



FINDING YOUR PURPOSE

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

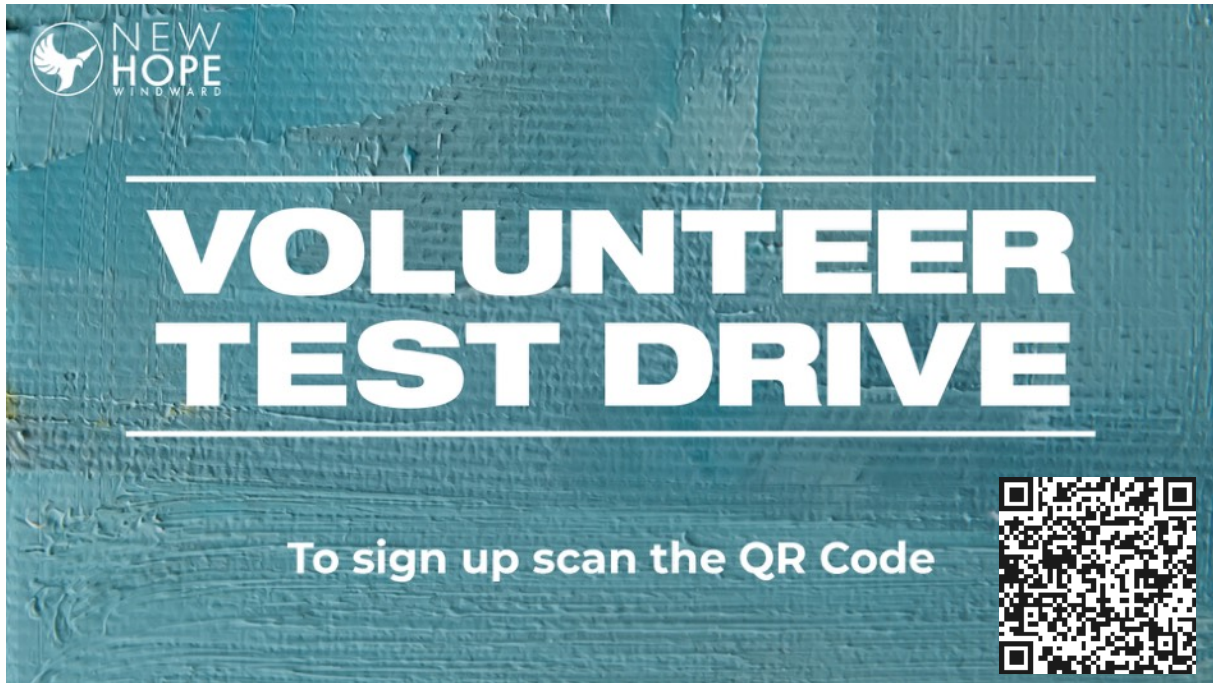
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SMALL GROUP TIPS

- 1. START & FINISH ON TIME.** Doing this will show your small group you value their time.
- 2. BE COMFORTABLE WITH SILENCE.** Uncomfortable silences are bound to happen. It's okay! A long pause during a group discussion can be powerful. A *pause* gives space for quieter people to break into the conversation; silence allows people to figure out exactly what they would like to say.
- 3. CONFIDENTIALITY IS IMPORTANT.** Confidentiality is the key to building trust in relationships. Here are a few mottos to remember to be confidential: "What is said in small group, stays in small group." **Nothing, nobody, never...** *Share nothing, to nobody, never* outside of the group.
- 4. MAKE GROUP A PRIORITY.** Communicate in advance when you will be unable to attend by either calling and/or texting your host or responding to the zoom email invitation by accepting or declining. This will help your host to plan accordingly especially if it is an in-person small group gathering.
- 5. COMMIT TO SERVE.** Serving God + serving others is one of the best ways to better your relationships. Commit to serve in the church, in your home, and in your community. Discover the joy and happiness that God provides from serving. You can sign up to serve and test-drive a ministry, individually, or as a small group together! See week 4 for more details.
- 6. ASK FOR HELP.**
The Small Group Ministry is here to help. Email smallgroups@nhww.org to ask any questions, request training or other assistance for your small group.

TEST DRIVE A MINISTRY!



Discover your Spiritual Gifts and hidden talents through volunteering! Beginning August 18, 2025 we will be presenting opportunities for you to “test drive” a ministry at New Hope Windward.

Deepen your faith and make a difference through ministry volunteering. Discover the joy and happiness that God provides from serving.

GOD'S PURPOSES FOR MY LIFE

Spiritual Gifts · Natural Abilities · Passions

Over the next four weeks, you'll take a series of short assessments to help you discover how God uniquely created and gifted you. Use this page to record your results each week. As it fills in, you'll begin to see a clearer picture of your God-given design—and how you can use it to serve God and others.

Week 1 - MY SPIRITUAL GIFTS (List your top 3)

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Week 2 - MY NATURAL ABILITIES (List top 6)

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____

Week 3 - MY PASSIONS (List top 6)

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____

Week 4 - LIVE YOUR PURPOSE

Review your results. Based on your spiritual gifts, abilities and passions, what areas do you think God may be leading you to use them?

