

SESSION 2: GIFTED TO SERVE // You are Unique!

To GET THE CONVERSATION STARTED...

At this point in your life, you probably have some event or story that has special significance for you, that has played a powerful role in shaping who you are. ***Share that event or story with your group.***

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Our first lesson began by taking a look at **Ephesians 2:8-10**. Based on this passage, ***what is the relationship between “salvation by grace through faith” and “good works” in the Christian’s life?***

- 2) Notice the word “workmanship” in v. 10 (ESV). In Greek, the word *poi,hma* refers specifically to that which is divinely created.¹ If any in your group have different translations of the Bible, ***how do they translate that word here?***

What pictures come to mind as you think of “workmanship” (or any other translations of this word)?

- 3) Imagine God as a master craftsman and you as the unique work of art He created. God began His divine, creative work in you at the moment of conception, and He continues to shape you even today.

What natural abilities did He put in your DNA?

How did He continue to shape you through your parents and your childhood experiences?

Through your education and on-the-job trainings?

Through your life experiences?

¹ It is interesting that the only other place in the Bible where this word is used is Romans 1:20, “For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in ***the things that have been made.***” (emphasis mine) Here, the emphasis also seems to be on the fact that God exerts special care and influence on mankind.



- 4) Many of God's gifts are given to everyone He has created, regardless of their relationship to Him (examples: food, shelter, health, fair weather, success). But we are His *workmanship* through the many gifts He gives to make us *unique*. We only need to look around to see that God obviously likes variety! God clearly explains in Scripture why He gives us these gifts.

What reasons does he give in these passages?

1 Peter 4:10

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Ephesians 4:11-12

- 5) Our unique individual gifts are not given to us for our own enjoyment or personal advancement. Their primary purpose is for serving others. When we think of our gifts as "mine," we are sometimes tempted to use them in selfish ways. What selfish uses might be tempting?

- 6) Most of scriptures' teaching on our unique gifts occurs in St. Paul's letters, and it occurs in discussions about practical life in the church. What do these passages tell us about use of our gifts in the church?

1 Corinthians 12:8-11

1 Corinthians 12:14-20

1 Corinthians 12:21-26

Romans 12:4-8

OPTIONAL WORKSHEET — "SHARING MY GIFTS"

CLOSING IN PRAYER

Thank God for the unique way He has created and shaped each of you.

Ask for His direction in how best to use your unique gifts in service.

Continue to serve one another by praying for each other's needs.

