

## USE WHO YOU ARE

1. REMEMBERING—What gifts tend to receive the most and least “applause” in the church?
2. REFLECTING—What are possible reasons that explain this phenomenon?
3. DISCOVERING—Read 1Peter 4:10-11 below and answer the questions that follow.

*As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. <sup>11</sup>Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*  
(1Peter 4:10-11—NAS)

- What do we learn about the gifting, calling, and empowering that God bestows on His church?
- What is your sense of what your spiritual gifts are?
- What is your sense of how your spiritual gifts function in concert with your talents, personality, education, training, and experience?
- Read the following quotes and share how each one amplifies the meaning of 1Peter 4:10-11.

True stewardship has much broader implications than how we spend our money. Money is one measure, but it’s only one. From a philosophical perspective, I love the fuller meaning of stewardship. A steward is one who manages on behalf of the real owner. My favorite brief job description for steward is this: Do the most you can with whatever you’ve been given to do with! How much time do we have? Did we use it well? What are the unique talents and abilities that define us? Are we using them to get the most of them? Did we use resources entrusted to us well, or have we squandered them? Being a good steward is a tough standard to live up to, but it’s a great standard. (Wil Davis, *Creating A Culture of Excellence*)

Although gifts are good to accomplish the task they are designed for—the edification of others—yet they are empty and without power to save the soul unless God is using them.... Gifts are desirable, but great grace and small gifts are better than great gifts and no grace. (John Bunyan, *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners*)

Whatever gifts you have been given can be enlarged and developed through practice. For instance, no one gets the gift of teaching fully developed. But with study, feedback, and practice, a “good” teacher can become a better teacher, and with time, grow to be a master teacher. Don’t settle for a half-developed gift. (Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life*)

But when the job is a labor of love, the sacrifices will present themselves to the worker—strange as it may seem—in the guise of enjoyment. (Dorothy Sayers, *The Mind of the Maker*)

4. CONNECTING—If you had no obstacles (time, finances, support), what is something specific you’d like to do or be involved that does not currently exist at church or in the community?
5. RESPONDING—What will you do this week to pursue making that ministry a reality?