THE WAY I'M WIRED

discovering who GOD made ME to be

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS, BEST QUALITIES, AND FINEST VALUES

Lesson 1: 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).

DVD NOTES

GETTING STARTED

ASK:

- *If you could travel anywhere in the world for two weeks, where would you go—and why?*

READ ALOUD TOGETHER: ***Tip for how to cooperate with God's plan:*** *If I understand my spiritual gifts, best qualities, and finest values, I'll see undeniable evidence regarding the specific life work God has designed for me.*

Don't Forget: Use the conversational skills you learned, especially...

Skill #1: Invite the Holy Spirit.

- Establish a partnership between the Holy Spirit, your Conversation Partner, and you.
- Proceed in an atmosphere of trust.

Skill #2: Listen actively.

- Listen reflectively.
- Echo what you hear.

PRAY ALOUD TOGETHER: *Holy Spirit, we invite you to guide our conversation and establish a trusting relationship between us. We ask for your wisdom as we explore how we've been wired with spiritual gifts, best qualities, and finest values—all bold indicators of God's specific plan for us. Amen.*

DIGGING IN

Instructions: Do the first exercise silently, and then discuss it with your Conversation Partner. Do the same for all three exercises, taking turns as to who goes first to share answers.

EXERCISE #1: UNDERSTAND MY SPIRITUAL GIFTS

My Spiritual Gift Mix: Spiritual gifts are those few, very special attributes the Holy Spirit has wired into you for specific use in building the kingdom of God for a particular season. More than one gift is called a "spiritual gift mix."

Instructions: Check the box next to the gifts you feel are in your spiritual gift mix.

- ☐ Administration/Organization
- ☐ Craftsmanship/Skilled Hands
- ☐ Encouragement/Exhortation
- ☐ Faith
- ☐ Healing Miracles
- ☐ Intercessory Praying
- ☐ Leadership
- ☐ Martyrdom
- ☐ Pastor/Shepherd
- ☐ Service/Helps
- ☐ Voluntary Poverty
- ☐ Apostleship/Modern Missionary
- ☐ Discernment/Keen Judgment
- ☐ Evangelism
- ☐ Giving
- ☐ Hospitality
- ☐ Knowledge/Wisdom
- ☐ Lifetime Celibacy
- ☐ Mercy/Compassion
- ☐ Prophecy/Blessed Sayings
- ☐ Tongues/Interpretation
- ☐ Communication: Drama, Internet/Computers, Music, Photography, Preaching, Teaching, Video, Visual Arts, Writing

Discuss your spiritual gifts with each other:

1. Which top two or three spiritual gifts do you feel you've been given to serve the body of Christ? Why do you say that? (**Remember:** *I dunno* and *nuthin* aren't answers. Always give your reply your best shot!)
2. In what way could you use one of your gifts now or later to do God's work on earth?

EXERCISE #2: UNDERSTAND MY BEST QUALITIES

It's important to know your best qualities (finest character traits) so you can maximize them for God's work. Imagine that your most supportive family members and best friends are weighing in to help affirm you with this exercise.

Instructions: Check the box next to the five or six best qualities you believe you possess that can help you be and do all God desires.

- ☐ Able to Admit Mistakes
- ☐ Affirming/Encouraging
- ☐ Brave
- ☐ Confident
- ☐ Courageous
- ☐ Empathetic/Caring
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Forgiving
- ☐ Funny
- ☐ Grateful/Thankful
- ☐ Humble
- ☐ Inspirational
- ☐ Joyful/Happy
- ☐ Loyal
- ☐ Obedient
- ☐ Passionate
- ☐ Persistent
- ☐ Positive
- ☐ Punctual
- ☐ Reliable
- ☐ Responsible
- ☐ Strategic
- ☐ Trustworthy
- ☐ Other:
- ☐ Able to Say I'm Sorry
- ☐ Authentic/Genuine
- ☐ Calm
- ☐ Cooperative
- ☐ Creative
- ☐ Energetic
- ☐ Focused
- ☐ Friendly/Kind/Loving
- ☐ Generous
- ☐ Honest
- ☐ Imaginative
- ☐ Intuitive/Instinctive
- ☐ Logical
- ☐ Nurturing
- ☐ Observant
- ☐ Patient
- ☐ Persuasive
- ☐ Prayerful
- ☐ Reasonable
- ☐ Respectful
- ☐ Risk Taker
- ☐ Teachable
- ☐ Vulnerable
- ☐ Other:

Discuss your best qualities with each other:

1. Which five or six best qualities has God wired into you, and how have you used one of your qualities for good?
2. In what way do several of your best qualities give you a possible hint about what your unique life purpose might be?

