

X: Multiply Your God-Given Potential
John Bevere
10.31.2021

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

We have to connect our gifts to how they build the Kingdom.

Our Three Options for Our Gifts

- 1. Use our gifts to benefit ourselves**
- 2. Use our gifts to build the Kingdom of God**
- 3. Neglect our gifts altogether**

[Ephesians 2:8-10]

You were saved by grace **TO BE SOMEBODY.**

You were equally empowered by grace **TO DO SOMETHING.**
(your calling)

[John 4:34 | NKJV]

Jesus said, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."

[JOHN 4:34 / JOHN 20:21 | NKJV]

Jesus said, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.”

“As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”

[Romans 12:6 | NKJV]

Having then gifts differing according to the grace (charis) that is given to us, let us use them.

[2 Corinthians 12:9 | TEV & NLT]

“My grace is all you need, for My power works best in your weakness (human inability).”

[2 Peter 1:2-3 | NKJV]

Grace be multiplied to you... as His divine power (grace) has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness.

You can't have what you don't believe for from heaven.

‘grace’ (charis): God’s empowerment that gives us the ability to go beyond our natural ability.

God made your calling beyond your natural ability, so that you would depend upon Him for your gifts.

[Romans 12:6 | NKJV]

Having then gifts (charisma) differing according to the grace (charis) that is given to us, let us use them.

‘gifts’ (charisma): A specific gift of grace that empowers an individual to fulfill what they’ve been created to do.

[1 Corinthians 4:1 | NKJV]

Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards...

Steward (def): One who manages another's property or other affairs.

Stewards are not micromangaed. We are stewards of our charisma.

[1 Peter 4:10 | NKJV]

As each one has received a gift (charisma), minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace (charis) of God.

[1 Corinthians 4:1-2 | NKJV]

Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards... moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

When you try to operate in someone else's gifts, you get frustrated and others around you get frustrated.

Definition of faithful—

Steadfast (Consistent), Dependable (Reliable), Loyal (True), Trustworthy, Devoted, Truthful

Definition of multiplication—

Steadfast (Consistent), Dependable (Reliable), Loyal (True), Trustworthy, Devoted, Truthful

[Matthew 25:14 | NKJV]

For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them...

There is one requirement of being a steward, and it is this: to be found faithful.

Jesus directly equates faithfulness with multiplication.

Hypothetical Name of Each Servant

1. Ashley 5 Talents (bags of silver)

2. Dave 2 Talents (bags of silver)

3. Larry 1 Talent (bag of silver)

Results

1. Ashley $5 \times 2 = 10$ (multiplied)

2. Dave $2 \times 2 = 4$ (multiplied)

3. Larry $1 = 1$ (maintained)

Ashley & Dave's Judgment

[Matthew 25:21 & 23 | NKJV]

“Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”

Larry's Judgment - Then he (Larry) who had received the one talent came and said, "Lord I knew you to be a hard man... and I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground."

[Matthew 25:24-25 | NKJV]

Larry's Judgment

"But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant.' "

[Matthew 25:26 | NKJV]

Larry's Judgment

Lazy (def): "shrinking from or hesitating to engage in something worthwhile." - GREEK DICTIONARY

Larry's Judgment

Wicked (def): "possessing a serious fault and consequently being worthless in regard to our labor." - GREEK DICTIONARY

God's View of Our Labor:

Those who multiply – Faithful

Those who maintain – Lazy

“So take the talent from him (Larry), and give it to her (Ashley) who has ten talents.”

[Matthew 25:28 | NKJV]

Larry $1 - 1 = 0$

Ashley $10 + 1 = 11$

Socialistic Thinking:

Ashley: $3 \times 2 = 6$

Dave: $3 \times 2 = 6$

Larry: 3

Ashley: $6 - 1 = 5$

Dave: $6 - 1 = 5$

Larry: $3 + 1 + 1 = 5$

[Matthew 25:29 | NKJV]

“For to everyone who has (multiplies), more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have (maintains), even what he has will be taken away.”

[Genesis 1:28 | NKJV]

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply.”

It Takes Faith to Multiply

[Romans 5:2 | NKJV]

We have access by faith into this grace.

[Ephesians 1:19 | AMP]

That we might know and understand... what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power...

[Ephesians 1:19 | AMP]

That we might know and understand... what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe.

FOR MONDAY—

1. Evaluate what ***charisma*** God has given you. Ask God to help you steward them.
2. Develop a personal strategy to be “fruitful and multiply.”

TALK IT THROUGH

1. When have you had a significant conversation that changed the course of someone’s life (maybe even your own)?
2. Why do you think people disengage from what they’re called to do? What are some reasons stay dormant to their gifts?
3. Where have you seen the Three Options we have for stewarding our gifts? What resulted in each of those situations?
4. Why do people try to differentiate the secular and sacred? How is your calling a 24/7 opportunity?
5. How can you personally discover your spiritual gifts? In what ways can you use them inside and outside of the local church?

6. How does God define grace in Scripture? Why are our giftings beyond our own ability? How is God's power, and His empowerment of us, made perfect in our weakness? (consider the definition of **charisma**)
7. What happens for us, and those in our spheres of influence, when we don't use our gifts? Who needs your gifts today?
8. What was God's first commandment in the Bible? Why is it important to "be fruitful and multiply"?
9. What is the one requirement of being a steward? For what reasons does God not micromanage us in the use of these?