(E.g. in your church, relationships, career, community, etc.?)

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

***Now that you know your giftings...
TEST DRIVE A MINISTRY!***

Scan the QR code to find the right ministry for your calling!



FINDING YOUR PURPOSE

TIPS TO A SUCCESSFUL GROUP

START & FINISH ON TIME. Doing this will show your small group you value their time.

Discovering God's Purposes for Your Life

ICEBREAKER

If God gave out superhero powers as spiritual gifts, what would yours be—and how would you use it to help others?

INTRODUCTION

You weren't created randomly. You were crafted by God on purpose, with purpose, for a purpose. But how do you discover what His plans and purposes are? Your purpose isn't found by accident—it's revealed through how God uniquely designed you.

*What God made you to **BE**
determines what He wants you to **DO!***

Over the next four weeks, we'll help you discover how God uniquely designed you so you can better understand what He's calling you to do.

The first 3 weeks include a short assessment and small group discussion to help you reflect and apply what you've learned. In Week 4, we'll bring it all together to explore how you can live out your God-given purpose.

This week, we begin by helping you discover and deploy your Spiritual Gifts.

READ |

You are gifted! God didn't just save you, He *equipped* you. Scripture says every believer has been given at least one spiritual gift by the Holy Spirit, but most people have been given a few.

A spiritual gift is a divine ability given by the Holy Spirit to every believer at their conversion, to be used to serve others and build up the Body of Christ (His church).

Spiritual gifts aren't about being "super spiritual." They're about God working through ordinary people to bless them, bless others, and build His Church.

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago. — Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

You are not an accident. You are a masterpiece! Before you were born, God planned "good things" for you to do. He has placed spiritual gifts in you to help you accomplish what He put you on earth to do.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others... — 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

What's one thing you enjoy or feel fulfilled doing—something that might be a clue to a spiritual gift God has placed in you?

READ |

When you know your spiritual gifts, you know your lanes. Most frustration in life comes from operating *outside* of your gifting or *withholding* it from others.

Now about spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be ignorant. — 1 Corinthians 12:1 (NIV)

In other words, God wants you to identify the spiritual gifts He gave you and use them to serve others. Many believers go through life unaware of the spiritual gifts God has placed

within them—but you don’t have to. Discovering your spiritual gifts helps you identify some of the ways God wants you to help others, which leads to joy, fulfillment, and a stronger sense of purpose.

How might ignoring or downplaying your spiritual gifts affect the people God has called you to serve?

READ |

In several key passages, the Bible says there are at least twenty different spiritual gifts:

- **Romans 12:6-8** - **1 Corinthians 12:1-11** - **Ephesians 4:7-13** - **1 Peter 4:10-11**

Set aside a few moments this week to prayerfully dive into these scriptures. They offer meaningful insights into the various spiritual gifts and can help you better understand how each one plays a role in the church and in your community.

Next, you will take a ***Spiritual Gifts Assessment***. This isn’t a test—just a tool to help you discover how God uniquely designed you. No one’s grading you. Just answer honestly, and have fun with it!

SPIRITUAL GIFTS ASSESSMENT

- **ADMINISTRATION:** The ability to organize tasks, systems, and people in a way that brings structure and clarity to a vision. Administrators help turn big-picture goals into effective, practical steps. (*1 Corinthians 12:28*)

I’m pretty sure I have this gift

I may have this gift

I don’t think I have this gift

- **APOSTLE:** The ability to pioneer new ministries, plant churches, or bring the gospel into new or unreached areas. Apostles are often entrepreneurial, visionary leaders who thrive in starting new churches, ministries or businesses. (*Ephesians 4:11*)

I’m pretty sure I have this gift

I may have this gift

I don’t think I have this gift

- **DISCERNMENT:** The ability to recognize truth from deception and distinguish between what is spiritually good and what is harmful or false. People with this gift bring clarity and protection to the church by helping others stay grounded in God's truth. (*1 Corinthians 12:10*)

I'm pretty sure I have this gift

I may have this gift

I don't think I have this gift

- **EXHORTATION (ENCOURAGEMENT):** The ability to uplift, strengthen, and inspire others through words of hope, comfort, or practical guidance. Encouragers help people keep going in faith, especially during times of doubt, fear, or discouragement. (*Romans 12:8*)

I'm pretty sure I have this gift

I may have this gift

I don't think I have this gift

- **EVANGELISM:** The ability to clearly and effectively communicate the message of salvation through Jesus Christ. Evangelists have a deep passion for reaching the lost. (*Ephesians 4:11*)

I'm pretty sure I have this gift

I may have this gift

I don't think I have this gift

- **FAITH:** The ability to trust God confidently and consistently, regardless of circumstances or outcomes. People with this gift inspire others by demonstrating unwavering belief in God's promises and power. (*1 Corinthians 12:9*)

