



**MADE FOR
MISSION**
DISCOVERING THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH GOD CREATED YOU

SERIES OVERVIEW: Made for Mission

“Gifted”

Preacher: Pastor Walt Quick

May 12, 2019

[Series Sermon Recordings](#)

[Discipleship Resources](#)

SUGGESTED SUPPLIES

Note cards (or paper) and pens.

QUESTIONS?

Email Abby

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

HOW TO USE: *The three sections below (opening, sermon content questions, and application) represent the three connections we emphasize at Highrock: connecting to **God’s People**, connecting to **God Personally**, and connecting to **God’s Purposes**. Select at least one question from each section or create questions that are more specific to your group.*

WEEKLY CHECK IN

Use a few minutes at the beginning of your time to follow up on any action items shared from last week. Was there a **next step or application** challenge that they took on this past week? What did they learn about themselves and following Jesus?

CONNECTION QUESTIONS

Choose ONE of these that fits your group, or modify it so that it will fit your group better. These can make great **opening questions** or **ending questions**. If you have had a really in-depth conversation, ending on a light note can help transition to concluding your time together on a less intense question.

1. When were you given a gift which showed that the giver really “got” you?

SERMON QUESTIONS

Use a **couple of the questions** below or make up your own. You can always begin with: “Do you have any questions about what you heard in the sermon this week?” Or, “What stood out to you from the Pastor’s sermon?”

1. As you listen and process this sermon series, what gifts are you starting to become aware of?
 - a. What are you noticing gets in the way or clouds your ability to identify the gifts you have?
 - b. How would you define the difference between a calling/gifting and a hobby in light of Pastor Walt’s example below? Why is it important to have our ears open to how the people around us affirm our giftings as they align with our passions (or might not align).
 - i. **Sermon Reference:** “When I was in campus ministry, a running joke among our staff team was the student who would approach us with a deep conviction that he or she had been “called” to lead worship. Almost every year I would have a student pull me aside and share in the most earnest way how God had given them a passion for music and that they were called to lead our group in worship each week. There was

only one catch- they had almost no musical ability! And when I would tell them that this role was not a match for their gifts, they would get so indignant and hurt. I was standing in the way of God's will for their lives and denying how He had gifted them to serve! They weren't discerning a gift, they were demanding one. Perhaps they loved the idea of being up front, maybe they grew up with a poster of Koo on their wall, I don't know. But when we demand a gift, it's no longer a gift. And this is why the rest of the Body is so important in helping us understand our giftings. They will be able to tell us how we have actually been a blessing, as opposed to us just doing something we want to do."

2. When has there been a time when you have been blessed by someone else's gifts? What did it teach you/ show you about God?
 - a. Have you had a friend, parent, mentor (etc.) affirm a gifting which has been a blessing to them? Share about what that was and how you felt receiving that affirmation. Did anything in you change as a result?
 - i. **Sermon Reference:** *"Pastor Doug, one of our co-pastors of spiritual formation, likes to tell people that you will discover your gift in the place where you grace others in a way that is from the Spirit! When you've used your gift, people usually are grateful to you but they feel as though God has touched them more than you. It is the Holy Spirit working through you and your gift to bless others in a way that draws them closer to God."*
3. Have you struggled with wondering if your gifts are useful to God and others AND/OR feeling like an imposter when you do try to use them?
 - a. **Sermon Reference:** *"After noticing this trend develop over time, it struck me. We all want to serve God, we all want to see his Kingdom come, and yet we all feel totally inadequate and useless, regardless of what we're doing. We don't feel like we have anything to offer to this work, and gift that is actually worth contributing."*
4. Can you relate to this feeling that Pastor Walt is talking about? Have you ever felt lacking or forgotten when it comes to having gifts to contribute?
 - a. **Sermon Reference:** *"So many of us have bought into this idea that we are not gifted. That we are just passengers, hanging out and doing the church thing, enviously watching those with gifts contribute. When it comes to God's work in the world, He probably wants us to pray and tithe. Maybe volunteer, maybe invite someone to church. But that might be about it. But what if that didn't have to be it?"*
5. What does it say about God that 1. We would be given gifts and 2. That they would be personal, specific to who we are?
 - a. **Sermon Reference:** *"And this is true for us. God has given each of you gifts! Gifts that are meaningful, powerful, and personal. This is one of the most essential, but often overlooked or misunderstood teachings of the New Testament. And because we have diminished its importance, or only associated giftedness with certain types of gifts, we have missed out on this incredible reality. But today we can take a step towards understanding what has been given to us."*
6. How do you understand the role of the Holy Spirit in the giving of spiritual gifts? How about the role of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
 - a. What are qualities we see God displaying in the way God relates/ blesses/ protects people in the Bible. Consider Old and New testament examples; these can be displayed by God, the Holy Spirit or Jesus.
 - i. **Sermon Reference:** *"(John 20:21-22) Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit into those who follow him, and with that comes a particular expression, a particular manifestation of that Spirit. Something that captures a specific part of the character of God- God's generosity or grace. God's wisdom or winsomeness. God's hospitality or hopefulness. God's exhortation or encouragement. God's love or leadership."*

