THE WAY I'M WIRED

discovering who GOD made ME to be

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS, BEST QUALITIES, AND FINEST VALUES

Lesson 1: Leader Guide

LEADER PREPARATION

LESSON OVERVIEW: Students will learn how to recognize their spiritual gifts, best qualities, and finest values, which are bold indicators of how they've been wired by God to complete their extraordinary life mission. (Students will also discover 10 ways to be a great conversationalist, from a one-time-only DVD training about conversational skills.)

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

1. **WHAT:** Students will understand that their spiritual gifts, best qualities, and finest values point them directly to their bold, broad-reach life mission. (They'll also discover 10 key principles for having great conversations.)
2. **WHY:** If you understand your spiritual gifts, best qualities, and finest values, you'll see undeniable evidence regarding the specific life work God has assigned you. (Secondarily, if you understand how to have a great conversation, you'll benefit more from this series and also have a lifelong skill.)
3. **HOW:** After learning about the importance of their spiritual gifts, best qualities, and finest values (and discovering 10 conversational skills), students will work with their Conversation Partner to help each other identify those particulars, which point directly to how God has wired them for a specific life assignment.

MEMORY VERSE: [Students will find the Memory Verse for each lesson at the top of each Life Map.] *God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another (1 Peter 4:10 NLT).*

LEADER-FACILITATOR PREP: Think about how you'd complete this sentence: *My favorite confusing word, which has two pronunciations but only one spelling, is…* [see Introductory Remarks for examples].

BEFORE LESSON: Text Messages for Students [optional]
Customize one or both of these text messages to fit your needs:

- Come to small group to find out more about spiritual gifts God gave you.
- What do you value more in life than anything else? Start talking!

AFTER LESSON: E-mail for Parent/Other Adult Mentor [optional]
Customize this e-mail to fit your needs:

Dear _____,

We've just started a six-part DVD curriculum entitled *The Way I'm Wired: Discovering Who God Made ME to Be*. In the first lesson, we unpacked the concept **Understanding Your Spiritual Gifts, Best Qualities, and Finest Values**. Our students learned how to recognize these three elements of life, which are bold indicators of how they've been wired by God to complete their extraordinary life mission.

Major Teaching Point:
If I understand my spiritual gifts, best qualities, and finest values, I'll see undeniable evidence regarding the specific life work God has assigned me.

Our students learned that…

- spiritual gifts are those special attributes, such as hospitality, leadership, service, or teaching, that are given by the grace of God to be specifically used in building the kingdom of God for a particular season.
- all best qualities, such as honesty, loyalty, patience, and punctuality, were created to bring glory to God.
- Christ-honoring values (finest values), such as freedom, justice, lifelong learning, and teamwork, are principles that indicate who you are and what you hold in high regard.

Our Memory Verse: *God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another (1 Peter 4:10 NLT).*

As the opportunity arises, I'd encourage you to talk with your teenager about our lesson. These questions could help jump-start your conversation:

- **Spiritual Gifts:** What top two spiritual gifts have you been given, with which you can serve the body of Christ? Why do you say that?
- **Best Qualities:** What two best qualities has God given you? Share a story about how you've used one of your qualities for good.
- **Finest Values:** In what way does one of your finest values give you a possible hint about what your unique life purpose might be?

Prayerfully consider having a conversation with your teenager about your own spiritual gifts, best qualities, and finest values. (If you'd like to work through the core content in this series with us, you can pick up a copy of the parent's companion book: *How Your Teenager Is Wired: Discovering Who God Made Your Teenager to Be*. This lesson's material is covered in Chapter

5 of the parent book. And you may want to get the series' devotional with 200 Scripture passages about life purpose: *The Way I'm Wired: Discovering Who God Made ME to Be.*)

Thanks for your prayers for all our teenagers. Have a blessed day!

LESSON GUIDE

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS: 5 MIN

Welcome your students and open in prayer. Then, **ASK:**

- *Who can use **t-e-a-r** in a sentence?* [Some may say something like this: "I shed a tear." Others may say: "I see a tear in the shirt."]
- *Who can use **c-l-o-s-e** in a sentence?* [Some may say something like this: "Close the door." Others may say: "Don't get too close to the lion's cage."]

