

Where Do I Fit In? (Finding and Using Your Spiritual Gifts)

Key passages: Romans 12:3-8, I Corinthians 12:1 - 14:40, Ephesians 4:1-16, I Peter 4:7-11.

Big idea: God has given each of us a spiritual gift and we need to begin serving the church as we search for our gift.

Purpose: Youth should come away from this study understanding that they have gifts, motivated to use their gifts, and actually taking part in the ministry. (Please reflect on this purpose. If by the end of this series, more youth are not actually involved with the ministry, I have failed.)

Ideas: Before teaching on this topic, get with your other leaders and discuss what areas of ministry you could involve youth in. If you have no areas for them to work in, they will not be able to apply this lesson and may end up frustrated. After the lesson, you may want them to sign up for some area in which to be involved.

Note: I am well aware that different denominations will want to expand or revise this material due to their theological position on the charismatic gifts. This is merely a resource designed to be useful to all denominations as they seek to help youth find and utilize their gifts.

Where Do I Fit In? (Lesson I)

<u>Introduction</u>

Someone has said that there are three kinds of people in the world: Those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what happened. I've always wanted to be in the first category, not like a rock thrown into the ocean of eternity, sending out ripples that will last only for a moment. But to make an impact on the world that will last for eternity.

Making a lot of money seems important for awhile, but no one will be taken to his funeral with a moving vehicle behind him.

ILLUSTRATION: One man had the job of conducting job interviews for a large company. His method was intriguing. An applicant would walk in the door and the man would ask him to be seated. Then he would get real comfortable, serve drinks, laugh and cut up, then suddenly lean forward and say, "What's your purpose in life?" He did this because he found that people who knew where they were going in life did better in working for their

company.

One day he was interviewing a fellow, had him all relaxed, and broke in suddenly with his question: "What's your purpose in life?" Without hesitating, the man shot back, "To go to heaven and take as many people with me as I can."

This guy knew what he was doing here on earth. He wanted to make a mark that would never be erased, an eternal impact on people who will one day be eternally grateful.

But how can all of us be caught up in this vision? You may say that you can't speak like some Christian communicators you have heard. Or you are not as smart as your pastor. Or you've never been to Seminary. Or you are not talented at music. You want to do more with this school year than just shoot hoops and make decent grades, but you're tripped up over the question "What specifically can I do for God?"

The reason I am so excited about this topic is I believe that if you catch it (not everyone will), it could revolutionize your life. And if you take these 5 principles to heart it could happen to you.

PRAY

#1 – Realize That You Have a Gift From God.

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." (I Cor. 12:4-7)

What an exciting discovery!

***Illustration:** The Biblical picture of the church is that it is like a body, every part having a vital role to play. How many of you like to stay seated after a good movie, and watch the credits? I am fascinated by those credits. What I find is that a lot more people were involved in pulling off the movie than just a director and good actors. (Teacher: Get the youth involved with this. Ask them to name all the types of people they can think of who are involved in pulling off a movie. Perhaps suggest a recent popular movie to think about.) A secretary traced down the French government office that gave permission for and made arrangements for that scene at the Eiffel Tower. An efficient organizer put together the rooming. A caterer provided meals to save studio time. There were grips, key grips, writers, editors, stunt men. And without that awesome sound track, even the best plot writer and actors couldn't have captured our emotions. Every part was needed to pull off the film. That's exactly the way the church is to operate. Every part (you and I) carrying our part in order to fulfill the greatest plan of all human history.*

But sadly, often the church today is not like a body or a good movie. What if one Sunday, instead of having music during the offering, we pulled down a screen and ran the credits to see who all contributed to the work of God during the last week? How long would the list of credits be? Would your name be included? I'm afraid that most church members think that their part is to simply show up, and watch the show.

Someone compared the church to a professional football game: 22 men on the field, desperately in need of rest, being watched by 10,000 people in the audience, desperately in need of exercise.

But if you are a Christian, you have a gift from God. There's a place for you in the credits each week. Do you believe it? Do you want to find what your niche is? If so, you must understand a second principle.