7. How does this reference below resonate with you? When you read the passage of gifts do you feel like your gifts are named? Have you ever wonder how your gifts fit in or could be used by God? Share about why that is.
- a. **Sermon Reference:** “There are a few places in Scripture where Paul lists out a number of spiritual gifts. (**Romans 12:6–8, 1 Corinthians 12:4–11, 1 Corinthians 12:28**) Some of the listed gifts include things like serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leadership, mercy, wisdom, knowledge, faith, administration, and even miraculous manifestations like healing and speaking in different tongues. These are exciting lists that should give us a sense of the power and dynamism of the Holy Spirit in our lives. But there are a few important things to note about them in order to fully understand and receive the gifts that God has given us. Some have take these lists to be exhaustive, a definitive set of the kinds of gifts that God gives. And that would be fine- if you have one of those gifts. But a lot of us don’t. We read these lists and don’t fully resonate with any of them, as compelling as they may be. And when that happens, we can be thrown into thinking that we don’t actually have a gift, that God somehow overlooked us when he was giving them out, or that we aren’t good enough to warrant one.”
8. If the lists given in scripture are a starting point, what others might you add based on how you have experienced other’s spiritual gifts blessing your life? (humor, having an eye for detail, enthusiasm, empathy, etc.)
- a. **Sermon Reference:** “How lame would it have been if he had said “OK we will go with super strength, super speed, flying, and the ability to talk to **ants**. That’s it! No more powers!” If one guy can dream up hundreds of different powers and abilities, then how many different gifts do you think our God could come up with? This is why C.S. Lewis says that you have never seen an ordinary person or a mere mortal. All of us have been given a gift, a charis, for the sake of the world.”
9. Talk about the implications of a paradigm shift: if your gifts are not just for your own success or advancement then what does it look like for your gifts to be used to bless others?
- a. If you looked at your gifts from the perspective of what is useful for blessing others, what new possibilities arise for how you might identify your gifts.
 - b. How might God be equipping you to serve through the gifts you have been given?
 - i. **Sermon Reference:** “Paul is explicit that our gifts are not just for us and our enjoyment. (**1 Cor 12:7**) We have been given these gifts for the common good. They have been given to us so that we would bless others with it. Discovering and exercising our gifts is not about personal fulfillment. It’s not even about finding that perfect job or vocation. When God shows us grace, it’s MORE than God sharing love with us; it’s God showering us with GIFTS to share with others! When God shows us grace, it’s MORE than God helping us escape from sin; it’s God EQUIPPING us to serve. When God shows us grace, it’s MORE than God caring; it’s God CALLING us into mission!”
10. If you were to think of your gifts through this plant metaphor, what phase might your gifts be in? Seeds? Germinating in the soil? Sprouting? Flowering?
- a. Whichever phase you are in what does it look like to water your gifts right now? What does it look like to allow God to tend to your gifts and help them to grow rather than relying only on yourself to nurture them on your own?
 - i. **Sermon Reference:** “And then lastly, once we have discerned our gifts and began putting them into practice, we now have the lifelong task of growing our gifts. We should never settle with our gifts, there will always be new frontiers and new opportunities to develop them, new challenges and needs that require them. (**2 Tim 1:6a**) Paul exhorts his pupil, Timothy, to fan into flame the gift of God that is within him. Don’t let it just be a small flicker, but over time let it grow into a powerful blaze that will be a light and blessing to the world. Pastor Will at Highrock Acton said that our gifts are like seeds, God has planted gifts in each of us from the beginning - when it’s just a seed, you can’t always see or know what will come of it, BUT when watered, nurtured, developed, and pruned, those seeds bear great fruit! Don’t neglect to water and develop your gifts just because you can’t fully see them yet.”

