

LESSON 2: Unleashing Your Gifts

Hey, you are on your way to discovering your purpose! I am fired up by the folks who attended the live, and are taking action.

Yesterday, you identified the **RECIPIENT** of your purpose - the who or what you are concerned about. Today is all about your **ROLE - how you use your gift to make a difference.**

UNLEASHING YOUR GIFTS

Have you ever seen something unleashed? My dog Bert (See below - yeah, I know he is adorable) went camping with me once. At the time, Bert didn't have a fenced in yard.(poor Bert) The **ONLY** time he was outside was on a leash. We camped on a lake island. He felt like he won the doggie lottery as he was leash free for an entire day!



When his tiny little dachador (half dachshund, half labrador) legs hit land he went **CRAZY** running circles around the island. I'm sure Bert thought he had landed on Fantasy Island and gwas a prize-winning grey hound.

He was the personification...well okay, dogification in his case...of joy. Why? Because he was outdoors where he was meant to be, untethered and running free in the fullness of his dogginess.

Well, it is high time YOU run free in the fullness of who God meant you to be.

WHY YOUR GIFTS MATTER

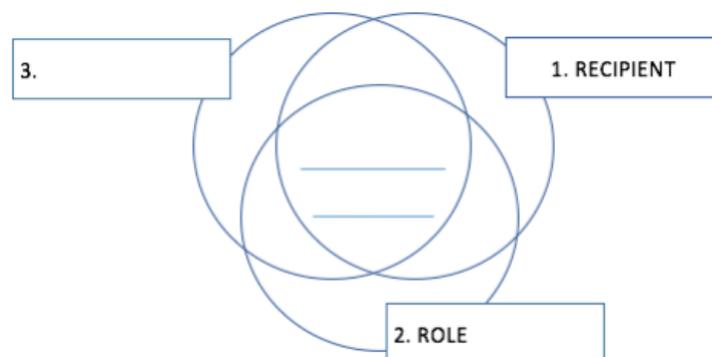
First, God gifted you to build the body.

"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." 1 Corinthians 12:7

Second, living in your gifts is the key to being effective and joyful. Laboring outside be exhausting; plus you outside of what you are good at can be exhausting as you struggle to get results.

IDENTIFYING YOUR GIFTS

Think of your gifts as the **"ROLE"** you play in the lives of your **RECIPIENTS**. Add **"ROLE"** next to #2 on the bottom circle of your purpose diagram from yesterday. Like this:



When I say gifts I want you to **think broadly**. Consider your **natural talents, spiritual gifts, learned skills, or special knowledge**. All of these can play an important role in how you serve others.

Here are questions to consider:

1. **1) Is there anything people regularly ask you to do or help them with?** For example, people ask me to help them with computer issues all the time. Or, I get asked to play guitar for events.
2. **What do people ask you questions about because of special knowledge you have?** For example, I get questions about nature because I have been through a lot of nature observation training classes and I love the outdoors. I also get questions about Bible passages and time management.
3. **What do you love to do?** Dance, sing, do math, fish, hang out with your kids, roller skating, work on cars, home repairs, carpentry, read, cooking, sewing, etc. The sky is the limit here. There are no small gifts.
4. **What training do you have in something that you really enjoy?** For example, life guarding, children's ministry, teaching, health care, counseling, etc.
5. **What are your spiritual gifts?** Here are some listed in the Bible: exhortation, giving, leadership, mercy, prophecy, service, teaching, administration, discernment, faith, healing, helps, knowledge, miracles, prophecy, teaching, tongues, tongues interpretation, wisdom, evangelism, and hospitality.

Don't worry about how functional or utilitarian the answers are to any of these questions.

TODAY'S EXERCISE

ACTION STEP #1

Make three lists of your gifts.

Specifically, make a list of natural talents, spiritual gifts and skills, and special knowledge. Considering adding these to the back of yesterday's worksheet or just grab a piece of paper.

TWO DON'TS AS YOU MAKE YOUR LIST -- Don't stress over how you categorize. Put a gift where it feels best. Categories are mostly here to prompt ideas. And, don't be overly humble. Trust me - something you think is no big deal is a big struggle for someone else.

Do have fun.

Here's part of what's on my lists:

Natural Talents: *Acting/public speaking, creative problem-solving, leadership*

Spiritual Gifts and Skills: *Bible study, nature observation, survival skills, guitar, banjo, painting, drawing, youth ministry, pastoral care, preaching, teaching, sewing, cooking, repairing things*

Special Knowledge: *marketing, computer skills, wordpress, time management, project management, discipleship*

ACTION STEP #2

Let your dog off the leash — Take a Gift Step

Exercise one gift from your list in the next 24 hours. Select something you really enjoy but it's been on a leash - meaning you haven't used it for a while.

If you want you can benefit someone with your gift, but for the sake of this exercise it is 100% acceptable to just play. This is all about exercising what's been neglected and feeling the joy. We'll work on making the it purposeful later.

BONUS ACTION

Post to the group what you will be doing as a Gift Step.

You can use the following formula: In the next 24 hours I am going to unleash my gift of <insert gift> by <insert action step>.

Here's mine:

"In the next 24 hours, I am going to unleash my gift of nature observation and drawing, by finding something interesting outdoors to draw.

Well that's it for Day 2. I'll be LIVE on Facebook at 1 p.m. (CDT) today. We'll expand the lesson and I'll answer questions.

Blessings,

John Arnold

The Practical Disciple

Preacher, Teacher, and Spiritual Encourager