#2 – Understand That There Are Varieties of Gifts.

“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 who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.”(Romans 12:4-6, cr. I Corinthians 12:4-6)

Bible Activity: Some people think, "I can't teach or sing, so God can't use me." But you need to expand your thinking as to the ways God uses people. Here are the gifts that God mentions to us in the Bible: (Appoint 4 youth to read each of the following lists of gifts. As they read, have someone else list the gifts on a blackboard or overhead.) Rom. 12:6-8; I Cor. 12:8-11, 27-30; Eph. 4:11-13; I Pet. 4:10,11.

Do you get the picture (point to all the gifts)? There are lots of ways to serve God. You just need to find where you fit in.

But some feel inferior because some gifts are very visible, but theirs get little recognition. You need to understand another principle...

#3 -- Remember that Your Gift is Important.

“Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,’ it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,’ it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you!’ and the head cannot say to the feet, ‘I don’t need you!’” On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable we treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part

suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.” (I Cor. 12:14-26)

ILLUSTRATION: *In the movie, "The Flintstones," (use a current film for which costumes were crucial) what if the costume designer decided that the actors were all that really mattered. After all who ever sees a movie advertisement highlighting: "Costume Designer, Stephanie King"? But what if Stephanie failed to do her job? What if Fred, Wilma and Barney all wore modern t-shirts and blue jeans? The effect of the movie would be ruined. Could this be why church is often so ineffective, so weak? All the world sees is a big mouth, or big eyeball. How grotesque! They need to see a whole body in action.*

BREAK -- Play the "Untangle Game". Divide into groups of 4 people. Stand in a circle and hold out your right hand. Hold someone's right hand. Next, put your left hand in the circle and hold a different person's left hand. Now, without letting go of a hand, try to get untangled. After this, try again with 6 people in the circle, then 8, then as many as you dare! (The point: Ask how many groups had a leader that took charge? Perhaps that person has a gift of leadership. Maybe others simply offered suggestions (wisdom?) and others were simply servants who were willing to do what needed to be done (helps?), and others encouraged not to give up (exhortation?). But it took everyone's cooperation and help to make it work.

ILLUSTRATION: *A youth worker decided to visit the youth ministry at the largest church in America, to get some ideas on how their youth minister pulled off such a successful ministry. After observing a couple of days, he liked the youth minister, but was especially impressed by a "behind the scenes" guy. When 100 plus youth divided up into teams for competitions, this guy had all the plans in hand. Everything was under control and everyone seemed to have a great time. I asked the youth minister, "tell me about that guy who seems to keep everything about your ministry so organized?" He responded, "That's the guy who makes me successful." He wasn't out front. He wasn't flashy. His name wouldn't have been highlighted in the credits. But without him, this successful ministry would have probably flopped.*

ILLUSTRATION: *I heard it said that back in the Middle Ages, a man was observing the building of a castle. One worker walked by with a cart, carrying some mortar. The observer asked, "What are you doing?" The worker replied, "Not much, just carrying some mortar." Another came by, carrying some stones. "What are you doing?" the man asked? "Oh, just carrying some stones," the worker replied. Then a third worker passed by, carrying some building materials. "What are you doing?" asked the man. The worker replied, "I'm building a cathedral."*

How do you think this last man's understanding of his task affected his attitude on life? The quality of his work?

When you set up chairs for our youth meeting, do you see yourself as doing a trivial task, or as reaching the world for Christ? When you greet a new person coming to youth meeting, is

this trivial, or crucial to God's work?

Conclusion

(Review the main points.) Can you imagine what our youth ministry could be like if we all got involved? But it will never happen unless you commit yourself before God to get out of the stands and into the game. You may start by setting up chairs or cleaning up after an event. But that's not little stuff. (Dream out loud about how effective and power charged the church and youth group would be if everyone used their gifts. Allow youth to discuss as well.)

Pray (Let them commit themselves before God to get involved with building this cathedral.)

