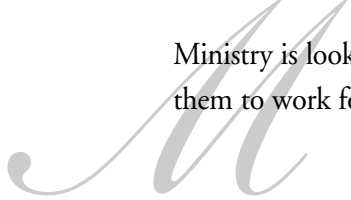




Course Three: *Our Spiritual Gifts*

SEGMENT 1: WHAT DOES GOD WANT FROM ME?

PARTICIPANTS' GUIDE

Ministry is looking inside yourself, recognizing your best skills and putting them to work for God's purpose.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen. (BCP 832-33)

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

What is ministry?

How do you discover your own ministry?

VIDEO PRESENTATION



What is ministry?

Ministry within the church

Ministry outside the church

Personal Inventory List

Evaluate your physical health

Evaluate your mental health

Evaluate your spiritual health

Appraise your circumstances

What is your energy level?

Five Basic Steps to begin a ministry

Dedicate yourself

Eliminate distractions

Evaluate strengths

Cooperate with others

Put God-given gifts to work

Choosing a ministry where our skills and interests meet the needs presented

Helping out where needed

USING THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

As we live out the ministry of the baptized, we find direction through the five Baptismal Covenant promises. These promises are made at every baptism and we ask God's help in keeping these promises. For this class the first, third, fourth and fifth promises are particularly relevant.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Jesus taught by example. What is he teaching in these scriptures?

Matthew 6:7-15

Matthew 13:44-51

Matthew 26:26-29

Luke 10:25-37

Luke 19:1-10

Matthew 25:31-46

Mark 10:13-16

2. What are some of the ministry areas in your church in which you could help?

What do you love to do that you could see as a ministry?

3. Discuss how the five steps to begin a ministry as detailed in the video differ from how we normally operate.

4. We heard in the video that ministry doesn't necessarily have anything to do with preaching. It is simply making God's work a part of our life, in whatever way we can, by calling on the values we have received as Christians to make the world a better place for everyone. Whatever role we have becomes a ministry. How do you experience this in your own life?

W R A P - U P

We are called in our Baptismal Covenant to be ministers. Ministers can work with those in need, can offer a listening ear, and can be a spiritual peer. In sharing our gifts and talents, we tell others we have a personal faith, we have a faith community; we think that faith community is healthy and a good place to be. We are messengers.

There are those ministries for which we need special skills – singing in the choir, or teaching. There are those ministries which fulfill the servanthood aspect of being a Christian – emptying trash, cleaning up after coffee hour, welcoming visitors, working in the church yard.

C L O S I N G P R A Y E R / H Y M N

The following selections can help us reflect on our discussions today. You may either read and pray or sing and pray your selection(s).

The 1982 Hymnal

#347 - Go forth for God

#348 - Lord, we have come

#359 - God of the prophets

Wonder, Love and Praise

#757 - Will you come and follow Me?

#807 - Put down your nets and follow Me

Lift Every Voice and Sing

#129 - I am Thine O Lord

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