I'm pretty sure I have this gift

I may have this gift

I don't think I have this gift

- **GIVING:** The ability to joyfully and generously share resources—such as time, money, or possessions—to meet the needs of others and advance God's work. Those with this gift give freely and faithfully, often with little need for recognition. (*Romans 12:8*)

I'm pretty sure I have this gift

I may have this gift

I don't think I have this gift

- **HEALING:** The ability to be a channel of God's power to bring physical, emotional, or spiritual healing. Those with this gift often have deep compassion and believe boldly in God's desire to restore wholeness. (*1 Corinthians 12:9*)

I'm pretty sure I have this gift

I may have this gift

I don't think I have this gift

- **HOSPITALITY:** The ability to make others feel welcomed and at home by creating warm, caring environments where people can relax, connect, and feel cared for—often through fellowship, food, or a place to stay. (*1 Peter 4:9*)

I'm pretty sure I have this gift

I may have this gift

I don't think I have this gift

- **LEADERSHIP:** The ability to inspire, guide, and motivate others to work together toward God's vision and purpose. Leaders provide direction and encouragement, helping teams stay focused and effective in fulfilling their mission. (*Romans 12:8*)

I'm pretty sure I have this gift

I may have this gift

I don't think I have this gift

- **MUSIC:** The ability to express worship, encouragement, and biblical truth through playing instruments, singing, or composing music, and leading others into deeper connection with God through heartfelt musical expression. (*Psalms 33:2-3*)

I'm pretty sure I have this gift

I may have this gift

I don't think I have this gift

- **MERCY:** The ability to genuinely feel and show compassion to those who are hurting or in need. Those with this gift offer comfort and practical help, reflecting God’s love through kindness and empathy. (*Romans 12:8*)

I’m pretty sure I have this gift

I may have this gift

I don’t think I have this gift

- **MIRACLES:** The ability to believe and receive God’s power to perform supernatural acts that confirm His presence and glorify Him. Those with this gift inspire faith by witnessing God’s extraordinary intervention in everyday life. (*1 Corinthians 12:10*)

I’m pretty sure I have this gift

I may have this gift

I don’t think I have this gift

- **PASTORING:** The ability to care for, nurture, and guide others spiritually like a shepherd tends to their flock. Those with this gift provide encouragement and guidance to help others grow in their faith. (*Ephesians 4:11*)

I’m pretty sure I have this gift

I may have this gift

I don’t think I have this gift

- **TONGUES:** The ability to speak or pray in a language unknown to the speaker, inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit. This gift builds personal spiritual strength and can also be used to edify the church when interpreted. (*1 Corinthians 14:2*)

I’m pretty sure I have this gift

I may have this gift

I don’t think I have this gift

- **TEACHING:** The ability to teach others in a way that inspires, challenges, and at times convicts listeners. Those with this gift communicate Scripture clearly to encourage spiritual growth and transformation. (*2 Timothy 4:2*)

I’m pretty sure I have this gift

I may have this gift

I don’t think I have this gift

- **SERVING (HELPS):** The ability to joyfully meet practical needs with humility and dedication, often working behind the scenes without seeking recognition. Those with this gift show Christ's love through faithful, hands-on help. (*Romans 12:7*)

I'm pretty sure I have this gift

I may have this gift

I don't think I have this gift

- **PROPHECY:** The ability to hear from God and share His message with others. This can mean speaking about something that will happen in the future or simply revealing something applicable to today. People with this gift help others stay close to God by encouraging, warning, or challenging them to live the way God wants. (*Romans 12:6*)

I'm pretty sure I have this gift

I may have this gift

I don't think I have this gift

- **WISDOM:** The ability to offer godly counsel and insights that go beyond natural understanding, helping others make decisions that honor God. Those with this gift bring clarity and perspective rooted in divine truth. (*Proverbs 2:6*)

I'm pretty sure I have this gift

I may have this gift

I don't think I have this gift

- **PRAYER (INTERCESSION):** The ability to consistently pray on behalf of and for others, seeing frequent and specific results. (*1 Peter 4:9-10*)

I'm pretty sure I have this gift

I may have this gift

I don't think I have this gift

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

- **Write** your top 3 Spiritual Gifts on the “*God’s Purposes for My Life*” page (Page 5). **Then come back to this page (13) and discuss the following questions with your group:**
- **GROUP DISCUSSION:** Share one of your top spiritual gifts with the group. Where are you already using this gift—at home, work, church, or somewhere else? If you’re not using it yet, where might God be inviting you to start?

Now that you know your Spiritual Gifts...
TEST DRIVE A MINISTRY!

Scan the QR code to find and try out a ministry for 4 weeks!



CLOSE IN PRAYER:

Father God, thank You for creating us with purpose and giving each of us unique gifts to serve others and honor You. Help us not only to discover our gifts, but to use them—boldly and faithfully—in our homes, workplaces, communities, and church. When we feel uncertain, please give us clarity. When we feel hesitant, please give us courage. Help us walk into each day with confidence, knowing You’ve already equipped us for something meaningful. In Jesus’ name, amen.