HOMEWORK: Some will say, "That all sounds great. But how can I serve when I am clueless as to which gift I have?" Relax! Most youth (and many adults) don't know where they fit in. But don't let that put you on hold. The best way to find your gift is to lend a hand wherever you see a need. This week, begin thinking of areas where you think you could serve in our ministry.

SHARPENING YOUR AX TEACHING TO CHANGE LIVES

In the purpose statement for this series, I emphasize giving youth opportunities to apply what they are hearing. Too often, we feel successful when students listened, had a good time, and wanted to return next week. But the true test of success is the fruit of our messages. How can we teach messages that not only penetrate minds, but also touch hearts and change their lives?

1. **Make sure your purpose statement includes application.** And as you prepare your lesson, keep going back to this purpose statement, asking, "Are my illustrations merely illuminating truths? Or, do some go further and motivate them to live it out?" "When I sum up each point, do my students have a crystal clear idea of what their lives would look like if they applied this truth?" "Does my conclusion give them a way to concretely apply this message?" "Should one of my activities give them the opportunity to reflect on personal application?"

Some teachers break their purpose statement into:

KNOW: What do I want my students to know? (I have a gift. There are many gifts. Etc.)

FEEL: What do I want my students to feel? (I want to get involved!)

DO: What do I want my students to do? (I'm signing up for a ministry and starting this week.)

Try this for a couple of lessons to see if it helps you better clarify your goals.

2. **Make your applications specific.** Concluding with, "So, let's be more loving this week" won't do. Your students knew they should be more loving before they ever came to your meeting. And they have the uncanny ability to leave your message fired up to love the world, but on the way out to snub that poorly dressed "loser", never imagining any connection with your message.

I like leaving a space for Action Points in my student handout. Tell them as you begin to pray for

God to speak to them. This helps get them past passive listening to actively listening for a word from God. Mention the space for action points at the end of their outline. “When a scripture or illustration speaks to you, put a star beside it. At the end of the message, I’ll give you a moment to transfer it to your Action Points.” Occasionally, you might ask a few to share their action points with the rest of the group. This would not only stimulate new applications, but shock the slackards into realizing that some peers really are taking this stuff seriously.

3. Make your applications relevant. A good model: Luke 3:10-14. John the Baptist didn’t stop with a vague “Repent.” I can hear a Pharisee thinking, “I did that 10 years ago at youth camp.” Instead, he gives an applications for each group. For the well-off: “The man with two tunics should share with him who has none....” For Tax Collectors: “Don’t collect any more than you are required to.” For Soldiers: “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.” Now that’s specific! What do you think he would have said to your youth group?

Do you know the needs and temptations your youth face?

- Read surveys of youth. You will find that cheating is a major problem. Many are lonely and very self conscious. Some are neglected at home. Know youth culture, and you can apply truth to where they are.
- Do your own anonymous surveys. Ask how many have personal quiet times. “What are your greatest temptations? Your greatest needs? Your greatest strengths?”
- Hang out with youth. Have some over to spend the night. Take some out for lunch. Find out what they live for, what they spend their time doing, how they get along with their teachers and parents.

The better you know your youth, the more specific you can make your applications. You’re concluding a message on “envy.” “Band members, don’t envy that first chair player that seems to get all the breaks. Football players, don’t envy that first string player who got where he is because his father coaches.” How could you apply this gifts series to specific members of your group?

(“TEACHING TO CHANGE LIVES” IS CONTINUED AT THE END OF THE NEXT LESSON)

WHERE DO I FIT IN? **(Lesson II)**

Introduction

Last week we began to talk about spiritual gifts. Who remembers what analogy the Bible uses to describe the church? The church is like a ... body. And how did we say it is like a good movie? But all too often, it is like a professional football game. How is that?

But let's imagine for a moment what this youth group could look like if everyone got involved. A visitor walks in to find two youth working with the music. Another works the overhead. He looks around to find that some youth have taken the time to attractively decorate the room to appeal to youth. Two friendly greeters warmly welcome him to the group, get to know him a little, introduce him around, and invite him to sit with them.

Now tell me, what impression does he now have of the youth group? Do you think he's more likely to listen to the message? Do you think he's more likely to want to come back next week?