EXERCISE #3: UNDERSTAND MY FINEST VALUES

Core values are guiding principles—whether positive or negative—that indicate what you hold in high regard. They're the moral and ethical rudders that steer your ship. It's important to evaluate your core values closely, so you can better understand how they support or interfere with your long-term life mission.

Instructions: Reflecting on all areas of your life (personal, family, friendships, school, job, spiritual walk, ministry, community, and life contribution), check off or write your core values—without trying to choose what sounds like a great Christian value.

- ☐ Accountability
- ☐ Appearance
- ☐ Being Right
- ☐ Cleanliness
- ☐ Competition
- ☐ Control/Structure
- ☐ Diversity/Equality
- ☐ Earthly Reward
- ☐ Excellence/Quality
- ☐ Fame/Prestige
- ☐ Fulfillment
- ☐ Goal Completion
- ☐ Healthy Relationships
- ☐ Humor
- ☐ Innovation/Creativity
- ☐ Justice/Fairness
- ☐ Lifelong Learning
- ☐ Perfection
- ☐ Physical Strength
- ☐ Popularity/Reputation
- ☐ Power
- ☐ Recognition
- ☐ Safety
- ☐ Simplicity
- ☐ Success
- ☐ Truth
- ☐ Wealth
- ☐ Adventure
- ☐ Authenticity
- ☐ Being Thanked
- ☐ Comfort
- ☐ Confidentiality
- ☐ Courage
- ☐ Duty/Obligation
- ☐ Eternal Reward
- ☐ Faith/Trust in God
- ☐ Freedom
- ☐ Fun/Entertainment
- ☐ Health/Fitness
- ☐ Holiness
- ☐ Independence
- ☐ Intelligence
- ☐ Life Balance
- ☐ Pain Relief
- ☐ Perseverance
- ☐ Pleasure
- ☐ Possessions
- ☐ Predictability
- ☐ Relationship With Jesus
- ☐ Significance/Purpose
- ☐ Spiritual Growth
- ☐ Teamwork
- ☐ Unconditional Love
- ☐ Other:

Discuss your core values with each other:

1. Which are your top five or six core values? Why do you say that?
2. In what way could several of your finest values be part of God's wiring for your future life mission?
3. How might one or some of your values interfere with God's best for your life?

WRAPPING UP

ASK:

- *Starting now, how will your insight about how you're 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?*

Challenge one another: Challenge each other to memorize and reflect on the Memory Verse—and also to do the suggested homework noted below.

End with this: Close with a word of affirmation for one another. Then select one of you to pray aloud this prayer and/or a more personalized one:

God, it's incredible that you designed a life mission for us that's supported directly by our spiritual gifts, best qualities, and finest values. In fact, it's mind-boggling how you can make it all work together for your glory—and for our good and the good of those we're called to serve. Thank you for such a perfectly wired plan for each of us, even though we don't see all the details yet. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Homework Suggestion: Review your answers for Conversation 1 and complete any unfinished exercises. Give some prayerful thought to the upcoming topics in **Conversation 2: Rethinking Your Motives, Relationships, and Use of Time**. Think of examples you can share with your Conversation Partner about the most common motives/reasons you have for doing or not doing something; what relationships are the most influential in your life, for good or bad; and how you spend your time outside school and work.

SPECIAL HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT FOR THE ENTIRE SERIES: Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you a LIFE VERSE—a Scripture that affirms your unique life mission! You never know whether the verse or mission will be revealed first, but they'll complement one another perfectly. Memorizing and reflecting often on your life verse will help you as you move down the pathway to purpose.