

“Gifted by Design” Week 3

Introduction

During these three weeks we have been reflecting on the unique gifts God has given us so that we might more faithfully use those gifts to love and serve others. During the first week we considered some of the experiences God has used to shape us into the unique people we are today. During the second week we considered some of the ways God has used us to shape others in unique ways. Tonight our goal is to bring these reflections together and articulate a plan of action for how we can faithfully use our gifts to love and serve others during this particular season of our lives.

The ultimate point of this series is not simply to reflect on what our gifts are, but rather to actually use those gifts more freely for the sake of others. The Apostle Paul focuses on this fact when he says, *“If a man’s gift is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage”* (Romans 12:6-8). Clearly he is not calling us to reflection only; he is calling us to action.

So tonight let’s consider our final question:

“God, how are you calling me to use my gifts to love and serve others at this time in my life?”

Spiritual Gift: A unique ability graciously given by God that enables us *through faith* to serve others for the sake of their faith.

Personal Reflection Time

Review

List the gifts you've identified over the past 2 weeks.

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List 2-4 skills, talents or passions you have that may be separate from your gifts but might also help you discern how God is calling you to love and serve others (*for example, you might have a passion for literature or sports or you might be a great "fix-it" person, and you may be able to use those passions and skills to serve others*).

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List a few of the ways you are currently using your gifts to love and serve others in ways that seem fruitful and satisfying.

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Action Plan

The following questions are intended as a guide only. Don't feel obligated to answer questions in every category, and there may be additional categories not mentioned here that you want to consider. As you transition into action, this is simply a tool for you to consider together with God how he is leading you to love and serve others at this time in your life.

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1. Serving within the Grace community - How might God be leading me to intentionally love and serve with my gifts at Grace in the coming season?

- In my small group?
- On Sunday mornings?
- Is there a specific person or group of people at Grace I want to serve?
- Is there a current ministry opportunity at Grace that I want to engage in more fully? *(for some specific ideas, see the page entitled "Ministry Opportunities at Grace")*
- Is there a gap or need I see at Grace that no one else is filling that I could pursue?

2. Serving beyond the Grace community - How might God be leading me to intentionally love and serve with my gifts beyond Grace in the coming season?

- In my workplace?
- In my neighborhood?
- In my family?

Action Plan (Continued)

- Another specific context (e.g. children's friends, school, city, etc.)?
There are some specific needs on the attached page entitled "Ministry Opportunities at Grace."
- Is there a specific population of people I am feeling led to serve (the homeless, the poor, those with addictions, the elderly, those needing mentoring and education, immigrants, the artist community, the sports community, etc.)?

Next Steps

In light of all of this, what are your next steps? Be as concrete and specific as you can. Examples might include steps such as these:

- Call a ministry leader at Grace and ask to meet with him/her
- Take a co-worker out to lunch to hear how he/she is doing
- Commit to inviting neighbors over to dinner once a month for the next 6 months and set a time invite them, be it personal or over the phone
- Volunteer as a greeter on Sunday



Ministry Opportunities at Grace

Below are some formal and informal ministry opportunities identified by some of the Grace staff and ministry leaders:

Women's Ministry

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Summer study leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> Summer social leadership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women's retreat leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> Care team for women in crisis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women's community connection coordination | <input type="checkbox"/> Reaching out to new women in our church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mentoring younger women | |

Men's Ministry

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Axios men's small group leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Men's social events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men's retreat leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> Mentoring |

Home Groups

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Home group leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Home group host |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home group administration | |

Sunday Morning Ministry

Sunday Morning Worship Service

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Team: planning creative alternative services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Musicians | <input type="checkbox"/> Audio/Visual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Team | |

Other Sunday Morning Opportunities

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Brunch table leaders | <input type="checkbox"/> Greeters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ushers | <input type="checkbox"/> Post-service hosts & connectors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen maintenance/inventory management | <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee barista |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communion prep & clean up | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday brunch cooks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday morning clean up | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday morning set up |

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Ministry Opportunities (Continued)

OVERFLOW HS/JH Ministry

- Boys or girls small group leader
- Worship team
- Meals ministry team
- Sharing your testimony to the group
- Camp counselor
- Student sponsorship for camp
- Administration help (shopping for camps, mailing, etc.)
- Room set up for holidays
- Mingling with students on the patio on Sundays
- Teaching team
- Prayer ministry: commit to praying for particular students/needs
- Student mentor
- Financial funding for the "Buy 1 Give 1" program that enables non-Christian friends to go to camp for free.
- Set up/tear down for events
- Closet organizer

Children's Ministry

- Sunday school teachers
- Blessing* childcare workers (Tues)
- Sunday school substitute teachers
- Mom's Morning Out* childcare workers (Thurs)

Other Grace Needs

- Hosting events such as "The Bridge" at your home
- Visiting the sick and those in the hospital
- Volunteer management /recruitment
- Legal services to members
- Social media
- Babysitting for young families
- Video team
- Meals ministry
- Ministry to college students & young adults
- Prayer team: joining a group of people who gather to pray for issues within and beyond the Grace community
- Widow care
- Facility maintenance
- Handy Man / Service church vehicles
- Event coordinator

Grace Local Outreach Ministries

- Safe Families:** Housing children for a period of time as their parents receive help and training.
- Trellis:** Serving the needs in Costa Mesa, such as homelessness, education, and cultural integration.
- Teen Leadership Foundation:** Coming along side at-risk youth and emancipated youth connected to foster care through mentoring, camps, youth group, workshops and independent living facility in Costa Mesa.

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Grace Local Outreach Ministries (Continued)

- Neighboring Ministry:** Collaborating with other Grace members on how to love our actual neighbors.
- Workplace ministry:** Collaborating with other Grace members on how to help people follow Jesus in the context of their work.

Ministry Contacts

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