

Spiritual Gift Survey

	Much	Some	Little	Not At All
1. Proclaiming God's truth in a way that at times irritates the 'establishment'.	()	()	()	()
2. Enjoying the responsibility for the spiritual well being of a group of Christians.	()	()	()	()
3. Enabling persons to learn biblical truths in detail.	()	()	()	()
4. Applying truth effectively in my own life.	()	()	()	()
5. Find that I influence those around me.	()	()	()	()
6. Having ability to discover new truths for myself.	()	()	()	()
7. Verbally encouraging the wavering, troubled, or discouraged.	()	()	()	()
8. Clearly perceiving the difference between truth and error.	()	()	()	()
9. Managing money well in order to give liberally to the Lord's work.	()	()	()	()
10. Assisting leaders to relieve them for their essential job.	()	()	()	()
11. Desire to work with those who have physical or mental problems to alleviate their suffering.	()	()	()	()

	Much	Some	Little	Not At All
12. Leading others for a decision for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.	()	()	()	()
13. Providing food/lodging graciously to those in need.	()	()	()	()
14. Believing God will keep His promises in spite of circumstantial evidence.	()	()	()	()
15. Know when and to whom to delegate important responsibility.	()	()	()	()
16. In the name of the Lord, miraculously changing circumstances, which reveals His glory,.	()	()	()	()
17. In the name of the Lord, curing diseases.	()	()	()	()
18. Having spoken in tongues.	()	()	()	()
19. Interpreting messages given in tongues.	()	()	()	()
20. Feeling a sense of authority when I relate to other Christians.	()	()	()	()
21. Enjoy being called upon to do special jobs around the church.	()	()	()	()
22. Through God, revealing what will happen in the future.	()	()	()	()

	Much	Some	Little	Not At All
23. Enjoy the task of relating to the successes and failures of the same group over a period of time.	()	()	()	()
24. Explaining clearly New Testament teaching relevant to the health and ministry of the Church.	()	()	()	()
25. Intuitively arrive at solutions to complicated problems.	()	()	()	()
26. Enjoy providing direction in challenging circumstances.	()	()	()	()
27. Having insights of truth which bring conviction to other Christians.	()	()	()	()
28. Being an instrument for dislodging the complacent and redirecting the wayward to face spiritual reality.	()	()	()	()
29. Judging well between what is poor and what is good (or evil and good).	()	()	()	()
30. Giving things or money cheerfully to the Lord's work.	()	()	()	()
31. Sense the need to help other people to become more effective in their ministry.	()	()	()	()
32. Have felt an unusual compassion for those with physical or spiritual needs.	()	()	()	()
33. Sharing joyfully how Christ has brought me to Himself in a way that is meaningful to non-believers.	()	()	()	()

	Much	Some	Little	Not At All
34. Providing a gracious haven for guests without the feeling of family interruption.	()	()	()	()
35. Receiving from God an unusual assurance that He will do the impossible to fulfil a special work.	()	()	()	()
36. Able to organise ideas, people, things and time for more effective ministry.	()	()	()	()
37. In the name of the Lord, casting out demons.	()	()	()	()
38. In the name of the Lord, healing the emotionally disturbed.	()	()	()	()
39. Have spoken an immediate message of God to His people in a language I have never learned.	()	()	()	()
40. Interpreting tongues which results in the Lord's body being edified, exhorted or comforted.	()	()	()	()
41. Proclaiming the Gospel on new ground and seeing new groups of Christians formed.	()	()	()	()
42. Able to effectively take care of the everyday needs of the Church.	()	()	()	()
43. Communicating to others timely and urgent messages which I feel come directly from God.	()	()	()	()

	Much	Some	Little	Not At All
44. Knowing intimately and being well known by those I serve and guide.	()	()	()	()
45. Able to devote a great amount of time to learning new biblical truths to communicate to others.	()	()	()	()
46. Choosing from several biblical alternatives an option that usually works.	()	()	()	()
47. Enjoy leading others toward a better future.	()	()	()	()
48. Acquiring and mastering new facts and principles of the Bible.	()	()	()	()
49. Have urged others to seek a biblical solution to their affliction or suffering.	()	()	()	()
50. Tending to look beneath the surface and question people's motives.	()	()	()	()
51. Feeling deeply moved when confronted with urgent financial needs in God's work.	()	()	()	()
52. Enjoy doing routine tasks that lead to more effective ministry by others.	()	()	()	()
53. Visiting in hospitals or retirement homes and being blessed.	()	()	()	()
54. Explaining clearly the meaning that Jesus is the Saviour and seeing its positive effect on the listeners.	()	()	()	()

	Much	Some	Little	Not At All
55. Having the knack of making strangers feel at home.	()	()	()	()
56. Trusting in the presence and power of God for the impossible.	()	()	()	()
57. Am able to make effective and efficient plans to accomplish goals of the group.	()	()	()	()
58. Many times God has intervened to do impossible things through my life.	()	()	()	()
59. In the name of the Lord, treating successfully those who are spiritually sick.	()	()	()	()
60. Have spoken to God in a language I have never learned.	()	()	()	()
61. Praying that I may interpret if someone begins speaking in tongues.	()	()	()	()
62. Other Christians seem willing to do what I say without asking many questions.	()	()	()	()
63. Feeling satisfaction in performing routine tasks for God's glory.	()	()	()	()
64. Have spoken direct messages from God that edify, exhort, or comfort others.	()	()	()	()
65. Helping needy Christians by guiding them to relevant portions of the Bible and praying with them.	()	()	()	()