#4 -- Go on a Gift Hunt!

ILLUSTRATION: *A young teenager named Steven didn't seem to fit in at Middle School. Everyone thought that to be important you had to be good at sports like baseball. But Steven was a terrible player. Schoolmates would call him names like "The Clutz." But as he got into high school, he took an interest in photography and movies and found other people who had the same interest. He called them his "Leper colony". But he developed these interests in later years and has become quite famous. You may have heard of him. His name is Steven Spielberg. (Ask youth to name as many movies produced by Spielberg that they can remember.) The same people who laughed at him would probably love to have his autograph now. Or at least a week's salary! But first he had to find his area of talent. We've got to do the same thing to find our niche, where we fit in.. Here are some steps to help you find your gift.*

A. Pray for wisdom.

"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him." (Jms. 1:5)

Believe or not, God had something in mind when He made you. So who better than God can help you find your way?

B. Serve now in as many ways as you can.

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others....” (I Pet. 4:10)

Don't sit around waiting for God to give you a vision. Take whatever you've got and do something with it! We should be serving, whether we know our gift or not.

Youth Survey: Pass out the “Let's Make a Difference!” sheets. Add your own ideas of how youth can serve and let youth add theirs. Have them circle some areas they would like to serve, and hand them in to you.

C. Note what you enjoy. (Psalm 37:4, 84:11)

“Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.”
(Psalm 37:4)

Activity: Make a list of sports, hobbies, and other things you already enjoy doing and share ways God might use them.

Often God will give you special fulfillment and motivation to do the things He has gifted you to do.

D. Note where you excell.

If the gift is of the Spirit, a special power or effectiveness should eventually manifest itself.

I have found that planning socials and games is not my thing. Not only do I not enjoy it, but they never seem to go as well as when others plan them.

E. Get wise counsel from others.

“Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.” (Prov. 15:22)

Ask people who know you well or have seen you working in special areas, if they feel you are gifted. Caution: Gifts must be developed and often are not noticed or appreciated by others when we are young. Which brings us to our next point.

#5 -- Develop your Gifts.

Just because the gift is from God does not mean it does not have to be developed.

ILLUSTRATION: *An unusually effective speaker had just delivered several powerful messages. Someone approached him afterwards, asking, "Did speaking just always come naturally to you?" He replied, "Do you play guitar?" "A little" the inquirer responded. The speaker continued, "Did it seem natural to you at first when you began to learn to play chords?" "No," admitted the inquirer, "it felt awkward and hurt." Then speaker confessed that his early teaching experiences felt much the same way.*

Give it time!

ILLUSTRATION: *Little Amy sang a song for her grandmother accompanied by the guitar. The grandmother laughed and said, "Amy, I don't think singing is your thing." Amy cried but didn't let the discouragement stop her. She continued to write songs and sing as she had opportunities. I'm glad she didn't stop. She's one of the most popular Christian singers today, Amy Grant.*

ILLUSTRATION: *Dan Dehaan was an unusually gifted Bible teacher. He started a Bible Study group in a home which exploded to over 2,000 people meeting every week. But he was not always a gifted communicator. When in High School, he had to give a speech to a class. His teacher responded, "Whatever you do, don't go into public speaking."*

The point? Don't get discouraged if the gifts you are developing seem slow in coming. If you have the desire, keep working at it!

Work hard!

"We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me." (Col. 1:28,29)

ILLUSTRATION: *We stand in awe at how perfectly de Vinci could paint a human body. But was he just a natural? What we don't realize is that at one time de Vinci painted 1000 hands in order to get it right. But how many of us give up after failing only a few times?*

ILLUSTRATION: *We know that Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, but some don't realize that he succeeded only after 1000 failures. How many of us would have declared it impossible by try number five?*

So what can de Vinci and Edison teach us about our gifts? (Let them respond.) A lot of ministry is hard work. Learning to work a sound board is no game of Old Maid. But we've got a goal worthy of our best labor: to see the world reached with the good news, before the end of time.