Make Time to be in God's WORD

Reading God's Word daily re-patterns the way you think & transforms your mind. Doing your daily devotions is an excellent way to record, process, & share what God is teaching you on a personal level. We do this using S.O.A.P.

- S - Scripture**
- O - Observation**
- A - Application**
- P - Prayer**

Here's an example:

S: *Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "*
--Matthew 4:4 (NIV)

O: Jesus said that we can't live on food alone. Our life is sustained through His Word.

A: Just as food is important to me, God's Word is even more because it will sustain me and give me the strength to live out my life.

P: Jesus, thank You for reminding me that I need Your Word to give me the wisdom & strength to follow You. Help me to make time to spend with You daily. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

SCRIPTURES FOR S.O.A.P.

Day 1:

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

—1 Corinthians 12:4–6 (NLT)

Day 2:

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters... It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

—Colossians 3:23–24 (NIV)

Day 3:

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

—1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

Day 4:

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you...

—2 Timothy 1:6 (NIV)

Day 5:

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

—1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)

FINDING YOUR PURPOSE

TIPS TO A SUCCESSFUL GROUP

BE COMFORTABLE WITH SILENCE. Uncomfortable silences are bound to happen. It's okay! A long pause during a group discussion can be powerful. A *pause* gives space for quieter people to break into the conversation; silence allows people to figure out exactly what they would like to say. Additional tips on page 3.

What If Your Talents Were God's Idea?

ICEBREAKER

What is a natural ability you have had since you were young? (No shame—no matter how big or small! E.g. musical ability, being funny, fixing things, planning events, organizing, being tech-savvy, etc.)

INTRODUCTION

God has given each of us natural abilities—skills and strengths that often show up early in life. They're not random. They're part of how He's equipped you to be able to fulfill his purposes for your life and make a difference.

Today, we're going to take a closer look at those natural abilities to help you discover more of how God uniquely designed you—and how He may want you to use them in this season of life.

READ |

MYTH: People aren't born with skills. All skills must be learned by experience.

BIBLICAL TRUTH: God has given you talents and abilities from birth to equip you for His various purposes for your life.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.
— 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (NIV)

We often think of skills as things we earn through years of training, but Scripture shows us that God wires us with abilities from the very beginning. Some talents are visible early in life—like creativity, leadership, or problem-solving—while others reveal themselves and develop quietly over time until the right moment.

Have you ever felt like your natural abilities didn't matter much—or didn't have a purpose? What would it look like to trust that even your everyday skills were given to you by God for a reason?

READ |

MYTH: If you have certain abilities, you will be very aware that you have them.

BIBLICAL TRUTH: Some abilities stay hidden until they are nurtured, revealed through experience, or until someone helps you recognize them. Self-awareness grows over time, often through service and reflection.

The purposes of a person's heart are deep waters, but one who has insight draws them out.
— Proverbs 20:5 (NIV)

In Exodus 4:2, God asked Moses, “*What is that in your hand?*” Moses answered, “*A shepherd's staff.*” It was a simple tool of his trade—yet God used it to part seas, perform signs, and lead a nation.

What's in your hand? What skill or ability might seem small to you but could become powerful when surrendered to God?

Before a gift can be useful, it must be released. God told Moses to throw down the staff—to let go of it. In the same way, once we recognize what we’ve been given, the next step is to release it to God and trust Him to work through it.

Have you ever seen God use a simple or small skill of yours—like cooking, fixing something, or encouraging someone—in a meaningful way? Now, think about today: is there something “ordinary” in your life that you can offer to God?

READ |

MYTH: The skills and abilities I use at work couldn’t be used to build up God’s family.

BIBLICAL TRUTH: God can use every *skill*—not just “spiritual” ones—for His Kingdom purposes.

See, I have called by name Bezalel... and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs...

— Exodus 31:2-5 (ESV)

God filled Bezalel with skill, intelligence, and creativity to do detailed, artistic work. It wasn’t what we usually think of as “spiritual,” but it’s exactly what God used to build His dwelling place.

This passage reminds us that God doesn’t just use pastors and worship leaders—He uses planners, builders, cooks, technicians, artists, organizers, and encouragers too!

Your skills aren’t random or only for work. They are intentional and a part of your calling.

NATURAL ABILITIES ASSESSMENT

Go through the "Natural Abilities" assessment below and circle ANY abilities that feel natural to you or that others affirm in you.

- **ACTING ABILITY** – To embody characters, tell stories, and move people emotionally through drama.
- **ARTISTIC ABILITY** – To draw, paint, illustrate, or visually express ideas and beauty.
- **COACHING ABILITY** – To guide, develop, and challenge others in personal or team growth.
- **COMMUNICATING ABILITY** – To speak clearly, present ideas, or inspire through spoken words.
- **COOKING ABILITY** – To prepare and present food that nourishes and brings people together.
- **COUNSELING ABILITY** – To listen with empathy and offer wisdom, support, or spiritual guidance.

