

GROW TRACK

SESSION 02

**DISCOVER YOUR
PURPOSE**

02

"I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL."

JOHN 10:10 NIV



“GOD HAS GIVEN EACH OF YOU A GIFT FROM HIS GREAT VARIETY OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS. USE THEM WELL TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER. DO YOU HAVE THE GIFT OF SPEAKING? THEN SPEAK AS THOUGH GOD HIMSELF WERE SPEAKING THROUGH YOU. DO YOU HAVE THE GIFT OF HELPING OTHERS? DO IT WITH ALL THE STRENGTH AND ENERGY THAT GOD SUPPLIES. THEN EVERYTHING YOU DO WILL BRING GLORY TO GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST. ALL GLORY AND POWER TO HIM FOREVER AND EVER! AMEN.” 1 PETER 4:10-11 NLT

SESSION TWO

DISCOVER YOUR PURPOSE

Today we will cover:

- Your Design
- Your Assessments
- Your Purpose

YOUR DESIGN

God has created you with a distinct personality and placed within you unique passions and gifts. As part of the body of Christ, we all have a part to play—a specific calling God has placed on our lives.

1. God created you & shaped your personality

“You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother’s womb. Thank You for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.”

PSALM 139:13-14 NLT

2. We are united and yet unique

“For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all. However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ.”

EPHESIANS 4:4-7 NLT

“The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ.”

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12 NLT

3. God shapes you through experiences

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.”

ROMANS 8:28 NLT

“We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow

as you learn to know God better and better.”
COLOSSIANS 1:9b-10 NLT

YOUR UNIQUE LIFE

1. My gifts and passions

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.”
ROMANS 12:6-8 NIV

2. My life experiences

“So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him.”
ROMANS 12:1 MSG

3. My Pain

“All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.”
2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-4 NLT

DISCOVERING YOUR SHAPE PROFILE

To make it easier to remember we have adopted the acronym SHAPE to help us remember how uniquely God has made each one of us.

S – **Spiritual Gifts** – What are you gifted in?

H – **Heart** – What are your passions?

A – **Abilities** – What do you naturally do better than others?

P – **Personality** – How has God wired you to navigate life?

E – **Experiences** – Where have you been and what have you learned?



DESIGN REVEALS DESTINY

1. DISCOVER your SHAPE

The following are a few models you can use to help you discover your gifts. We utilize these models to help us use a common vocabulary when it comes to our uniqueness. We also recommend you look into:

STRENGTHS FINDER – www.gallupstrengthscenter.com

Myers-Briggs – www.16personalities.com

ENNEAGRAM – www.wepss.com

It has been said that all models are false, but some are useful. We have found these models to be useful for many people.

In the accompanying SUPPLEMENT there will be a variety of other assessments that are simple and will help you find your place here at Radiant 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**

2. DEVELOP your SHAPE

Once you have an idea of how you are wired you need to work on developing your natural talents. You didn’t learn how to ride a bike without a few wobbles, and it is the same when it comes to getting the most out of who God created you to be.

You will not grow by comparing yourself to others. Most of us need to quit looking for what we are missing and embrace what we have.

“Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.” **PHILIPPIANS 4:9 NLT**

3. USE your SHAPE

Only when you fully know who you are, can you finally understand what you are supposed to do. God has created you with unique gifting, talent, and purpose, and He wants you to lean into His power to utilize the gifts and personality He's given you.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere – in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ACTS 1:8 NLT

My purpose is to SERVE GOD by SERVING OTHERS

HOW IT WORKS

The Grow Track Host will give a short explanation for each assessment found in the SUPPLEMENT booklet. There is also a video that can walk you through the assessments if you would like more detail.

After you have completed your SHAPE Profile, start praying and thinking about the area of ministry that you would like to be involved in. The list of ministries is listed in the SUPPLEMENT.

DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I `am going to be with the Father.”

JOHN 14:12 NLT

The Bible makes it abundantly clear we have a lot of natural capacity hard wired into who we are. However, God wants to do even more through you than you can do on your own.

1. The Holy Spirit is God's primary gift

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him because he lives with you now and later will be in you.” **JOHN 14:16-17**

“But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go away. When I go away, I will send the Helper to you. If I do not go away, the Helper will not come.”

JOHN 16:7 NCV

2. God's Spirit works in us to produce ministry and help us steward His gifts

“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

GALATIANS 5:22-23 NLT

“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

“Let love be your highest goal! But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives...seek those that will strengthen the whole church.”

1 Corinthians 14:1, 12 NLT

3. Displaying His fruit and using His gifts result in greater works through us to reach others

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

ACTS 1:8 NLT

“I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.”

EPHESIANS 3:16-21 NLT

DISCUSSION

How is your unique shape going to help you reach other people?

