

Discussion Questions



Overview

This session concludes the Shaped for Purpose series by asking a foundational question: why are we shaped for purpose? Drawing from the parable of the talents in Matthew 25, this guide will help your group explore what it means to faithfully steward what God has entrusted to each of us, and to move from being spectators to active participants in the mission of the church.

Key Takeaways

- We are shaped for purpose not so we can be comfortable or watch from the sidelines, but to multiply what the Master has entrusted to us.
- Fear can sound reasonable, but as the pastor noted, "fear disguised as caution still leaves the talent in the ground."
- The servants in the parable did not serve to earn their place. They served because they already belonged to the master. In the same way, we do not serve Jesus to be saved, but because we have been saved.
- Grace did not make you a spectator. Grace made you a steward.
- God will never ask more of you than you have. Each person is given according to their ability.

Discussion Questions

Opening

1. Think about a time when you were entrusted with something important by someone who believed in you. How did that feel? How did it affect the way you handled what was given to you?
 2. As you have followed this series, what has stood out to you most from the messages on being shaped for purpose?
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Exploring the Parable

3. In Matthew 25:14-30, the master distributes talents according to each servant's ability. What does it tell us about God that He gives each person what they are capable of handling, rather than giving everyone the same amount?
 4. The first two servants went to work immediately. The third servant buried his talent. What do you think was going on in the mind of the third servant? What does his reasoning reveal about how he viewed the master?
 5. Pastor Ike pointed out two words that are critical to understanding the master's response: servant and ability. Why are these two words so important for interpreting why the master reacted so strongly to the third servant?
 6. The third servant said he was afraid. Where do you see fear showing up in the life of the church today, or in your own life, that might be keeping talents buried?
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Applying the Message

7. Pastor Ike drew a sharp distinction: "Grace did not make you a spectator. Grace made you a steward." What is the difference between those two postures, and which one more accurately describes where you are right now?
 8. Pastor Ike identified several groups of people and gave each a specific challenge. Which of the following best describes where you are, and what would it look like for you to take a next step?
 - Not currently serving anywhere
 - Serving but possibly coasting in a comfortable role
 - Sitting on the sidelines because of fear or insecurity
 - Sensing a long-standing prompting from God that has not yet been acted on
 9. Pastor Ike said, "Every single disciple in the Gospels could have said, here's why I can't, and it would have sounded reasonable." What is your version of that statement? What is the reason you have been tempted to give for not stepping forward?
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Reflection

11. The sermon closed with this question: are you working to multiply your talent, or are you burying it? Take a moment to answer that honestly. What would multiplying your talent look like in a specific and practical way in the next thirty days?
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Practical Applications

- **If you are not serving:** Identify one area of ministry in the church this week and take a concrete step toward getting

involved. Do not wait for the perfect fit. Start somewhere and allow God to shape you in the process.

- **If you are already serving:** Ask yourself an honest question this week: is what I am doing my best, or just my comfortable? Bring that question to God in prayer and listen for His answer.
 - **If you are afraid:** Write down the specific fear or insecurity that is keeping you from stepping forward. Pray over it by name and ask God to help you surrender it to Him rather than allowing it to keep the talent buried.
 - **If you sense a prompting:** If God has been stirring something in you for a while, a vision, an idea, a ministry, a conversation you have been avoiding, do not go home and bury it again. Share it with someone in your group or with a pastor this week and ask for prayer and accountability.
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Closing Prayer Focus

Close your time together in prayer, asking God to:

- Reveal to each group member the specific abilities and resources He has entrusted to them
 - Replace fear and insecurity with courage and trust
 - Help each person move from spectator to steward in a real and tangible way
 - Prepare the church as a whole to be a launch site for the gospel in the local community and around the world
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Memory Thought

"Grace did not make you a spectator. Grace made you a steward."

Derived from Sunday morning sermon via Pulpit AI