- **DECORATING ABILITY** – To enhance and beautify physical spaces.
- **DISCIPLING OTHERS** – To walk with people spiritually over time toward maturity in Christ.
- **EDITING ABILITY** – To refine written content, correct grammar, and enhance clarity and tone.
- **ENCOURAGING OTHERS** – To lift others up with affirmation, hope, and intentional words.
- **EVALUATING ABILITY** – To assess people, plans, or systems with insight and sound judgment.
- **EVENT PLANNING** – To coordinate logistics, details, and experiences that bring people together.
- **GARDENING/LANDSCAPING ABILITY** – To design and care for outdoor environments with beauty and purpose.
- **HOSPITALITY ABILITY**– To create warm, welcoming environments where others feel at home.
- **INTERVIEWING ABILITY** – To ask questions that draw out stories, insights, or truth from others.
- **LISTENING ABILITY** – To give full attention and emotional presence to others in conversation.
- **MANAGING ABILITY** – To oversee teams, tasks, or systems for effective and timely results.
- **MARKETING/PROMOTING ABILITY**– To generate interest and spread awareness through messaging.
- **MECHANICAL ABILITY** – To build, fix, operate, or troubleshoot tools and machinery.
- **MEMORY/RECALL ABILITY** – To remember names, facts, and details that help build connection.
- **MUSICAL ABILITY** – To sing, play, or compose music that moves, encourages, or worships.
- **ORGANIZING ABILITY** – To sort, arrange, and manage systems or resources efficiently.
- **PLANNING ABILITY** – To map out steps, events, or strategies to reach a goal with clarity.
- **PROBLEM-SOLVING ABILITY** – To assess challenges and find creative or logical solutions.
- **PUBLIC RELATIONS ABILITY** – To resolve concerns and create a positive public impression.
- **RECRUITING ABILITY** – To identify, invite, and motivate others to join teams or causes.
- **RELATIONAL ABILITY** – To build trust, manage conflict, and relate well across personalities.
- **RESEARCHING ABILITY** – To gather, synthesize, and organize information or data effectively.
- **RESOURCEFULNESS** – To find creative and cost-effective solutions with limited resources.
- **SERVING BEHIND THE SCENES** – To quietly meet needs and support without seeking spotlight.
- **STORYTELLING ABILITY** – To share personal or biblical stories that connect with audiences.
- **TEACHING ABILITY** – To explain concepts clearly and help others learn and apply truth.
- **TEAM-BUILDING ABILITY** – To unite people toward shared goals and healthy collaboration.
- **TECH ABILITY** – To use and teach digital tools, software, or media effectively.
- **VISUAL COMMUNICATION** – To convey ideas through slides, media, visuals, & social media.
- **WRITING ABILITY** – To write effectively: articles, blogs, stories, devotions, or curriculum.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

- **Write** your top 6 Natural Abilities on the “*God’s Purposes for My Life*” page (Page 5). No shame—select the ones you feel best represent you! **Then come back to this page (19) and discuss the following questions with your group:**
- **GROUP DISCUSSION:** Choose one natural ability you circled and share it with the group. How have you used this ability recently—in your home, workplace, or church? Is there an ability you circled that you could offer this week?

Now that you know your Abilities...
TEST DRIVE A MINISTRY!

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CLOSE IN PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, thank You for the abilities You’ve placed in each of us, whether we’ve known them for years or are just now beginning to identify them. Help us to see that nothing about how You made us is accidental. Even the everyday strengths we take for granted are part of Your design. Teach us how to use these abilities to love others and make a difference as You’ve called us to. And when we feel unsure or insignificant, remind us that You can do great things through small things surrendered to You. Please fill us with courage and joy as we step into who You made us to be. In Jesus’ name, amen.



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A: Just as food is important to me, God's Word is even more because it will sustain me and give me the strength to live out my life.

P: Jesus, thank You for reminding me that I need Your Word to give me the wisdom & strength to follow You. Help me to make time to spend with You daily. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

SCRIPTURES FOR S.O.A.P.

Day 1:

I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every craft. —Exodus 31:3-5 (ESV)

Day 2:

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

—James 1:17 (NIV)

Day 3:

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

—Philippians 2:4 (NIV)

Day 4:

For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made...

—Psalm 139:13-14 (NIV)

Day 5:

In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

—Acts 20:35 (ESV)

FINDING YOUR PURPOSE

TIPS TO A SUCCESSFUL GROUP

CONFIDENTIALITY IS IMPORTANT. Confidentiality is the key to building trust in relationships. Here are a few mottos to remember to be confidential: “What is said in small group, stays in small group.” **Nothing, nobody, never...** “Share nothing, to nobody, never” outside of the group. Additional tips on page 3.

Where Your Passions Meet God's Purposes

ICEBREAKER

If time, money, and responsibilities weren't an issue, what's one passion or interest you'd love to pursue full-time—and why? (Could be anything—music, mentoring, teaching, volunteering, cooking for others, etc.)

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever wondered why you're passionate about certain things like injustice, technology, encouraging others or mentoring youth? That's not random. God often plants passion in us as a clue to our calling. When your **spiritual gifts** (what you're empowered to do) combined with your **natural abilities** (the tools and strengths to accomplish it) intersect

with your **passions** (what you deeply care about), you begin to walk in your **God-given purposes**.