Afraid you don't have what it takes? Look back at the Colossians passage. God doesn't leave us to gut it out on our own. He works through us, supplying the strength that we lack. Are you already heavily involved with ministry? Don't grow weary! God's using

you! Are you a spectator, comfortably watching from the stands? It's much more exciting out here on the playing field! Take some of the ideas from the survey and go for it!

Conclusion

Remember, the most significant thing you can do with your life is to leave a mark on the world that will never be erased. I challenge you to get involved in the work of the ministry and begin to touch lives for eternity.

Pray

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(These are additional questions that might be interspersed throughout the lesson, especially for discussion oriented small groups such as Sunday Schools or discipleship groups. Don't just throw them in at the end of the lesson, ruining the impact of the conclusion.)

- 1. What are some areas that youth could get involved in ministry in your youth group, church and community?**
- 2. Think of those in our youth group. Can you guess what some of their gifts may be?**
- 3. What are some areas of ministry that you have particular interest in?**
- 4. Are most people in our youth group spectators, or participants? What are some ways we can get more people involved?**
- 5. What could our youth group be like if more people had a part?**
- 6. What is one area of ministry that you want to begin participating in?**
- 7. Do you think all the possible gifts are listed in the Bible, or do you think the Bible only gives us examples? Do you think there may be a gift of music ministry, or do you think a person just has a gift of exhortation, for example, which is exercised through music?**
- 8. Do you think all gifts are given for life, or do you think that God may bestow certain gifts on people for certain occasions in life?**

IDEAS FOR GETTING YOUTH INVOLVED IN MINISTRY

Tony Campolo, a Christian sociologist, has said that if we lose this generation of youth, it will not be because we expected too much of them, but because we expected too little. He bases this statement on surveys where youth stated that the main reason they stopped attending church was that they felt like they were not needed. Do your youth feel needed? Or, do they think that if they were to stop coming, things could continue on just as

well without them? Here are two ideas on how to involve youth:

1. For small groups, just have youth fill out the "Let's Make a Difference" sheets and try to involve as many of them as possible each week as you can. Constantly ask yourself, "Is there anything I am doing in ministry that a youth could be doing?"
2. For larger groups, it may be better to set up ministry teams that will be responsible for various tasks. Someone (probably a responsible adult) will need to be responsible for each team to ensure that it functions properly.

Possible teams: Media (putting together videos, slide presentations, working a sound board), Social (planning social activities), Serving (sets up rooms, works overheads, cleans), Worship (leads worship with voice or instruments, writes worship songs), Decorations (keeps bulletin boards updated, youth classes decorated), Evangelism (weekly visitation, following up decisions and visitors), Organizing (planning events), Refreshments, Drama, Event Planning.

They will commit themselves to a team for perhaps 6 months, and then can change to another team. Or, if the team concept doesn't work in 6 months, scrap it for a better idea.

Caution: Some churches find that it's better to wait for someone who has a vision for a ministry than to start, for example, a Drama Team and then try to get people excited about it. Better to start one "Decorations Team" that the youth are fired up about, than four teams that they all dread serving.

SHARPENING YOUR AX TEACHING TO CHANGE LIVES

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

1. Give an assignment that you can follow up on next week. "During the week, think about an area or two you would like to serve in. Next week, we'll share our ideas." Would an assignment be appropriate for this lesson on gifts?
2. Include "how to" information. Your lesson convinces your students that they should forgive those who have wronged them. But some are thinking, "But how? I know I should forgive my father for forsaking our family. I can even say the words, 'I forgive you.' But in my heart, I still hate him for what he did to me and mom. How, practically, can I get over this hurdle?" Until you answer her question, she leaves the session feeling more frustrated and guilty than when she came.
3. Use personal illustrations showing your excitement about applying the truth. "I've got a long way to go in improving my teaching skills. But I've come a long way from when I was absolutely terrified to get before a group to say anything. But now, this is one of my greatest joys. I'm sure glad I took that step to get involved." What are some ways you serve Christ? What kind of fulfillment/rewards do you get from serving?

