



## Getting into The Game

Adapted from “Get into the Game” series by Wayne Murray.

Needs around us will be met when God’s people activate their gifts, talents, abilities, and resources. I am an avid football fan and played football in high school; so, let me use a football analogy here. There are, at least, five scenarios that could take place in a game. First, the coach could go out on the field and play the opponent by himself. Second, the players could run on the field but remain in the huddle trying to decide what to do. Third, the team could break the huddle and just stand around arguing about what play or which defense scheme to run. Fourth, the team could take off their equipment and try to play the game. Finally, the team could run out onto the field and execute what the team had practiced for hours the previous week.

Making the decision to execute what had been practiced made the team a good football team. Two of the four years in high school, our team was ranked 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> in the nation. We would practice from 1:30pm to 8:30 pm Monday-Thursday. If a mistake was made, we would run the play again until it was ran with perfection.

What if we would work in the Kingdom of God like we do our hobbies and activities? What kind of church would we have if we all would operate in the gifts, talents, and abilities given to us by God? The only hope for the community is the people in the local church doing what God had intended for them to do.

## COURAGE

**C1:** God has provided everything necessary to meet all the needs of the community that you live in. God has already placed every resource needed to reach our sphere of influence within the body of Christ. It is up to the believer to activate their resources and talents. Read the following verse and then answer the questions.

**1 Timothy 4:14 (NLT)** Do not neglect the spiritual gift you received through the prophecy spoken over you when the elders of the church laid their hands on you.

- What does this verse say to you about personal spiritual gifts?
- On a scale of 1-9 with 1 being the least and 9 the best, how well do you operate in your spiritual gift?
- Develop a 90-day plan to help you improve how well you operate in your spiritual gift. Who will you tell, and who will hold you accountable?

**C2:** God's answer to meeting the needs of people is His believers. The answers to the issues in the community are people from the body of Christ getting into the game and using their skills, talents, and abilities. We have a model for us from the first church. Read the following verses and then answer the questions.

**Acts 4:32–34 (NLT)** All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all. There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them.

- What do these verses speak to you about the believers operating in their spiritual gifts?

- What happens when believers get into the game and activate their gifts?
- How well are you using your gifts? How can you improve?

**C3:** Much like you plan how to get physically fit, an action plan is needed to help get one use their gifts, talents, and abilities. This week design a plan to activate your spiritual gifts, talents, and abilities within the next 90-days.

- How did you feel as you began to develop your plan?
- How did you feel after you developed your plan?
- Who will hold you accountable to your plan?

**C4:** In **Luke 19:11-27 (NLT)** Jesus tells a parable about money. Take a few moments to read these verses.

Now, within the context of spiritual gifts answer the following:

- Which one of the servants did you relate to the most? The one whose mina earned 10 more; the one whose mina earned 5 more; the one who did not invest their mina; or the 7 who never came back?
- What are three things this parable speaks to you about spiritual gifts?

## STRENGTH

**S1:** Oftentimes we do not operate in our gifts, talents, and abilities because we do not know them. Take an hour and go through the profile to determine your gifts, talents, and abilities.

### SHAPED FOR MINISTRY

#### Personal Profile

The body of Christ is only healthy to the degree that its members are using their God-given gifts and abilities in serving one another.

Discovering My Unique S.H.A.P.E.

**SPIRITUAL GIFTS:** What am I gifted to do? “Unwrapping your gift” will give you an overview of spiritual gifts and help you identify which ones you may have been given by God.

**HEART:** What do I love to do? “Monitoring your heartbeat” will help you clarify what you really love to do.

**ABILITIES:** What natural abilities do I have? “Applying your abilities” will help you appreciate the natural talents and vocational skills you have.

**PERSONALITY:** Where does my personality best suit me to serve? “Plugging in your personality” will help you see how your God-given temperament can best be used in ministry.

**EXPERIENCES:** What experiences have I had? “Examining your experiences” will help you review your history to discover how God has prepared you for a unique ministry that only you can fulfill.

## **SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

A spiritual gift is a special ability given by the Holy Spirit to serve others and strengthen the Body of Christ.

Preaching	Discernment	Miracles
Evangelism	Helps	Intercession
Pastor /Shepherd	Hospitality	Deliverance
Teaching	Faith	Prophecy
Teaching	Administration/Organization	Mentoring
Wisdom	Tongues/Interpretation of Tongues	Leadership
Exhortation	Word of Knowledge/Wisdom	Compassion/Mercy
Exhortation	Healing	Generosity
Entrepreneur	Others	

**I am pretty sure I have these gifts:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**I think I may have these gifts:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## **HEART**

Another way to think of your heart is to think about your passions! What do you get excited about?

