



## SHAPED FOR SERVICE

Before builders design a building, they first ask, “What will be its purpose? How will it be used?” The intended purpose of the building determines its structure and form. Ephesians 2:10 NIV says, *“We are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

You are God’s handcrafted work of art. You are not an assembly line product, mass produced without thought. From your unique thumbprint to the intricate design of your eyes, you are a custom-designed, one-of-a-kind, original masterpiece! You are unique!

God didn’t put you on this planet just to take up space. You were shaped by your Heavenly Father with a purpose! You have abilities, interests, talents, gifts, life experiences, and a unique personality that can and should be used for God’s glory. And nobody else can be you! If you don’t use your unique gifts for God’s purposes, your gifts will be missed on this earth! The Bible, in 1 Peter 4:10 TLB, puts it this way: *“God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God’s many kinds of blessings.”*

You are part of God’s story, just like all of the different people and stories you read about in the Bible. God has uniquely designed you with a purpose and a calling that fits you—your gifts, your talents, your passions, and your personality—which all fit perfectly into God’s amazing plan!

Remember, when you use your time, your talents, or your gifts, and

you do something for somebody else, God says it's like you're doing it for Him personally. Jesus said in Matthew 25:40 NIV, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me."

Your greatest joy can be found in using your unique gifts and passions for God's purpose!

## VERSES TO READ

Matthew 25:35-40

1 Peter 4:10-11

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Have I ever experienced the joy of using my gifts and abilities to serve somebody else?
- Have I found a place of service where my gifts can be strengthened and used to make a difference?

## PRAYER TO PRAY

*Lord, I'm amazed at the details of all of Your creation! I believe You designed me with a purpose. My entire life is in Your hands! Open my eyes to see the gifts and abilities You've given me, so I can walk out Your purpose for my life. In Jesus' name, amen.*