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *My favorite confusing word, which has two pronunciations but only one spelling, is...* [He could lead the class, if he could get the lead out. The farm produces produce. I object to that comment about the art object.]

ASK:

- *Based on words like that, how confusing do you think the English language is to a person trying to learn it as a second language—with no teacher?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Well, just in case some of the topics in this series, like spiritual gifts, seem a little confusing and feel like you're trying to learn a new language without any help, I want you to know that each time we meet, we'll have a brief DVD teaching on the topics to help you get started.*

LESSON FOCUS: 5 MIN

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *This lesson focuses on how God wired you with specific spiritual gifts, best qualities, and finest values that are necessary to accomplish your bold, far-reaching, unique life mission. If you understand these three things (your spiritual gifts, qualities, and values), you'll see undeniable evidence regarding the specific life work God has assigned you.* [Leader: If you worked through the materials yourself with your own adult Conversation Partner, share a few appropriate highlights.]

READ 1 PETER 4:10: *God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.*

ASK:

- *Imagine that the Holy Spirit has just now given you the spiritual gifts of hospitality, leadership, and encouragement. How could you use your three gifts with the youth group at church—on one particular, imaginary occasion?*

DVD LESSON: 10 MIN

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Let's watch the DVD lesson to learn more about spiritual gifts, best qualities, and finest values. Open your Life Map to the note-taking section for this lesson.*

Start the DVD for Lesson 1 and pray silently as the material is presented. Pray for your teenagers, by name, that they'll learn all they need to know about their spiritual gifts, best qualities, and finest values—and that they'll be blessed beyond their wildest imagination in their Conversation Partner time. Stop DVD.

DVD REVIEW: 5 MIN

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: As the DVD explained, God has wired you with spiritual gifts, best qualities, and finest values.

- **"WHY" QUESTION... about God's perspective:** *Why does God want you to understand all the unique details of those three aspects of your life, plus the impact of any poor choice of core values, too?*
- **"HOW" QUESTION... about the benefit for teenagers:** *How does understanding your spiritual gifts, best qualities, and finest values bring you joy or cause you to change?*

OVERVIEW FOR STUDENTS: 10 MIN

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *During this study, you'll be assigned a Conversation Partner to help you process the information. To get you thinking about how to be a great Conversation Partner, let's watch this short overview. Normally, we'll only have one video during each lesson, but this time, we also have this extra one. You can follow along with the main points with the outline at the end of your Life Map.*

CONVERSATION PARTNER TIME: 35-40 MIN

See "How to Use this DVD Curriculum" for ideas about how to assign Conversation Partners—with the goal of them remaining partners for the remaining five lessons. Then, **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *We on the leadership team have prayerfully chosen a Conversation Partner for each of you. Let me read the list of partners for this series.*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *In just a moment, it'll be time to switch gears and go into your Conversation Partner time. Your leaders will be praying for your conversations—and we'll also be coming around to observe the process. We expect you to focus intently on your discussion about your spiritual gifts, best qualities, and finest values, so please don't feel like you need to include us in your conversation. Just do your thing and do it well.*

If you finish before the 35 minutes is up, please stay with your Conversation Partner and help each other memorize the Scripture verse; you also can focus on the suggested homework at the end of your Life Map. We'll make an announcement when you have 5 minutes left to wrap up. Pair up with your assigned Conversation Partner now and head to a quiet place with your Life Map and a pen/pencil. Remember to practice the conversational skills you learned.

Pray silently: As you walk around, ask God to bless each teenager, by name, with a 1 Peter 4:10 knowledge of their spiritual gifts and willingness to use them for God's kingdom. (Ask for yourself, too!)

CONCLUDING REMARKS: 5 MIN

Bring the group back together and **ASK:**

- *Starting now, how will your insight about how you were wired with spiritual gifts, best qualities, and finest values affect your day-to-day living and (if you have a glimpse of it already) your unique life mission?*

Give a quick summary or personal challenge. Then, **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *From our lesson, you can see the importance of using your spiritual gifts, best qualities, and finest values to bring glory to God, as you discover and fulfill the particular purpose for which you were born.*

Just a reminder to take a look at the Homework Suggestion and also to memorize the Scripture verse—both of which can be found in your Life Map.

Close with a brief prayer.