	Much	Some	Little	Not At All
66. Communicating biblical truths to others which produce changes in knowledge, attitudes, values or conduct.	()	()	()	()
67. Able to perceive and apply biblical truth to the specific needs of the Church.	()	()	()	()
68. Others often identify me as the leader in the group.	()	()	()	()
69. I study and read a great deal to learn biblical truths.	()	()	()	()
70. Able to counsel effectively the perplexed, guilty, or addicted.	()	()	()	()
71. Accurately recognising whether a teaching is of Godly, Satanic or human origin.	()	()	()	()
72. Consistently and sacrificially give to the Lord, knowing He will meet my needs.	()	()	()	()
73. Distributing Gospel literature or papers in my community.	()	()	()	()
74. Taking shut-ins out for a drive, or assisting them in other practical ways.	()	()	()	()
75. Speaking a message which is primarily the Gospel of salvation.	()	()	()	()
76. Having a genuine graciousness and appreciation of each guest.	()	()	()	()

	Much	Some	Little	Not At All
77. Feeling sure I know God's specific will for the future growth of His work even others are not so sure.	()	()	()	()
78. Enjoy giving direction to and making decisions for others rather than try to persuade them to my way of thinking.	()	()	()	()
79. Being an instrument for God's supernatural change in lives and events.	()	()	()	()
80. Praying for others so healing occurs.	()	()	()	()
81. Recognising that when I give a public message in tongues, it should be interpreted.	()	()	()	()
82. Interpreting tongues in a way that seems to bless others.	()	()	()	()
83. Being sent out by a church to start new work, or churches.	()	()	()	()
84. Able to identify and meet the needs involved in a task in the Lord's work.	()	()	()	()
85. Giving messages of warning, judgment, or direction from the Lord.	()	()	()	()
86. Able to restore persons who have wandered away from their Christian community.	()	()	()	()
87. Training Christians to be more obedient disciples of Jesus Christ.	()	()	()	()

	Much	Some	Little	Not At All
88. Feeling an unusual presence of God and personal confidence when important decisions need to be made.	()	()	()	()
89. Able to see the way forward in difficult situations and lead a team toward that future.	()	()	()	()
90. Able to distinguish key and important facts of Scripture.	()	()	()	()
91. Comforting Christians in their afflictions or sufferings in such a way that they feel helped or healed.	()	()	()	()
92. Can see through a phoney before his phoniness is clearly evident.	()	()	()	()
93. Willing to maintain a lower standard of living in order to benefit God's work.	()	()	()	()
94. Happy to be a teacher's aid in a Bible class.	()	()	()	()
95. Talking cheerfully with those in prison, or the lonely shut-in person.	()	()	()	()
96. Have a burden to seek out unbelievers in order to win them to Christ.	()	()	()	()
97. Desire to make my home available to those in the Lord's service.	()	()	()	()
98. Trusting in the reliability of God when all looks dim.	()	()	()	()

	Much	Some	Little	Not At All
99. Enjoy the responsibility for the success of a group or organisation.	()	()	()	()
100. In the name of the Lord, able to recover sight to the blind.	()	()	()	()
101. Praying successfully for others for restoration of health apart from natural means.	()	()	()	()
102. Believing that when I speak in tongues it is edifying the Lord's body.	()	()	()	()
103. Interpreting tongues in such a way that the message appears to be directly from God.	()	()	()	()
104. Receiving a commission from Christians to exercise God-given authority among believers and unbelievers.	()	()	()	()
105. Able to make use of available resources to accomplish the desired goals.	()	()	()	()

Now that you have completed the questionnaire, would you please place the numerical value of each answer next to the number of each question.

Much = 3

Some = 2

Little = 1

Not At All = 0

Now add up the five numbers in each row, placing the sum in the 'Total' column

The Value of Your Answers					Total	Spiritual Gifts
1	22	43	64	85		Prophecy
2	23	44	65	86		Pastoring
3	24	45	66	87		Teaching
4	25	46	67	88		Wisdom
5	26	47	68	89		Leadership
6	27	48	69	90		Knowledge
7	28	49	70	91		Exhortation
8	29	50	71	92		Discerning Spirits
9	30	51	72	93		Giving
10	31	52	73	94		Helps
11	32	53	74	95		Mercy
12	33	54	75	96		Evangelism
13	34	55	76	97		Hospitality
14	35	56	77	98		Faith
15	36	57	78	99		Administration
16	37	58	79	100		Miracles
17	38	59	80	101		Healing
18	39	60	81	102		Tongues
19	40	61	82	103		Interpretation
20	41	62	83	104		Apostleship
21	42	63	84	105		Service

This manual has been put together by Raelene Cawley and
Bryan Shirley from Narara Valley Baptist Church

We acknowledge all those who have over a number of years
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