

GPS—GIFTS, PASSION, SEASON DISCERNMENT TOOL FOR FINDING YOUR “GO”

Pastor Bryan has defined your “Go” as “**your unique contribution to God’s work in the world for this season of your life.**” The Grace Chapel staff have developed a **GPS—gifts, passion, and season**—tool to help you explore how God has uniquely made you as a person and reflect upon the path you have followed that has brought you to this day and place. How you engage with this tool will likely reflect your personality or how you approach any task. For example, you may prefer to answer all of the prompts in one sitting, or you might opt to keep the questions in the back of your mind over an extended period of time.

Start by taking some quiet time with God. Ask him to guide you to respond to the questions. In some of the sections there will be a series of questions to guide you. Don’t feel pressure to answer them all; spend time on the ones that are most helpful to you. Ask him to open your heart to whatever he wants you to be or do. You can do the possible; God will do the impossible.

GIFTS – Your gifts are **your unique contribution** that you are especially called and qualified to do, by virtue of your *spiritual gifts, skills, and vocation*.

Spiritual Gifts: Spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit and used to minister to others in order to build up the church and further the work of God’s kingdom. We receive them as new believers and they are developed as we grow in our walk with God. Take a spiritual gifts inventory and then list your top 3 spiritual gifts. (Refer to the spiritual gifts inventory from *Mizizi* or www.grace.org/go.)

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Skills: Reflect upon what you do well. This may be related to a vocation, a hobby, or talents that you have. Choose the abilities that best describe you. This list is not exhaustive—just a starting point to get you thinking.

- Administration
- Advocacy
- Communication (written, spoken, media)
- Construction/Skilled Trades
- Counseling/Care
- Fine Arts (music, visual, drama)
- Hospitality
- Recruiting/Developing People
- Research/Grant Writing
- Teaching
- Other: _____

Vocation: The word vocation comes from the Latin word *vocari* which means *calling*. Vocation introduces a vertical dimension. It is no longer “What do I prefer?” but rather “What does God want me to be and do?” Biblically speaking, vocation is not the same as occupation. An occupation is something you have in order to support yourself and to contribute in some way to the good of society. Sometimes vocation/calling overlap with occupation, but not always. (e.g.,

you may feel called or passionate about public health but your occupation may be a doctor, social worker, researcher on public policy, etc.)

Questions to get you started:

- Where do you see overlap between your spiritual gifts and skills that might point you to a better understanding of the vocation to which God is calling you?
- Do you feel that your God-given vocation overlaps with your occupation or education? If so, how? If not, what are the differences?
- Given the above definition of vocation, where do you find the most satisfaction in your week, whether that time is spent in paid or unpaid opportunities (volunteer, retired, stay-at-home parent, student, unemployed, etc.)?

PASSION – Passion is an area where God has given you a special interest for **his work in the world**. Think about what engages your attention, what stirs your heart. Often God has already begun the job of equipping you for his call by planting a passion for that work in your heart. There are *people*, *places*, and *causes* which God is inviting you to reach and serve. These checklists include a few categories to get you thinking, but they are not meant to be exhaustive. (Check all that apply.)

People

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children | <input type="checkbox"/> Teens | <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted/Foster Children | <input type="checkbox"/> International Students |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Singles | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Adults | <input type="checkbox"/> Shut ins | <input type="checkbox"/> Men/Women |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed | <input type="checkbox"/> Seekers/Skeptics | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Needs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prisoners | <input type="checkbox"/> Refugees | <input type="checkbox"/> Victims of Human Trafficking | |
- Specific Religious Group: _____
- Specific Ethnic Group: _____
- Other:

Places

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> My Neighborhood | <input type="checkbox"/> My City/Town | <input type="checkbox"/> College, University |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Workplace | <input type="checkbox"/> Local City | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing Homes | <input type="checkbox"/> Residential Programs (alcohol/drugs) | |

- Latin/South America Europe Asia
- Middle East Africa
- Specific Country: _____
- Other:

Causes

- Domestic Violence Environment Fair Housing Education
- Hunger Loneliness Mental Health Multiculturalism
- Personal Finance Politics Poverty Social Equity
- Racial Reconciliation Sanctity of Life Violence
- Other:

SEASON OF LIFE – Your **season of life** may be based on a life stage (e.g., student, young adult, empty nester, retired) or a set of circumstances (e.g., far from home, chronic health issue, financially stable). God has equipped you through your unique life journey that includes *activities* and *experiences* that may shift and change over time.

Activities: Our activities and involvement play a role in our equipping. Record how you are currently involved with different organizations (both inside and outside the church). Note past activities/ involvement as well.

	Name and Type of Organization(s)	Role(s) (e.g., Coach, Board Member)	Time commitment (hr/wk or hr/month)	In or Outside of Your Town
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				

Experience: We have all walked our own path and draw from unique experiences. Some experiences bring a smile to our face and inspire thankfulness, but God is also able to use our painful experiences to equip us to come alongside others in their challenges.

Questions to get you started:

- Describe an experience—positive or negative—that shaped you in a significant way.
- What did you love doing as a child?

- When have you felt most alive?
- Where have you felt most yourself?
- What did you learn from your experiences that could be used to help others?

DISCERNING THE “SWEET SPOT” – While it may not be easy (it may require prayer, conversation with others, and trying different experiences), attentiveness to God’s voice will guide you as you discern and clarify a sweet spot for living out your “Go.” This is likely to be at the center area or overlap of your three GPS learnings.

Who might be a prayer partner to intercede? _____

Who do you need to have conversations with? (e.g., trusted friend, small group leader, church staff)

What additional information do you need to gather?



Remember, this tool is designed to help you reflect and have an ongoing conversation with God. If you have not yet discerned your “Go,” that’s ok. Keep paying attention to how God is at work in your life and keep responding when he asks you to try something different. Right now, he might be encouraging you to take just one small step.

May God fill you with the Holy Spirit, his power in you.

NEXT STEPS

- Join a Go! group/course—What adventures is God calling you to in his kingdom? Through personal study, group discussion, and everyday living, practice listening and responding to God’s nudges in your life.
- See www.grace.org/nextsteps for ways that Grace Chapel has identified to help you live out God’s calling on your life. Exploring these steps may provide additional information or settings to help you discover your “Go.”