



Connect to Mount Pisgah

Leader's Guide

Week 3

Topic: Opportunities to Serve and Grow

Focus for this class: Hopefully, over the past couple of weeks you've started connecting with your members. You may already know where they would like to serve and/or where they need support as well. The focus this week is on the PLACE assessment -- a tool to help them discover their spiritual gifts. All the ministries here at Mount Pisgah are introduced too.

PREWORK Summary: Read over this section and watch the videos before Week 3 class. There are 3 videos: the Teaching Video, Testimonial Video, and a very short video introducing the next class – Connect to God, by Pastor Mark Danzey.

Script ****

Speaker: Maggi Jagannathan

The PLACE process can help you discover how God has uniquely designed you, and it will help you realize His purpose in your life. You find your life as you give it away ... but first, you have to know what you have to give.

Ephesians 2:10 says, "we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Before you existed, God had good things planned that only you can do. Mount Pisgah uses the PLACE assessment to help you discover the purpose and ministry God created you to fulfill. This step of discovery on your spiritual journey unearths your personality type and spiritual gifts, provides insight into your abilities, identifies your area of passion, and reveals how your life experiences have shaped you into Kingdom service.

Five assessments in this tool provide you with a complete personal profile that will help guide you in becoming the hands and feet of Christ in your church, in your community, and in the world.

Personality or psychological testing seem like modern tools for our information and self-obsessed culture, but discovering *how* God created us is a Biblical mandate. "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully." Romans 12:4-8

Knowing how we fit into the body of Christ brings freedom. “Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.” I Corinthians 12:1 The freedom to say no to areas that don’t align with your gifts and abilities. The freedom to grow and start new ministries. When you are doing what God created you to do, you are energized and effective.

“King Solomon sent to Tyre and brought Hiram . . . a skilled craftsman in bronze. Hiram was filled with wisdom, with understanding and with knowledge to do all kinds of bronze work. He came to King Solomon and did all the work assigned to him.” I Kings 7:13-14

End Script ****

Tough questions prep:

I feel guilty saying no to something I know I’m not designed for because the need is so great (like VBS or being an impact group leader). Help them understand that God wired us to serve but never asked us to do everything open or asked of us. Trust God to bring the right people. “Your no, may allow another to say yes.”

Aren’t some areas so important that everyone should do them? (hospitality, witnessing). Yes, there are certain things we are all called to do like “giving”, but we still give grace as God is teaching all of us to follow/obey.

Key Scriptures to Review:

Ephesians 2:10

Romans 12: 4-8

Additional Resources if needed:

If you should get asked questions about the places to serve that are not as obvious, like the nursery, here is a little more information:

Stephen Ministry – To be a Stephen Minister means walking confidentially with someone without judgement through a transitional event of life. Jesus said for us to bear one another’s burdens – this ministry gives opportunity to live that call out. You can also have a Stephen Minister as you go through a challenging time of life or a time that you need a confidential, caring heart to listen to you. Not to fix you or tell you what to do but be a sounding board so you and God can come to a conclusion as help and healing are offered.

Martha’s Ministry – This group ministers to family and friends at our funerals. They help with the set-up of the funeral, greeting guests, giving family support with their needs during the service, help with receptions and give the love of Jesus to those around them. This ministry easily fits into your schedule as you are able.

Loving Meals - If you want to serve in Loving Meals you receive an email with a link to a website we use for coordination. You choose a date to deliver a dinner meal to a family in disposable

containers following any restrictions. Directions and all information are given via this website. You choose what works for you. It's a great way to pull your children into experiencing loving others through the love of Jesus. If you are going through an illness, having a child, lost a loved one or other events that need support of meals, simply call the Caring office and the meal schedule will be coordinated with you, any restrictions we need to comply with and any other instructions you might have.

Blanket Ministry – You can knit with friends and Jesus as you create blankets throughout the year with our blanket ministry. They meet in person one Saturday a month and you can continue knitting at home. Each blanket is prayed over, blessed and distributed throughout the year to various places of need.

Prison Ministry – There are various opportunities to serve in prison ministry even within your home. There are ways to donate, work with inmates and their Bible lessons through mail, or go to a downtown Atlanta facility to help with worship services.

Prayer Ministry – You can share the love and power of Jesus in your own home by receiving prayer requests as they come through. We ask that you keep each request confidential (no sharing in other venues) and that your participation in this ministry is kept confidential as well. You can also pray over Johns Creek police officers in our Shield-A-Badge opportunity.

Senior Living Ministry – We minister to several assisted living homes within our community by taking worship services to them. You can participate in a once a month worship experience at the location of your choice.

GriefShare – If you are going through the painful journey of grief due to the loss of someone important in your life, you are welcome to join a GriefShare group. This is a 13-week session going through all the various complications and challenges of grief giving you a safe group of people to explore the tangled ball of emotions that grief produces. You can teach this class.

Healing is a Choice- All of us need healing from bumps and bruises of life. Jesus asked if we wanted to be healed. Here is a venue in which you can receive support finding helpful tools to work through the journey into healing. Stephen Arterburn wrote this material, and we process it together on a weekly basis for 10 weeks. You can teach this class.

Pisgah Fosters - There are several opportunities to get involved in being part of the solution to our nation's foster care crisis: becoming a foster family or respite family, help on a care community to support one of our foster families through help, rides, meals and mentoring, join our advocate team, serve at an outreach event or make a meal for a foster family as part of our Loaves and Fishes outreach program.