11. What might the “shadow side” of some of your gifts be if they are not guided by love? What might it look like to have safeguards (people or spiritual practices) which can help you stay rooted in love (in God).
 - a. **Sermon Reference: (1 Cor 13:1-3)** “Above all, we need to remember that our gifts are not gifts if they aren’t guided by love. God might have given you all the abilities and talents in the world, but if they are NOT used to love and serve others in Jesus’ name, they mean nothing. In fact, many of our gifts are unusable, even dangerous, without love. This is especially true of leadership gifts. One key way to discern whether you are being spiritual with your gift is to ask *who* is the primary beneficiary. If it is others, you are serving. If it yourself, you are simply self-serving.”

12. What does it look like to delight in each others gifts AND in our own giftedness? How does competition or comparison get in the way of delighting in the gifts God has given us and others?
 - a. **Sermon Reference:** “*Brothers and sisters, it is my deep desire that our church would be one in which each member knows and delights in their gifts, and knows and delights in the gifts of each other. The we would all know that the Holy Spirit has given his gifts to us, and that we feel empowered to use them for the common good.*”

APPLICATION/S

1. **Who might you invite to affirm where they have been blessed by you?**
 - a. **Sermon Reference:** “*We don’t have these kinds of conversations nearly enough. It seems exceedingly rare to me that we ask someone to affirm us. It feels vulnerable! But when these conversations occur, it gives a powerful opportunity for us to speak words of truth and life to each other, when so often we are just wrestling against lies of inadequacy and doubt.*”

2. How does it feel to be told you *DO* have a gift and that God has not forgotten you? How does it witness to God’s love for you that God would give us each gifts that are useful the community and to serving God?
 - a. What do you have to offer as a gift to the community?
 - i. **Sermon Reference:** “*You have a gift! What is it? How are you using it, how are you growing it? How is it being used to bless the Body and the world? I want to know! More than that, I want you to know! Don’t just go back to thinking you aren’t gifted or don’t have something to offer. Know that you have been made for mission.*”

CLOSING

Summarize the key points of your discussion and encourage people to **share one action step** they could take during the next week based on what they have shared. **Take time to pray together.** Write those down and start next week by checking in with how it went, or better yet, check in during the week!

RESOURCES

SERMON SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

Romans 12:3-8

“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to

encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.”

SCRIPTURE STUDY: 5Cs

If you are interested in studying the scripture more deeply, one method is to use the 5 Cs. Read through the passage and move through each C. The goal is not to move through them quickly, but to really consider each section. If you wanted to study the passage together, you, as the leader should take some time beforehand to complete the Cs and it can be helpful to have group members come prepared with the first 3 already considered. Then, as a group, you can briefly talk over some of the points and have a longer conversation about curiosities and conclusions. This study tool will be posted within all of the discussion questions.

- **Context:** What is the literary context of the passage? What comes before? After? Context within whole book? Relation to main idea of section, book, testament, whole Bible?
- **Christ:** How is Jesus revealed here? If in OT, prefiguration, typology, prophesy, implications for Christ's person and work? How is he needed, anticipated, fulfilled?
- **Crux:** What is the main idea? Try and find a section of the text that states it and have reasons for why that is the main idea? How do the other points support it?
- **Curiosities:** What is surprising about this text? Controversial? Mysterious? Shocking?
- **Conclusions:** What are the implications for our lives? Application? How do we think, feel, and act in light of this text?

READING THE BIBLE

[Pastor Dave has provided a few suggestions](#) for Bible reading plans, daily devotionals, and Bible commentaries to help you understand God's Word as you familiarize yourself with it.