

Discovering Talent

Adapted from LifePlan, a resource of the Paterson Center

“For it will be like a man going on a journey...” So begins the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14–30. And like the stewards entrusted with monetary talents in the story, so too are each of us entrusted with talents by God; not merely monetary but mighty abilities to employ for His kingdom.

It’s not a journey for you alone. It is a journey on which to invite those who love God and want His best for you.

This is a perspective and discovery tool for you to use in community with God and one another. We have found that nearly everyone has three to five core talents. These are often with us our entire lives. They are not necessarily spiritual gifts (though they might be), but rather natural God-given talents. In music, we notice that some have the innate ability to hear notes then play whatever they hear. In athletics, we notice that some have natural speed or swimming ability. We might say that someone is a natural actor, a teacher, or a born leader. These are core talents.

Talents can be buried and stagnate. If not discovered, nurtured, and richly invested, a talent makes no difference for God or others. If you are going to know your story and live your purpose, you

must dig to gain clarity on what has been given to you. This is a process and series of questions to unearth that clarity in community with God and one another.

“But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money.”

Three overarching questions to consider in unearthing your talents:

- Who is God?
- Who am I?
- What am I to do?

The fruit of this work will come as you are encouraged by God and others to use your talents, strip away that which is keeping you from investing fully, and live your full purpose for the “well done” that awaits you!

Fill out the chart below while deeply and honestly reflecting with the Lord. Write what comes first to your heart. You can edit and analyze later. Pause and reflect on specifics that you’ve written. Look for themes and patterns in your answers. Write these in the *Themes* column. Then summarize these themes in the *My Core Talents* column.

Meet with the Lord over this work. Then meet with a few trusted friends who love God and want His plan for your life. Share what you found and ask for their feedback. Do they see the same things? Maybe they see talents in you that you don’t. There is clarity when we seek community with God and one another.

If this has provoked a desire to dig deeper into discovering who God made you to be and what He is calling you to do, consider joining a LifePlan Launch cohort or attending a LifePlan Retreat. More information is available at patersoncenter.com/tvc.

Talent Discovery Tool

KEY QUESTIONS	SPECIFICS	THEMES	CORE TALENTS
PASSIONS What do I love to do?			
DRIVES What motivates what I do?			
OBSESSIONS What do I constantly think about?			
QUALITIES How do others describe what I'm good at?			
LONGINGS What must I do or become in my life?			
EXPECTATIONS What do I expect from myself and from others?			
ACHIEVEMENTS What am I proud of that I've accomplished?			