

### Behind the Curtain—Week 3

- What are some of the unique talents and passions God has given you? In what ways have you used them for ministry?

*For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

**Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)**

- What does the word “minister” mean to you?

*It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

**Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV)**

- According to Ephesians 4:11-13, you are one of God's people being prepared for works of ministry. Do you truly see yourself as a minister? Why or why not?

*...“A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.*

**Luke 10:30-33 (NIV)**

- A minister is someone who sees a need they can meet, and meets that need. Describe a time when you ministered to someone else by meeting a need they had. What did you learn by meeting that need? How did it make you feel?

*Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of his one body, and each of us has different work to do. And since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others.*

*God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out when you have faith that God is speaking through you. If your gift is that of serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, do a good job of teaching. If your gift is to encourage others, do it! If you have money, share it generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.*

**Romans 12:4-8 (NLT)**

- What does ministry look like in your own life currently?
- What needs are you meeting in the church? What needs could you meet?

*However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.*

**Acts 20:24 (NIV)**

- After reading Acts 20:24, finish this sentence: I consider my life worth nothing to me if only I may \_\_\_\_\_. Explain your answer.
- Do you truly believe in the gospel and vision of your church enough to give your life for it? Why or why not?

**Final thought:** We are all ministers and called to meet the needs of others, but do we truly believe in the gospel and vision of our church enough to give our lives for it? With your group, pray that God will instill such a passion for ministry within you that it will consume you and give you the passion to say yes to that question. Ask God to reveal to each of us how He wants us to utilize our talents not only within the church but also in every aspect of our lives. Seek God's guidance on how your group can better meet the needs of others.

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### For Further Study

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below that you think will help your group discussion. Alternatively, you can use these questions and Scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

#### Open

- What types of influences have significantly shaped your life?

#### Explore

##### Read Romans 12:1-8

- How do people worship God? (12:1)
- How is the Christian different from unbelieving people? (12:2)
- What must happen in order for a person to discern and agree with the will of God? (12:2)
- How should Christians think about themselves? (12:3)
- What did Paul use the human body to illustrate? (12:4-5)
- What makes Christians different from one another? (12:4-6)
- In what way are all Christians alike? (12:4-6)
- What are the gifts of God? (12:6-8)
- How should each person use his or her gifts? (12:6-8)

#### Reflect

- How can a Christian allow Christ to renew his or her mind?
- Does understanding God's love reduce our selfishness and conceit?
- How do people united in Christ act toward each other?
- How can the gifts God bestows on Christians help others in the church or community?
- What gifts from God do you see in others that are in your group?
- What gifts from God do you see in your life?

#### Apply

- How can you put a spiritual gift to work for others this week?

#### Here are some suggestions you may want to use for your time with God this week:

**Day 1:** Read Ephesians 2:10. Spend time in prayer thanking God for the talents He has given you. Commit to God that you will use your talents for ministry.

**Day 2:** Read Ephesians 4:11-13. Ask God in prayer to help reveal to you the kind of minister He has called you to be. Commit to carrying out that call to ministry.

**Day 3:** Read Luke 10:30-33. Pray for those that you know are currently in need. Ask God to help give you ideas of how you can help meet some of those needs.

**Day 4:** Read Romans 12:1-8. Pray and ask God to reveal what needs in your church that you can help meet. Commit to meeting those needs.

**Day 5:** Read Acts 20:24. Commit to God that you will complete the tasks of the ministry you have decided to take on. Ask God to help you remain focused as you minister to others.

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### Putting it into Action

According to Ephesians 2:10, we are all called to ministry, and in Ephesians 4:11-13 Paul tells us that we have all been given different talents that we are to use for ministry in contributing to the entire body of Christ. While some in your group may be actively engaged in the ministry God has called them to do, others may still be seeking their specific area of ministry that they can contribute to the church.

Listed below are some different types of ministries that are needed within the church. Take some time to go through these ministries with your group and discuss them. First, see if there are any of these ministries that you would like to take on together as a group. Second, see if there are any of these ministries that appeal to the individuals in your group. You might print out this page for everyone in your group so that they can look over these ministries themselves.

#### Music

Singing, playing an instrument, writing songs, leading worship for kids, students or adults. Participating in worship on the weekends or leading worship in a LifeGroup.

#### Weekend Worship Experiences

Greeting, ushering, driving golf carts in the parking lot, children's ministries, experience prep team, hospitality team, QNA team, New Believer team, following up with guests, helping with baptisms and helping with child dedications.

#### Writing

Writing curriculum for children or small groups, proofing printed materials, transcribing messages, blogging and translating messages into other languages.

#### Video

Shoot or edit videos, write scripts, assist with video shoots, acting, set design, live video switching and running cameras.

#### Photography

Shooting baptisms, dedications or other special events.

#### Weekday Ministries

Assisting with administration, filing, answer phones, visiting those that are sick in the hospital, setting up for events, women's ministries, youth ministries, assisting with funerals, assisting with Konnect and assisting with live recordings.

#### Spiritual Development

Leading a small group, mentoring business leaders, working with young moms, young married couples, financial counseling, working to disciple new believers and following up on prayer needs.

#### Financial

Count offerings, keying in contributions and invoices, reviewing purchasing cards and helping with financial mail outs.

#### Food

Cooking for funerals, taking food to people who had babies, illnesses, or surgery.

#### Technology

Managing social networking accounts, volunteering at church online, praying with people online, working with web developers and utilizing other unique technology talents.

#### Missions

Leading micro missions, leading international missions, assisting with repairing homes, serving meals, prison ministry, car repairs and cleaning homes.

#### Other

If you did not see a ministry that fits your unique talents, then go create your own. Everyone has a ministry and a mission.