**Directions: Please circle each box that you feel applies to you.**

The people I would like to serve most are:

Children	Homeless	Single Parents	Young Married
College Students	Hospitalized	Singles	Teens/Students
Disabled	Infants	Teen Moms	Poor
Divorced	Men	Unemployed	Elderly
Parents	Widowed	Empty Nesters	Prisoners
Women	Other		

**What I have a passion for, what motivates me most: (Circle ones that apply)**

Design/Develop	Organize	Serve/Help	Perform
Acquire/Possess	Excel	Operate/Maintain	Repair
Lead/Be in Charge	Clean	Pray	Influence
Others not listed here			

**The issues or causes I feel most strongly about are:**

Abuse/Violence	Drug Abuse	Homelessness	Sanctity of Life
Alcoholism	Education	Injustice issues	Sexuality
At-risk children	Environment	Law/Justice system	Spiritual apathy
Compulsive Behavior	Ethics	Marriage/ Family	Deafness
Finances	Parenting	Disabilities	Health/fitness
Policy/ Politics	Divorce	HIV/AIDS	Poverty/ Hunger
Other			

**Church issues, ministries or possible needs in the community that excite me:**

**ABILITIES**

Each of us has abilities that we have discovered and learned over our lifetime.

**My current vocation/job is:**

**Other jobs or skills I have experience in:**

**I feel I have these specialized abilities:**

Catering	Communications	Researching	Artistic
Evaluating	Public Relations	Management	Counseling
Teaching	Writing	Promotion	Repairing
Feeding/Cooking	Cleaning	Mechanical	Mentoring
Landscaping	Decorating	Welcoming	
Others not listed			

**I have experience and/or training in the following Fine Arts/Creative Arts categories:**

Drama	Dance	Choreography	Graphic Design
Video	Vocalist	Choir participant	
Musician (which instrument)			

**I have taught a class or seminar on:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I have received specialized training in:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSONALITY**

Understanding the personality God has given you will help you more effectively express your spiritual gifts, heart, and abilities for His sake.

**This is how I see myself (put an “X” on each line where you see your personality)**

	Weak	Mild	Strong
Introverted	_____	_____	_____
Extroverted	_____	_____	_____
Self-Controlled	_____	_____	_____
Self-Expressive	_____	_____	_____

	<b>Weak</b>	<b>Mild</b>	<b>Strong</b>
Routine	_____	_____	_____
Variety	_____	_____	_____
Cooperative	_____	_____	_____
Competitive	_____	_____	_____

## **EXPERIENCE**

What you have experienced in your life has uniquely prepared you to meet the needs of others.

### **1. My Spiritual Journey**

This is how and when I became a Christian:

Meaningful spiritual experiences, times when I have felt close to God:

### **2. My Painful Experiences**

These are the kinds of trials or problems I could relate to and encourage a fellow Christian that is going through:

### **3. My Education Experiences**

Where I attended school and what I studied:

#### 4. My Ministry Experiences

Where I have served in the past (if applicable):

Auto Care	Evangelism	Nursery/Preschool	Prayer/Intercession	Teacher
Board Member	Elder	Food Ministry	Nursing/Medical	Receptionist/Admin
Usher	Greeter	Children's Ministry	Hospitality	Outreach
Security	Women's Ministry	Choir	Worship Team	Band
Men's Ministry	Pastor	Small Group Leader	Drama	Media
Student Ministry	Sports Ministry	Pastor's Wife	Other	

**S2:** Now that you have completed your profile, find three men and discuss with them your results.

- What feedback did they provide for you?
- What do you sense the Holy Spirit speaking to you about getting in the game?
- What immediate needs do you think you can help?

## ENDURANCE

**E1:** We are uniquely shaped by God to serve other people. The Scripture has some insight to our uniqueness. Read the following verses and then answer the questions.

### **Job 10:8 (NLT)**

### **Psalm 139:14 (NLT)**

- What do these verses speak to you about your uniqueness in how and who God made you to be?
- On a scale of 1-8 with 1 being the least and 8 the best, how involved are you in using your skill set for the Kingdom of God?
- Take a week to pray and ask the Holy Spirit, “Now that I know my skill set, how would You like me to get involved in using them?”
- Make an appointment with your pastor and offer to put your skill set to use.

**E2:** The Pareto Principle teaches that roughly 80% of the effects come from 20% of the causes. This is true in several things. Jesus tells us a parable in **Luke 19:11-27 (NLT)**. In this parable, we see seven people walk away, one person does nothing and two invest what was given to them. This is the Pareto principle in action. Take a few moments to read this parable in three different translations and then answer the following questions.

- What is your responsibility to God for the gift, skills, and abilities that He has given to you?

- What has been your response to God for the gift, skills, and abilities He has entrusted to you?
- What is God's attitude toward faithfully investing gifts, skills, and abilities?
- How faithful have you been to God to invest your gifts, skills, and abilities?

**E3:** Every believer has a call from God on their life. God gives each of us the gifts, skills, and abilities to accomplish our calling. Yet, many of us seem not to not function in the gifts, talents, and abilities God has given to us. Read the following verses and then answer the questions.

**Matthew 22:14 (NLT)**

**Matthew 9:37–38 (NLT)**

- Why do you think only a few are chosen?
- If the principle of the tithe works with money, does it also work with time? Consider there are 168 hours in a week. If you subtracted 56 hours for sleep and 40 hours for work, this would leave a person with 72 hours of non-discretionary time. If you believe in the principle of tithe that would be 7.2 hours a week, you should be giving back to the Kingdom of God.
- Using 7.2 hours as the max amount of time allowed, how many hours do share your gifts, talents, and abilities each week?
- What could you do to improve this number?

- What in your life do you need to let go to fulfill what God has called you to do?
  - Desires
  - Insecurities
  - Money
  - Hindering relationships