This week, we'll explore your God-given passions and how they can point you toward His greater purposes for your life.

READ |

We don't always recognize passion as something spiritual. It can feel like just a hobby, interest, or personality trait. But Scripture shows us something deeper. Your passions and interests can be God-given.

*For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him.
— Philippians 2:13 (NLT)*

That means your passion might be more than a personal interest—it could be a clue to your calling. Maybe you feel alive when solving complex problems, working with your hands, or supporting others from behind the scenes. You might be drawn to kids, to hospitality, to finances, or to tech, and not realize that God wired you that way for a reason.

What you're passionate about could be connected to what God wants to build through you. Passion isn't just about what excites you—it's often about what God has prepared for you to walk in.

What's one thing you've consistently enjoyed doing or felt drawn to that might be a clue to your God-given passion? (E.g., coordinating events, listening to people one-on-one, creating things, solving problems, working with kids, or helping others stay organized.)

READ |

Let's be honest—sometimes your passion and your gifting don't seem to match. You might care deeply about something but not feel particularly gifted in that area. Maybe you're passionate about supporting struggling families, but you're not a counselor—you're just great at organizing. That could be exactly what's needed. Or you care about teens but you don't feel "cool enough"—maybe your ability to encourage and show up consistently is what makes the difference in their lives. You don't have to be a preacher to impact people.

*Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin...
— Zechariah 4:10 (NLT)*

Sometimes God gives you passion before you know how to use it. Keep showing up with what you have—and He'll show you how you fit into His plans and purposes to build up His Kingdom.

Have you ever felt like your passion and your gifting didn't line up? What's one way you could still serve using what you do have? (E.g. You're drawn to help people in crisis but not sure what to say, so you drop off meals or send encouraging texts. Or, you care about spiritual growth but don't teach, so you host a small group or help with child care so others can attend.)

READ |

Sometimes passion doesn't start with excitement, but with pain. In scripture, Nehemiah was a cupbearer—a trusted position with access, but no obvious connection to rebuilding cities. But when he heard that Jerusalem's walls were in ruins, something in him broke. He didn't ignore the burden. He wept, fasted, and prayed.

When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.
— Nehemiah 1:4 (NIV)

He leaned into it, and that burden turned into a life-changing mission to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem. Sometimes, the thing that **breaks your heart** is actually the thing you're **born to help heal**. That's not just emotion—it's direction. It's the Spirit drawing your attention to something God cares deeply about and wants you to be a part of the solution.

PASSIONS LIST

The people I would like to help the most are (circle 2-3):

- | | | | |
|------------|----------------|----------|------------------|
| Infants | Children | Youth | College students |
| Teen moms | Single parents | Divorced | Widowed |
| Singles | Career women | Refugees | Hospitalized |
| Parents | Empty nesters | Homeless | Poor |
| Unemployed | Elderly | Disabled | Prisoners |

Others: _____

Areas of interest and causes I feel most strongly about are (circle 2-3):

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Gardening | Youth Mentoring | Crafting/DIY | Sports |
| Family Support | Photography | Performing Arts | Life Coaching |
| Language Learning | Travel & Culture | Teaching | History |
| Technology | Animals | Social Justice | Cooking |
| Environmentalism | Games | Outdoors | Writing |
| Mental Wellness | Reading | Public Speaking | Local Politics |
| Music | Visual Arts | Home Repair | Fitness |
| Auto Maintenance | Cooking or Baking | Volunteering | Videography |

Others: _____

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

- **Choose** 6 areas total from each of the Passions List above that you feel most drawn to and write your top 6 on the “*God’s Purposes for My Life*” page (Page 5). **Then come back to this page (24) and discuss the following question with your group:**
- **GROUP DISCUSSION:** What is one issue, need, or group of people that stirs something in you—even just a little? (E.g. helping struggling couples, supporting people through grief, mentoring teens, or helping people manage money wisely)

***Now that you know your Passions...
TEST DRIVE A MINISTRY!***

Scan the QR code to find and try a ministry for 4 weeks!



CLOSE IN PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, thank You for revealing to us more about our purposes through the gifts, abilities, and passions You’ve given us. We ask that You continue to guide us on the path You have set for us and that we will follow with obedience and trust. Please equip us and prepare us, increase our passion for the people You’ve called us to, and open doors of opportunity for us to grow in our gifts. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.



Make Time to be in God's WORD

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- S - Scripture**
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Here's an example:

S: *Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "*
--Matthew 4:4 (NIV)

O: Jesus said that we can't live on food alone. Our life is sustained through His Word.

A: Just as food is important to me, God's Word is even more because it will sustain me and give me the strength to live out my life.

P: Jesus, thank You for reminding me that I need Your Word to give me the wisdom & strength to follow You. Help me to make time to spend with You daily. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

SCRIPTURES FOR S.O.A.P.

Day 1:

Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.