The Drake House provides housing, financial and parenting coaching, and support for single mothers that are residents of Fulton County in order to stabilize the family and build self-sufficiency. Opportunities to serve include providing a hot dinner for mothers during their

weekly classroom time, childcare for children of residents during this classroom time, donating supplies to the pantry on site or making a financial contribution.

Habitat for Humanity – Each year Mount Pisgah joins with other churches and community partners to build a home for a deserving family through Habitat for Humanity. This year we will build our 28th house for a deserving, low-income family that has never had the blessing of owning their own home. (The 2020 Ecumenical Build has been postponed due to COVID.) To volunteer or to learn more about Mt. Pisgah’s Habitat for Humanity ministry contact Jim Wilson (jwduluth1@bellsouth.net) or Cindi Smith (cle_smith@bellsouth.net).

North Fulton Community Charities - The NFCC mission is to build self-sufficiency and prevent homelessness and hunger in our community by providing emergency assistance and enrichment programs. Opportunities to serve include volunteering in the food pantry, the thrift store, or at the donor door for the thrift store.

Homestretch, provides housing, financial and parenting coaching, and support for families that are residents of Fulton County in order to stabilize the family and build self-sufficiency. Opportunities to serve include occasional lawn maintenance and clean-up projects, donating supplies to their pantry or onsite education center, or making a financial contribution.

Every Woman Works (EWW) is a non-profit learning center providing a safe, therapeutic, and supportive environment for homeless women recovering from alcohol and drug dependency, in a transition from the penal systems, recovering from domestic violence, or living in poverty. EWW gives these women an opportunity to develop financial independence and solid and transferable work skills to strengthen their sense of self-confidence. Opportunities to serve include leading a devotional time with the women, donating snack supplies, teaching job skills and/or budgeting to participants.

Fresh Expressions/Common Ground Network-Join an existing team or consider pioneering your own fresh expression of church for people that are not yet a part of any church. FX form and meet outside of the walls of the church in our community.

International Missions - When conditions change and travel opens again, mission trips will be planned for Costa Rica, Kenya, Poland, Hungary, Dominican Republic, and Turkey. (During COVID - Disciple Training in Another Culture – Participate in discipling and leadership events with Christians from another culture through existing relationships and with our global mission's ministry partner, ILI. All sessions are virtual, and training can be provided. You can impact the nations without ever getting on an airplane. A great way to engage your current discipleship group to serve others together. There are also home prayer opportunities with missions until travel return to other countries.)

Disaster Response Teams working through The United Methodist Church are known for arriving early and being among the last to leave in times of disaster. By coordinating with local

and national response organizations and following established protocols, the United Methodist connection is effective and useful.

Class Timeline:

	Estimated time
1 Introduction	5 min
2 Teaching Video	Maggi Jagannathan; 5 min
3 PLACE assessment	10 min
4 Discussion Questions	10 min
5 Testimony Video	Holly Hollister; 5 min
6 MP Volunteer Opportunities	15 min
7 Takeaways	1 min
8 Invitation for next week video	Pastor Mark Danzey; 5 min
9 Prayer	5 min

1. Introduce the content and video for this class (in your own words):

Today more than any other time in history, people are bombarded with multiple choices as to how to give their time. They find themselves asking, “Where do I fit in?”, “Why am I here?” and “What can I do to make a lasting difference in my life and the lives of others?” God created each of us for a purpose. Mount Pisgah uses the PLACE assessment to help you find the right fit for you.

When you’re serving in a role that complements your spiritual gifts, abilities, and personality, you are excited to serve and have a tremendous impact.

Mount Pisgah has a wide array of weekly, monthly, one time and everything in between service opportunities, both inside the church and out in the community.

Let’s watch Maggi Jagannathan as she explains how we all come together to make up the Body of Christ.

2. Play the teaching video (5 minutes)

3. Discuss PLACE assessment on pages 14 and 15. *If you have taken it, share your own personal experience.* Encourage them to take PLACE on our website – mountpisgah.org/place. Password: WHOHECREATED

4. Discussion questions (pages 16 & 17):

1. *Name a time you served/volunteered and knew you were doing what you are made to do.*

2. *What exactly about that experience made it so rewarding for you? The task, the people, their response, the outcome?*
3. *Would you be more encouraged to serve if you had information on what God designed you to do?*

5. Play the short personal testimony video (5 minutes)

6. Briefly review the following list of volunteer opportunities from pages 18 and 19: Ask participants to name areas that appeal to them and/or areas they know aren't a good fit. Encourage them to discern *why* an opportunity is or isn't right for them.

7. Takeaway (say in your own words)

When we gain insight into ourselves, it spills over into all areas of our lives. How might understanding how you're made improve your work life and personal relationships?

PLACE is a tool to help you identify how God made you. This knowledge and understanding helps you identify where and how you fit into the body of Christ.

8. Invitation for next week video (1 min) *Pastor Mark Danzey discusses the next class, Connect to God. Let them know there is great theology in this class as we discuss God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Sin and Satan.*

9. Prayer

Instead of including a lesson devoted to how to pray, class leaders will model how to pray each week of Connect to Mount Pisgah. Before you close in prayer, briefly explain P.R.A.Y. method of prayer (praise, repent, ask and yield) and lead participants through this format.

PRAISE	Matthew 6:9	"Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.'"
REPENT	Matthew 6:12	"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."
ASK	Matthew 6:11&13	"Give us this day our daily bread." "And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]"
YIELD	Matthew 6:10	"Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven."

Then pray over them.

Example: *Father, we praise that you are powerful and good. You created this world and us all for YOUR purpose. Please forgive us when we look to other places for our significance or when we seek own glory. Please help us to seek and follow your purpose for our lives. We trust you and your ways.*