

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.



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:

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)