



## Discussion Guide

Date: 8/24/2025

Sermon Title: Where am I needed?

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:10-11

This discussion guide is a layout to be used with a group or class. We have included opening and closing prayers to start and end your group. The guide may be used for personal or family reflection as well.

### OPENING PRAYER

*Gracious God, you are the giver of every good gift. As we gather today, open our hearts and minds to hear your Word. Remind us that we are stewards of your grace, called to serve others with the gifts you've entrusted to us. May our time together inspire action, connection, and deeper love for you and our neighbors. Empower us by your Spirit to discern where we are needed and how we can serve with joy. - Amen.*

### Opening Question:

1. What gift(s) do you believe God has given you to serve others?

### Digging into the Word:

1. Read 1 Peter 4:10-11, what initial insights or thoughts do you have of this text? You may want to read a larger section of the passage and include surrounding verses.
2. What does it mean to be a "good steward" of God's grace in your daily life?
3. What does it mean in vs 11 to speak "the very words of God"? Can we truly speak for God?
4. Has God ever given you the strength to serve or do something difficult for God that later realized it was God giving you the ability and tools to do that? Explain.
5. How have you seen others speak or serve in a way that brings glory to God?

### Supporting Scripture:

Take some time and pick one or two of these passages and read and discuss your insights and possible gifts

Romans 12:4–8 (NRSV) – Spiritual gifts and unity in the body

1 Corinthians 12:12–27 (NRSV) – Many members, one body

Ephesians 4:11–13 (NRSV) – Equipping the saints for the work of ministry

6. How do these passages affirm or deepen your understanding of 1 Peter 4:10–11? What do they say about our interdependence as members of the body of Christ?

### Wesleyan Lens:

John Wesley wrote, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can..." – emphasizing active faith lived out through love and service. Wesleyan theology teaches that grace empowers us for holy living, which includes serving others as a means of expressing God's love.

- How does the idea of "grace for service" align with your understanding of your spiritual gifts?

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- What does Wesley's emphasis on doing good and engaging in acts of mercy and justice mean for your personal call to serve?
- How does serving others help us grow in Christlikeness?

### **Theologian Insight:**

United Methodist theologian **Randy L. Maddox** describes grace as "responsible grace," meaning that grace not only forgives but also enables transformation and action. In what ways do you see God's grace empowering you for service?

### **Sermon Questions:**

7. Pastor Clayton opens the sermon with the idea that we wish we were someone else, have you had similar thoughts? Have you ever wished you had different gifts and abilities?
8. We are reminded that we are stewards, or managers, of the gifts and abilities that God has given us. How are your management skills in your own life?
9. This scripture text in 1 Peter we are called to steward God's grace; how are you caring and sharing God's multifaceted grace?
10. Pastor Clayton challenges us if we are managing grace well. How can we become better stewards of God's grace in our daily lives? What does it mean to manage God's grace rather than simply receive it?
11. In the sermon Pastor Clayton shares about a friend who has served many areas in the church, but found that teaching children was his passion. Have you found your passion? Where are your passions and gifts coming together to serve one another? How are you using your gifts?
12. Pastor Clayton and the scripture in 1 Peter reminds us that we are called to live to "the glory of God". Pastor touches on different life stages and their unique concerns. Which stage resonated most with you, and why? How are you living out God's glory in your stage of life?

### **Applying it:**

13. What needs in the church or community stir your heart? Do your gifts and passions align with opportunities to serve?
14. What is one concrete next step you can take toward serving with Christ if you are not currently?

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

*Loving God, thank you for calling each of us to be part of your body, each with a role, each with a gift. As we leave this time of study, help us not only to recognize our gifts but to use them with boldness and joy. May we serve with the strength you supply and bring glory to your name in all we do. Guide our steps into meaningful service where we are most needed, and help us walk with Christ. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

### **WAYS TO RESPOND (or challenges for you this week)**

1. Take some time this week to prayerfully consider your gifts and talents. Write them down and reflect on how you might use them to serve others.
2. Age-Appropriate Service: Based on your current life stage, identify one specific way you can live "to the glory of God" this week.