Apply the truth to your own life before trying to teach it to others. As Howard Hendricks puts it, "...the more thoroughly I know the concept...the more deeply I feel it...and the more consistently I practice it...the greater my potential as a communicator." Teaching to Change

Lives, p. 100)

The apostle Paul could say, “Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice.” (Phil. 4:9) Now we’re not perfect. James reminds us that “We all stumble in many ways.” (Jms. 3:2) But we should be hot on the trail of becoming more like Christ.

When a teacher ends with, “Well, I suppose we all snub the lowly. And I’m as bad as anybody. Let’s just pray that God will help us to do better,” I come away rather indifferent. “If my teacher can’t deal with it, then my batting average on the subject is probably decent.” It’s okay to admit weakness and failure. Your transparency helps students identify with you. But if you’re still living inconsistently with the truth you are teaching, let students know you are incensed with your own failure, are hot on the trail of a solution, and would appreciate their keeping you accountable to improve.

LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
**(A Strategy to Help You Make a Mark on Your World...
 That Will Never Be Erased)**

“Each one should use whatever spiritual gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” (I Peter 4:10)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUTH LEADER: Look over this list, adding and deleting items to make it reflect the ways that youth could serve in your church and community during the next year. Then, hand out the revised list to each of your youth after speaking on Spiritual Gifts (see lesson plans). Instruct them to circle all the activities under the “Areas” sections in which they have an interest in serving. They can choose any items under as many headings as they like. They do not necessarily need prior experience or skill for most of the areas. If they are willing to serve, they should sign the commitment line at the end. The youth leader’s responsibility will be to refer back to these sheets regularly to actually give the youth responsibilities during the year. Small group leaders or Sunday School teachers might be able to use these sheets as well.

I. EVANGELISM MINISTRIES: “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.” (Mt. 9:38)

Requirement: Eagerness to see the lost come to know Jesus and for inactive Christians to become involved.

Areas:

- *Contacts those who have not attended regularly*
- *Invites non-Christians to church events*
- *Gives a testimony before a group*
- *Visits those who have visited our church or events*
- *Works with a campus ministry*
- *Personally witnesses to the lost*
- *Other _____*

I. WORSHIP MINISTRIES: “...be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord...” (Eph. 4:19)

Requirement: Desires to use musical abilities to lead others in worship.

Areas:

- *Songwriting*
- *Playing instrument for children’s church worship*

- *Youth Choir*
- *Leading in singing during youth group, Sunday School or other*
- *Playing in church orchestra*
- *Playing instruments to assist in worship*
- *Other* _____

I. *HELPING HAND MINISTRIES:* “If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.” (I Pet. 4:11b)

Requirement: Enjoys helping “behind the scenes” to physically help with the ministry.

Areas:

- *Stage crew*
- *Work around church facility*
- *Help shut-ins with house/yard work*
- *Build props for church drama/events*
- *Food preparation/serving/clean-up*
- *Manual labor*
- *Taping messages*
- *Clean-up crew*
- *Set up chairs*
- *Decorate for special events*
- *Clean church bus*
- *Transportation*
- *Assist in nursery*
- *Other* _____

I. *MEDIA MINISTRIES:* “It is a sin to bore people with the Bible.” (Howard Hendricks)

Requirement: Interest in enhancing teaching and worship times through developing visual aids and presentations.

Areas:

- *Photography for slide presentations*
- *Design handouts/mailouts*
- *Planning or acting in skits*
- *Help decorate Sunday School classes*

- *Keep bulletin boards up to date*
- *Graphic designer*
- *Drawing/writing on overheads*
- *Puppet ministry*
- *Make posters, etc.*
- *Other _____*

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MINISTRIES (Two Branches)

A. OFFICE: “For God is not a God of confusion, but of peace.” (I Cor. 14:33)

Requirement: Interest in helping with a broad range of secretarial and office tasks.

Areas:

- *Keeps record of visitors and attendance*
- *Mailouts*
- *Typing*
- *Working with a computer*
- *Filing*
- *Other _____*

A. Planning: “If you aim at nothing, you’ll hit it every time.”

Requirement: Interest in organizing and planning various ministries, socials, or games.