— Isaiah 1:17 (NIV)

Day 2:

The Lord has told you what is good, and this is what He requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

— Micah 6:8 (NLT)

Day 3:

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

— Romans 12:11 (NIV)

Day 4:

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

— Proverbs 31:8–9 (NIV)

Day 5:

Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done. — Proverbs 19:17 (NIV)

FINDING YOUR PURPOSE

TIPS TO A SUCCESSFUL GROUP

MAKE GROUP A PRIORITY. Communicate in advance when you will be unable to attend by either calling and/or texting your host or responding to the zoom email invitation by accepting or declining. This will help your host to plan accordingly especially if it is an in person small group gathering.

Unlocking Your Purpose: Fulfilling Your Calling

ICEBREAKER

Who is someone you admire—at church, in your family, or in your life—because of the way they use their gifts or passions to serve others?

INTRODUCTION

You were created on purpose, with purpose. God gave you spiritual gifts, natural abilities, and passions—not to sit on the sidelines, but to make a difference. Real fulfillment doesn't come from success or comfort—it comes from living out what God made you to do. Today, we'll help you connect the dots between your gifts, passions, and purpose so you can take

your next step and live it out. When you say yes to His calling, even in small ways, you'll experience the joy and meaning that comes from living aligned with God's plan.

READ |

Think of it like this:

- Your **spiritual gifts** are your power *tools*.
- Your **natural abilities** are your *skills*.
- Your **passions** are your *fuel*.

When all three are aligned and surrendered to God, they can become powerful instruments for healing, justice, hope, and love.

Paul was highly educated, bold, and passionate about truth. God used that to spread the gospel across the known world. Esther was beautiful, brave, and used her voice and courage to save her people “for such a time as this.” Even Jesus, a carpenter, used everyday stories to teach God's truths. God can use your gifts, abilities and passions when you surrender them to Him to be used for His purposes.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord...

— *Colossians 3:23 (NIV)*

Turn to page 5 and review your *Spiritual Gifts, Natural Abilities and Passions*. Which of your spiritual gifts or abilities could align with a passion God has put on your heart?

(E.g. You're passionate about youth, gifted in encouragement, and naturally a good listener

→ That might point toward mentoring students. Or, you love creating order, have the gift of administration, and are good at organizing → That could lead to planning events or supporting ministry teams behind the scenes.)

READ |

Your “purpose” isn't just a job title or a ministry position. You may live out multiple roles in your life—parent, teacher, volunteer, business leader, artist, student, servant—but your **core calling remains the same**: Love God. Love people. (*Matthew 22:37–39*)

We often chase the “big thing” God wants us to do. But the greatest commandment is **relational**. If you're using your gifts without love, you're missing the point.

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal... If I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

— *1 Corinthians 13:1–2 (NIV)*

You don't have to fix the world—but you are called to be Jesus' hands and feet in it. Whether it's holding babies so parents can attend church, making new people feel welcome, checking in on a lonely neighbor, helping someone with budgeting, or serving behind the scenes to keep things running—**God gave you that passion to reflect His love in practical ways.**

Are there places where you sense God might want to use you, but you've been holding back because of fear, busyness, or feeling inadequate? How can looking at it from a perspective of using your gifts out of love change how you step into your calling?

READ |

You're not on your own in this. God isn't asking you to have your whole future planned out. He's not waiting for you to feel fully prepared. He's simply asking for you to say, "yes, I'll serve you." The Holy Spirit is your guide—not a silent observer. He leads you, equips you, and opens doors you couldn't open on your own.

Your role? **Take your next step of obedience, even if it's just one step.**

"[Jesus said] Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."
— John 3:17 (NIV)

Obedience brings blessings. Sometimes that step looks like showing up. Sometimes it's saying no to something good so you can say yes to what He's asking you to do. Sometimes it's scary—but every time, it's worth it. And as you obey God in the small things, He'll trust you with more. That's how His plans and purposes unfold: one obedient step at a time.

What would it look like to take one small step of obedience—using your gifts, passions and abilities not just for everyday tasks, but for God's purposes? (E.g. helping an elder with errands, serving in a kids' classroom, checking in on someone who is isolated, or volunteering on a team.)

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

- As a group, discuss if you will continue meeting together in your small group for the next series.
- **Pray** over the *God's Purposes for My Life* page. Ask God to highlight what stands out and to clarify where He's already moving in your heart.
- **Ask:** "Where can I take one small step of faith?"
- **Listen:** What's pulling at your heart? What keeps coming up in your mind?

- **Act:** Choose a *practical* place to move forward—whether it’s serving, learning more, reaching out, or simply saying “yes” to a nudge from the Holy Spirit.
- **Bonus:** Find someone in your group who’s willing to check in with you this week and help you stay accountable to the goals you shared.

***Now that you know your Purpose...
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CLOSE IN PRAYER:

Father God, thank You for not just saving us, but designing us to be a part of Your plan. Sometimes we struggle with obedience, or trust, or overcoming obstacles, but help us to wholeheartedly surrender and learn to trust You with *all* circumstances. We want to be instruments of Your perfect and good will, so teach us to humbly walk in step with You and open our eyes to the good You have planned for us and others. In Jesus’ name, amen.



