

Week 01



CONNECT

Almost everyone has experienced a GPS fail... a time when our GPS got us more lost than found. Invite everyone to share a GPS fail, then decide which one took that person the most "Out of Place!" Reward the winner with an extra snack or beverage.

LEARN

Watch the Week 1 video at <https://sjepec.com/gps-resources/> and fill in the blanks:

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." Ephesians 2:10 NLT

You are a _____, created for a _____ body of "good works."

"Men go abroad to wonder at the heights of mountains, at the huge waves of the sea, at the long courses of the rivers, at the vast compass of the ocean, at the circular motions of the stars, and they pass by themselves without wondering." Saint Augustine

If you want to find your Masterpiece Mission, you're going to have to stop looking for your calling "out _____," and start looking "in _____."

You will discover your Masterpiece Mission when you tune in the signals of your _____, your _____, and your _____.

How can I best triangulate my Gifts, Passions, and Story?

1. Be _____!
2. Grab a copy of Find _____ Place.
3. Take the "G" and "P" sections of the GPS Online
4. Assessment at www.giftpassionstory.com and invite a _____ to take the Assessment as if s/he were you.
5. Offer and welcome helpful peer _____.
6. Start _____

DISCUSS

1. Consider this quote from Mark Twain: "The two most important days in your life are the day you were born, and the day you find out why."
 - Do you feel like you've "found out why" yet?
 - Inside the church, do you feel like you know your Masterpiece Mission--how God wants to guide 'Your Body in The Body'?

You are incredibly valuable to God--not just for the service you can do for Him, but because of the unique person He has made you to be. Take a look at what God says about you:

Psalm 139:14

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are _____,
I know that full well.

Prov 30:18-19

"There are three things that are _____ for me,
four that I do not understand:
the way of an eagle in the sky,
the way of a snake on a rock,
the way of a ship on the high seas,
and the way of a man with a young woman.

We are God's unique creation, and God uses some powerful imagery to describe just how wonderful we are. We are more than wonderful; we are "too amazing" to be grasped. We are incomprehensible! The Hebrew word translated as "wonderful" in Psalm 139 is the same word that is translated as "too amazing" in Proverbs 30.¹

2. Is there anyone in the group who once had a hard time believing that you are "wonderful" and "too amazing," but has now grown to accept it? If so, can you share how God helped you see that over time?
3. Is there anyone in the group who is currently having a hard time believing that you are incomprehensible? If so, what is it about you in particular that keeps you from believing it?

¹ Wegner, Rob; Phipps, Brian. *Find Your Place* (p. 40). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

In the book, *Find Your Place*, the authors note four common GPS Jammers:²

- The “Jungles of Africa” Jammer [fear]
- The “I don’t have anything to offer” Jammer [insecurity]
- The “I’m too busy” Jammer [ignorance/priorities]
- The “I’m already using my gifts” Jammer [comfort/complacency]

My (Brian’s) gift of teaching was refined and clarified during my time in seminary. I also had gifts of wisdom and shepherding, and my time in seminary provided training to strengthen those gifts too. Back then, I was certain that these were the only gifts God had given to me, and they served me well in my first church position as a Christian education pastor. When I left that position to take on another role in helping to transition a church from a traditional style to a more purpose-driven, mission focus, I found that my existing gift mix was inadequate. I was growing frustrated, and my friends encouraged me to use another gift they saw in me, one I didn’t see in myself—the gift of leadership. Honestly, any talk of leadership scared me. I was afraid to lead because I was afraid to fail. I didn’t know how to lead. I didn’t want to learn more about leadership because I was perfectly content using the gifts I had already developed! I even took a leadership ability assessment I found online, and it confirmed what I wanted to hear: I was no leader. The results indicated that I would do just fine as a chaplain for a small group of people and that I would probably never lead a church larger than two hundred people. That assessment gave me permission to rest where I was and not push any farther into exploring the gifts that others saw in me. God had a different plan.³

- 4. Which of the four GPS “jammers” are likely to be the greatest threat to you finding and fulfilling your Kingdom calling in this season?**

² Wegner, Rob; Phipps, Brian. *Find Your Place* (pp. 47-53). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

³ Wegner, Rob; Phipps, Brian. *Find Your Place* (pp. 52-53). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

Pastor Nate opened our focus on spiritual gifts by preaching a message on the “The Divine GPS” promised to us by Jesus and given in the Holy Spirit.⁴ Take a moment to revisit these key verses from the message:

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” --John 14:16-17

5. **As you read these verses, what encourages you the most about this Gift from Jesus?**

6. **Do you think there’s a difference between a spiritual gift and a natural, God-given ability? Explain.**

7. **Have you ever taken a spiritual gifts assessment? If so, how long has it been? Did you find it helpful?**

8. **Are you currently serving in Kingdom ministry? If so, where are you serving?**

FOR NEXT WEEK

- Take some notes from Sunday’s sermon.
- Take the online gifts assessment by clicking on the blue “Online Gifts Assessment” box at the bottom of this page: <https://sjepc.com/gps-groups>
 - *Once you create an account through the provided church-specific assessment link you must login to your account at www.giftpassionstory.com to access your account and view or complete your assessment.*

PRAY

Ask for the Spirit’s guidance as we seek to understand His purposes for us in the Kingdom. Pray for one another to be able overcome the GPS jammers with faith in God’s provision and promises to us. Give thanks for what God has said about us--that we are masterpieces that are “too amazing.”

⁴ Sermon from Sept 19, 2021