Areas:

- *Organizing or running a tape or book ministry*
- *Planning events*
- *Leading games*
- *Helping set long-range goals*
- *Other _____*

I. Research and Writing Ministries: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your...mind.” (Mt. 22:37)

- *Researches topics for the youth teacher*
- *Reads books and critiques for the youth library*
- *Critiques music from a Christian perspective and recommends current Christian artists*
- *Gathers illustrations for teacher*

- *Critiques teacher's messages*

I. *TEACHING MINISTRIES:* “We proclaim Him, counseling and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.” (Col. 1:28)

Requirement: Interest in presenting spiritual truth to individuals and/or groups. Willing to learn study methods and communication skills.

Areas:

- *Sharing a testimony before a group*
- *Teaching youth*
- *Sharing insights at a share time*
- *Short devotional at youth event*
- *Devotional at nursing home*
- *Teaching children*
- *Counseling*
- *Following-up new Christians*
- *Helping with new member's class (youth)*
- *Teacher's assistant*
- *Other _____*

I. *SOCIAL MINISTRIES:* “Above all, love each other deeply...”(I Pet. 4:8)

Requirement: Enjoys relating to people and desires to bring loners into the main group, as well as bring newcomers into our fellowship.

Areas:

- *Social chairperson*
- *Making phone calls*
- *Encouraging people*
- *Motivating people*
- *Greeting and loving people*
- *Visiting the sick or elderly*
- *Introducing visitors to regular members and making them feel welcome*
- *Calling and/or writing notes to visitors or members who need encouragement*
- *Ushering in church*
- *Other _____*

COMMITMENT: PLEASE CONTACT ME IF A NEED ARISES IN ANY AREA I HAVE MARKED.

NAME: _____ **GRADE:** ____ **PHONE #** _____

“IF NOT NOW, WHEN?”

If we listen attentively

**We can hear the silent cries
Of hurting, desperate people everywhere.**

All too often

**We just cover our ears
Convincing ourselves that someone, somewhere will care for them.**

Or perhaps

**We scurry off to complete our busy schedules
Soothing our guilty consciences with that elusive word – “later.”**

But let’s face it

If not us, who?

If not now, when?

WHERE DO I FIT IN?

#1 -- **Realize** that you have a gift from God. (I Cor. 12:4-7)

#2 – Understand that there are **varieties** of gifts. (Romans 12:4-6; I Cor. 12:4-6)

Break! “The Untangle Game”

#3 – Remember that your gift is **important**. (I Cor. 12:14-26)

#4 – Go on a gift **hunt!**

- A. **pray** for wisdom (James 1:5)
- B. **serve** now in as many ways as you can (Mat. 28:18-20)
- C. Note what you **enjoy** (Ps. 37:4, 84:11)
- D. Note where you **excell**

List of things I enjoy, that god might use:

1-

2-

3-

4-

- E. Get **wise counsel** from others (Prov. 15:22)

#5 -- **Develop your gifts**

Give it time! (Little amy)

Work hard! (Di Vinci and Edison)

Complete the “Let’s Make a Difference” volunteer sheet!

WHERE DO I FIT IN?

#1 -- _____ that you have a gift from God. (I Cor. 12:4-7)

#2 – Understand that there are _____ of gifts. (Romans 12:4-6; I Cor. 12:4-6)

Break! “The Untangle Game”

#3 – Remember that your gift is _____. (I Cor. 12:14-26)

#4 – Go on a gift ____!

F. _____ for wisdom (James 1:5)

G. _____ now in as many ways as you can (Mat. 28:18-20)

H. Note what you _____ (Ps. 37:4, 84:11)

I. Note where you _____

List of things I enjoy, that God might use:

1-

2-

3-

4-

J. Get _____ from others (Prov. 15:22)

#5 -- _____ your gifts

Give it time! (Little Amy)

Work Hard! (Di Vinci and Edison)

Complete the “Let’s Make a Difference” volunteer sheet!