

## WEEK 4: CREATED TO SERVE

### The Parable of the Three Servants

*“To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance.” – Matthew 25:29*

#### Matthew 25:14-30

So many metaphors have been used to describe what the church looks like when everyone is using their gifts: It's an orchestra where each instrument plays its part perfectly. Or a work of art where all the colors and materials join together to create a beautiful picture. Or perhaps the most common: a body where each organ and part has a unique job to do in order for it to function. The point of all these illustrations is that each of us as a follower of Jesus has a part to play in God's story here on Earth.

You were put here on Earth to fulfill a purpose – one that only you can fulfill. Part of that purpose is serving others, and God has given you the gifts and talents in order to do so. Are you struggling to know how you can fulfill your purpose by serving others? Think about what you're passionate about. What gives you joy? What makes you sad or angry and stirs you to action? What are you good at? The answers to these questions will at least give you a place to start.

Ephesians 2:10 says, “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.” When God made the world, he already was thinking about you and the good things he had planned for you to do. So, when you're tempted to feel unimportant or useless in God's work or fearful to share your talents, remind yourself that you are his masterpiece. And then get busy!

#### QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Are you able to see yourself as God's masterpiece? What gets in the way of that?
2. Reflect back on times when you knew you were using your gifts and talents well for God. What were the circumstances? How did it feel?
3. What are some of the unique gifts or talents God has given you? How can you use them to serve God and others this week?