Make Time to be in God's WORD

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--Matthew 4:4 (NIV)

O: Jesus said that we can't live on food alone. Our life is sustained through His Word.

A: Just as food is important to me, God's Word is even more because it will sustain me and give me the strength to live out my life.

P: Jesus, thank You for reminding me that I need Your Word to give me the wisdom & strength to follow You. Help me to make time to spend with You daily. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

SCRIPTURES FOR S.O.A.P.

Day 1:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight. — Proverbs 3:5–6 (NIV)

Day 2:

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. — Romans 12:1 (NIV)

Day 3:

Jesus replied, "All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them." — John 14:23 (NLT)

Day 4:

His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" — Matthew 25:21 (NIV)

Day 5:

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. — Luke 9:23 (NIV)

FINDING YOUR PURPOSE

TIPS TO A SUCCESSFUL GROUP

COMMIT TO SERVE. Serving God + serving others is one of the best ways to better your relationships. Commit to serve in the church, in your home, and in your community. Discover the joy and happiness that God provides from serving. You can sign up to serve and test-drive a ministry, individually, or as a small group together! See the QR code below for more details.

Living Out Your Purpose Everywhere

ICEBREAKER

Where do you most naturally help or encourage others—at home, at work, at church, or in the community? For example: listening, encouraging, fixing things, babysitting, organizing, mentoring, or tech help. Share one example.

INTRODUCTION

Over the past four weeks, we've seen how God shapes us through our Spiritual Gifts, Heart/Passions, Abilities, Personality, and Experiences (SHAPE). You weren't shaped to sit on the sidelines, but to live as a full-time minister—at home, at work, in the church, and in your community. Today, we'll connect the dots and help you see how uniquely God has made you—and how fulfilling life can be when you let Him use you to make a difference.

READ I

The Bible is full of people who used their SHAPE to serve God and others in unique ways:

- Dorcas (Acts 9:36) used her sewing skills to serve the poor.
- Lydia (Acts 16:14–15) opened her home and resources for the gospel.
- Barnabas (Acts 4:36–37; 11:22–24) encouraged believers and gave generously.
- Andrew (John 1:40–42; 6:8–9) inviting people to meet Jesus—including his brother Peter, who would go on to become a foundational leader in the early church.
- Paul (Acts 17–18) used his reasoning and debating gifts to spread the gospel.

These weren't just pastors or prophets, but everyday people who used their SHAPE to make a difference.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.

— Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

Which of the biblical examples inspires you the most? And looking at your own life, how are (or how might) your gifts, passions, abilities, and experiences be used by God to make a difference?

READ I

Even when we know our SHAPE, it's easy to hold back. Sometimes we feel too busy. Sometimes we feel unqualified or think someone else could do it better. God isn't asking for perfection, but for willingness.

Moses said he wasn't a good speaker, yet God used him to lead a nation. Gideon said he was too weak, yet God used him to defeat an army. Over and over, God shows that *availability* matters more than *ability*. Jesus said...

Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. — John 13:17 (NIV)

What tends to hold you back from using your SHAPE—busyness, fear, feeling inadequate, or something else? How might God want to grow your trust in Him in that area?

READ I

God doesn't just shape us for service—He also calls us to be His witnesses. Andrew didn't write letters like Paul or lead churches like Peter, but he consistently invited people to meet Jesus, including his own brother Peter. Barnabas wasn't known for sermons, but his encouragement and generosity strengthened the church.

Like Andrew and Barnabas, you don't need a spotlight. God can use your SHAPE to help people encounter Jesus through encouragement, small acts of kindness, or a personal invitation to church.

Who is your "One"—a friend, coworker, neighbor, or family member who doesn't normally go to church, that you're praying for and planning to invite?

READ |

Our next series is called The Greatest Sermons Ever Preached (Here). It begins this Sunday and is designed with unchurched friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors in mind. Imagine if your "One" is just one prayer and one invitation away from meeting Jesus.

What's one step you will take this week—praying daily, serving, and inviting—to help your "One" come with you this Sunday?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

- Use your SHAPE to help someone this week.
- Pray daily for your "One" and invite them to join you at church for "The Greatest Sermons Ever Preached (Here)" series.
- If you haven't done a ministry "test drive" yet, ask God if it's time to take that step.

You are a Full-Time Minister for Jesus
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CLOSE IN PRAYER

Father, thank You for shaping us with gifts, passions, and experiences that can bless others. Give us the courage to use them at home, at work, in our church, and in our community. Show us who to encourage, who to serve, and who to invite. We pray for open doors and open hearts as we step into this next series. In Jesus' name, amen.





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SCRIPTURES FOR S.O.A.P.

Day 1:

In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor.

— Acts 9:36 (NIV)

Day 2:

One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

— Acts 16:14–15 (NIV)

Day 3:

Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

— Acts 4:36–37 (NIV)

Day 4:

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.

— John 1:40–42 (NIV)

Day 5:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

— 2 Corinthians 1:3–4 (NIV)



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