PUTTING YOUR PURPOSE INTO ACTION

“That is why we always pray for you, asking our God to help you live the kind of life he called you to live. We pray that with his power God will help you do the good things you want and perform the works that come from your faith.” **2 THESSALONIANS 1:11 NCV**

1. Have a passionate, loving heart

“The amazing grace of the Master, Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God, the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you.”
1 CORINTHIANS 13:14

2. Check your own spiritual & emotional needs

“You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you.”
ROMANS 8:9

3. Put yourself in a daily position to read God's Word

“The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” **JOHN 14:26 NLT**

4. Proceed with humility

“But he’s already made it plain how to live, what to do, what GOD is looking for in men and women. It’s quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, and don’t take yourself too seriously—take God seriously.”
MICAH 6:8 MSG

5. Process with your mentors & friends

“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. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.”
1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-8 NLT

My purpose is to SERVE GOD by SERVING OTHERS

MAKING MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS

No matter the size of a community, building relationships with those in the community starts somewhere. Check out the Friendship Circle on the next page. Imagine yourself in the center circle. Intimate friends are those closest to you with whom you share most everything. This is usually a spouse (for those married), a best friend or a sibling. Most people will have only a few intimate friends over a lifetime.

The next ring out is friends. These are people you are close with, but you don't share everything with them. They are the people who travel life with you regardless of season or location. You are there for each other and it's a relationship that's been proven over time.

Next is mutual interest friends. These are people you do life with regularly. Maybe it's a work colleague, a church friend, a friend from your bowling league or someone you normally sit with at your kid's sporting events. You share a common interest, however when the job ends or the season is over, you almost never see each other again.

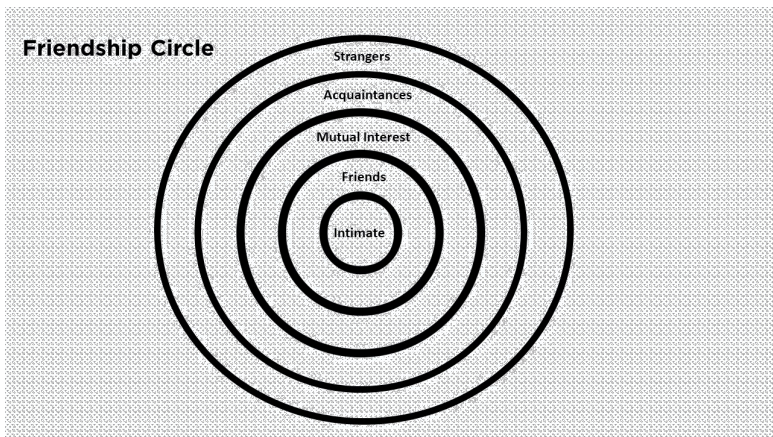
Acquaintances are people you see regularly but you don't really know each other very well. Normally it's the barista at your favorite coffee shop or the cashier at your favorite store. However, in Iowa, this can be our neighbor whom we see every spring after the snow melts!

The last circle is strangers. These are the people we don't know at all.

When you come into a community, you work from the outside in. At first, everyone is a stranger. We all start from the outer ring of the friendship circle. To make meaningful connections, we need to get in proximity with people where we have regular interactions and conversations. With intentionality, we can move closer and have more meaningful connections with others at church.

Put yourself in proximity to meet a lot of people.

Joining a Serve Team is a great way to connect with others and so is joining a Life Group (especially where you have something in common - i.e., women's group, men's group, young marrieds, young adult group, etc.). The more you interact with others the greater the chance at connecting.



SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCES

“Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever.” **DANIEL 12:3 NLT**

One of the greatest opportunities we have is to share the love of Jesus with others in our sphere of connection. When you share the love of God with others, your life will be filled with joy and hope like never before. As we continue to reach people far from God, every one of us can do our part by following these four principles:

1. Accept the personal responsibility

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.”
MATTHEW 28:19-20 NLT

2. Build a personal relationship

“We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.” **1 JOHN 3:16 NLT**

3. Share your personal story

“And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony. And they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die.”
REVELATION 12:11

4. Give a personal invitation

“But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?” **ROMANS 10:14**

YOUR STORY

“But before people can ask the Lord for help, they must believe in him; and before they can believe in him, they must hear about him; and for them to hear about the Lord, someone must tell them.” ROMANS 10:14 NCV

Finish this sentence: “If it wasn’t for Christ I would...”

Write 3 adjectives of what your life was like before you trusted Christ.

What happened that caused you to turn to Jesus?

Write 3 adjectives of what that moment was like.

How has your life changed since you chose Jesus?

DETERMINE YOUR NEXT STEP

Each of us are on a spiritual journey. Think of the board game Candy Land. Everyone starts at the beginning with the hope of finishing well at the end. It's important for us to determine where we are at so we can discover our next step. Are you at the beginning of your spiritual journey? Are you stuck? Have you been a believer for a long time and need a challenge? Ask the Growth Track Host or see the Appendix for some Next Steps for you to consider.

NEXT STEPS

1. Talk about your findings with others

We do not develop fully what God has placed in us without receiving feedback from others we trust and love.

2. Dig deeper into your purpose

You were given a supplemental book that accompanies the information you received today. Take some time to dig deeper into who God created you to be.

3. Join a Serve Team

Consider which Serve Team will help you develop your giftings and jump in.

4. Attend the ORIENTATION

02

I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.

Ephesians 1:17-18 NLT