

BREAKOUT EXPERIENCE

GAPS AND GIFTS



TOTAL TIME: 15-20 MINUTES



OVERVIEW

Because everything we have is a gift from God, we are called to manage our resources wisely for God, for others and for ourselves. This exercise calls us to consider how our interests and passions connect with the needs and opportunities around us in giving back.

The teacher and theologian Frederick Buechner said that God leads us to make a difference in the world by showing us where **“our great gladness meets the world’s great need.”** There are many ways to be generous, and we all have something unique to share. Taking the time to consider what you’re passionate about and what you’re gifted in can lead you toward the best kinds of generosity that can make a real difference in the world!



ACTIVITY

1. Identify which Gaps tug at you and which Gifts you have that can help bring greater healing, wholeness, and joy to that Gap. Feel free to also add a Gap or Gift that is specific to you. Circle and prioritize up to six of each.
2. Once you have identified your five Gaps and Gifts, prioritize the Gaps in the appropriate column in the table. Please do the same with the Gifts and prioritize them in the column.
3. Next draw a line to connect each Gap to a specific Gift. You might find you use a Gift more than once.



GOAL

IDENTIFY AND PRIORITIZE VARIOUS NEEDS AND CONSIDER HOW GOD HAS EQUIPPED YOU WITH PASSIONS, SKILLS/ABILITIES, AND RESOURCES TO ADDRESS THOSE NEEDS

GAPS

GIFTS

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| poverty | environment |
| health/wellness | entrepreneurship |
| education | violence |
| faith/church | research |
| veterans | homelessness |
| addiction/recovery | children |
| prof. development | human trafficking |
| government | leadership |
| loneliness | abuse |
| elderly | arts/music |
| my community | parenting |
| hunger | animals |
| mental health | youth sports |
| social justice | |

GAPS
I WANT TO SERVE

GIFTS
I HAVE TO OFFER

1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

Please draw a line connecting the gifts you use to serve each gap.

TIME

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| volunteer | favors/errands |
| provide childcare | clean |
| coffee with friend | listen |
| pray | care for the sick |
| be present | help anonymously |

TALENTS

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| teach | mentor/coach |
| organizing | business skills |
| build/repair | leadership |
| creativity | cook meals |
| computer skills | musical skills |

TREASURE

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| donate items | open your home |
| share stuff | be a donor |
| give anonymously | consume less |
| invest in others | give money |
| sponsor a child | fundraise |



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did this exercise reveal for you?
2. Are there any Gaps that were left unattached to a Gift?
3. Are you intentionally applying your time, talent, and treasure to the Gap you value most?
4. What adjustments might you make to create **intention** for your generosity?
5. What obstacles do you face in growing your current financial giving? Your non-financial giving?



NEXT STEP

In the space below, make a commitment to be more intentionally generous to the causes you value most. Write down what, how, and when you will to commit to a Gap that you most want to serve.

GAP I'LL SERVE

HOW

WHEN