



# Small Group Discussion

**Weekend Talk Sheet – August 27-28, 2011**

***Living in Your Sweet Spot***

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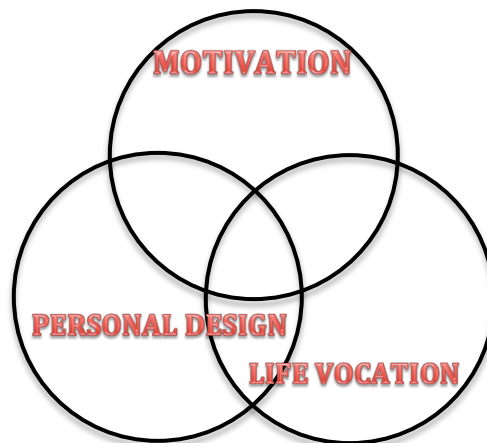
**LEADERS' NOTE:** The Small Group Discussion sheets give many ideas for discussion from the weekend worship message. Please go through the discussion sheet before the Small Group and determine a direction that fits your group's personality and needs the best. This preparation time will help you take the discussion prompts and focus in on some needs that you know exist in your group.

**Discussion Starter:** Pastor George cited the study that found that 87% of the work force doesn't like their job. How did you find your vocation? What were the considerations you thought through in determining your vocation?

What are some of the consequences of NOT finding your sweet spot for your vocation?

The Three Circles of Life:

- 1) God's Glory – My primary  
**MOTIVATION**
- 2) Your Strengths – Your  
**CONTRIBUTION** personality,  
likes, abilities, gifts, talents
- 3) Your Everyday Life – your  
**VOCATION**



Your sweet-spot is when the Three intersect

**What is the difference when you are motivated by God's glory and when you are motivated by self-advancement? How can you tell the difference in your work, home, and community?**

**1 -- MY MOTIVATION**

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A person's motivation is something ultimately only God can know. However, you and I can decide to act for God's fame. We are going to look at what God's glory is and how we can live for the purpose of making Him famous.

**Read PSALM 19:1-11; ROMANS 1:20**

The glory of God is simply God's character displayed best in God's creation.

**How does Psalm 19 say that God's glory is displayed?** *First it is displayed in His creative work, secondly it is described in His Law (which is the way God designed life to work).*

**Romans 1 says that creation demonstrates the glory of God, how does creation display the power and beauty of God?**

**READ 1 Corinthians 6:17-20**

*To glorify God means to put God's character into our character. I glorify God when all that is perfect about God becomes my pursuit by replacing what is wrong in my character with what is right in God's character.*

**Based on these verses, what does it mean to live your life with the motivation to glorify God?** *LEADERS: This is a broad question, but the core of the answer is that we live to put on Christ's character and to respond to life as he would, rather than as we would without His help or guidance. Sin is falling short of God's glory (Romans 3:23 – living without God's character) while holiness is the process of replacing my character weaknesses with God's character.*

## **2 - MY STRENGTHS**

The person pursuing the glory of God sometimes believes that he/she has nothing to offer God or others. George talked about the two extreme beliefs: **1<sup>st</sup>** *I'm not good enough* or **2<sup>nd</sup>** *the other extreme of I have to do everything (control).*

**READ Romans 12:3-6**

**Paul talks about not thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought to think, what is the balance that he gives the Romans?** *Each to the measure of faith that God has assigned him. The NIV says that we are to know our own skills that God has given to us AND to know the weaknesses in us and the others we can rely on for them.*

**In the growth class called SHAPed for Service we divide strengths into Spiritual Gifts, Heart (or passions), Abilities (bents or skills that come easily to us), Personality and Experiences.**

**How aware are you of each of these areas in your life (your strengths & weaknesses)?**

**How can you offer your strengths to your Small Group?**

**How can you rely on one another for your weaknesses?**



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George put it this way: “If you aren’t you – we don’t get you!”

### **3 – MY EVERYDAY LIFE (Especially your Vocation)**

“One study has shown that 87% of the work force doesn’t like their job.”

One consequence of not knowing your strengths and weaknesses is that you will settle for a vocation that doesn’t fit you. Then you will never find the pleasure in work that God designed for you to live in.

A lot of energy has been spent on the message of Genesis 1-2 on the implications on Creation verses Evolution. One of the themes that this emphasis has overlooked is God’s message to us for our vocation. Genesis 1 describes God’s work ethic and his total pleasure in what He produced. At the end of the day He would celebrate (*and God saw that it was good!*) and then came to the end of the week and set aside a day to enjoy His creative work (*God saw all that He had made and it was very good!*). Genesis 2, then, describes God’s design for people and work.

**Do you enjoy your work to the extent that you celebrate your achievements on a regular basis? Is part of your weekly worship a celebration of the vocation you get to do each week?**

**What keeps you from that kind of celebration?**

**Review the four points George gave us on “Putting Work In Perspective”**

- 1) Elevate your view of work** – *We are to glorify God in our work!*
- 2) Adjust your ROLE at work** – George told us to “Do the most what you do the best!” Derry Long says it this way: “amplify your strengths and minimize your weaknesses!”
- 3) Adjust your view of SUCCESS** – *Is success for you measured by comparing your earning capacity or power or prestige, or is it doing the thing that you were made to do?*
- 4) Use your vocation to build God’s KINGDOM** - *Are you pursuing the things that amplify God’s Kingdom priorities or your personal kingdom priorities?*

**Which of these has been the most difficult for you in your vocation?**

**What can you do this week to adjust to God’s plan for your work?**

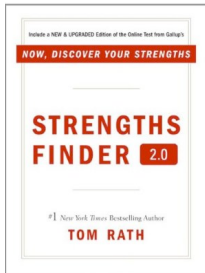
**How can the group pray for you in your adjustments?**



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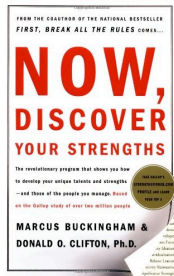
**SUMMARY:** *Living for God's glory is the merging of your vocation and your strengths into a resolve to display God's power in your work and life.*

## SUGGESTED RESOURCES FOR FURTHER GROWTH



Strengths Finder 2.0 by Tom Rath, about \$14 on Amazon.com

SHAPed for Service – Harvest Growth Class offered January 2012 on Wednesday nights at the Lockwood campus.



Now, Discover Your Strengths, by Marcus Buckingham & Donald O. Clifton. \$20 on Amazon.com, includes a code to take the Strengths Finder assessment online.