

Discussion Guide: August 16th, 2026

Message: Using your God-Given Gifts for God's Good Purposes

Bryan Bicket

Take Home Truth: Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. (1 Peter 4:10 - NIV)

Message Outline:

- 1) God knows **WHO YOU ARE** and **WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH.**
- 2) God knows **HOW HE'S GIFTED YOU.**
- 3) God knows **HOW HE WANTS TO USE YOU.**

Focus Passages:

1 Peter 4:10-11 (NIV)

10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

James 1:17 (ESV)

Every good gift and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

Romans 1:20-23 (NIV)

20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

1 Corinthians 12:14-20 (ESV)

14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

3 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,

Discussion Questions

1. What are three gifts, talents, abilities, or passions you would say you have? Why do you think these were the three that came to your mind?
2. As we go throughout life, many times our circumstances can cause us to doubt God and/or His ability to use us to accomplish His will. How does knowing that “God knows **WHO YOU ARE** and **WHAT YOU’RE GOING THROUGH**” affect your desire for and willingness to be used by God to accomplish his purposes through you?
3. “God knows **HOW HE’S GIFTED YOU**” and so it’s important to both recognize your giftings and to recognize “the giver” of those giftings. Would you say you are a) more hesitant to use your giftings for God and his purposes because you feel inadequate or inferior to others or b) more prone to take prideful credit for what you accomplish rather than humbly giving thanks to God for giving you your gifts in the first place? Why do you think that is and what needs to change?
4. “God knows **HOW HE WANTS TO USE YOU**” to serve and bless others for his glory! Peter reminds us that we are *stewards* of God’s grace in its various forms. A *steward* is someone who looks after another person’s property, household, or resources and *stewardship* is our obedient witness to God’s sovereignty.
 - Why is it important to see ourselves as stewards rather than owners of our gifts, talents, abilities, and passions?
 - Where do you find it difficult to be a good steward of what God has given you?
 - How can you go about being a more faithful steward of what God has given or entrusted you with this week?
5. It’s important to recognize that God has called each of us to steward the gifts we have received from God for His good Purposes. He wants us to steward those gifts between “9 to 5” (in our vocations and occupations, paid or otherwise, throughout the day) as well as between “5-9” (pm) and on the weekends (In our Homes and in the Church). What is one way God might be calling you to more faithfully serve others in your home and in the church in the weeks ahead?

Time of Prayer:

Father, thank you that you are the giver of all good things. Thank you that you gave us the most important and amazing gift when you gave us your son Jesus to live, die, and rise from the dead on our behalf to take the consequences of our sin, reconcile us back to you, and to give us eternal life in Jesus both now and into forever!

Thank you for the unique gifts we have received from you and we ask that you would help us to use our gifts, both individually and working together as a church body, so that our impact may be multiplied and your name might be glorified in our hearts, homes, neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, churches, nation, and across the globe. Help us to serve others with the strength you provide so that in all things you may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.