

# Personal Ministry Inventory

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*Do a quick inventory of the things in your life that God can employ in ministry.*

One of the greatest joys in life comes when we live out God's purpose for us. He has designed each of us like no other and His design is perfect for ministry. Perhaps that's why God seems to give us the entrepreneurial freedom to creatively apply our gifts and passions to ministry.

What could ministry look like if it's as distinct and unique as you are? We challenge you to do an inventory of the things in your life that God can employ in ministry. It could help you discover more about how God can employ "who you are" to minister to others "where they are."

## What Does Ministry Look Like?

Often, we have a tendency to believe that to be in ministry, we must be a pastor, missionary, musician or some other "typical" ministry vocation.

But, that's just not the case. God has created each of us uniquely to carry out the distinct ministry He's called us to. We can use our gifts, passions, hobbies and interests for the Kingdom.

What is unique about you that can be used for the Kingdom?

- What are your hobbies and/or recreational interests?

- Fly Fishing
- Cooking/Baking
- Running/Working out
- Skateboarding
- Gardening or lawn work
- Investing
- Traveling
- Motorcycling/Bicycling
- Knitting/Sewing
- Painting

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- What season of life are you in?

- Student
- Single Professional
- Early Married
- Parents of Young Children
- Parents of Teenagers
- Empty Nester
- Retired

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- What are your financial resources?

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- What are some life experiences you've had?

- Travel experiences
- Job experiences
- Relationship experiences
- Educational experiences

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- What are some painful life experiences?

- Cancer Survivor
- Loss of child or other family member
- Injury
- Spiritual Struggle
- Darknight of the Soul
- Loneliness

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- What are your spiritual gifts?

- Leadership
- Service
- Teaching
- Mercy

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- Do you have any special skills?

- Mechanical
- Hospitality
- Art
- Music
- Carpentry
- Writing

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## Where and When Does Ministry Happen?

Think about it for a second....ministry happens in the ordinary venues of life. Not only overseas, in a church or during a camp meeting.

Here are some examples:

- With our families
- At our church
- At work
- In our neighborhoods
  - Events
  - Blockparties
  - Our neighbors and their interests
- At school
  - Dorm
  - Locker
  - Classes
  - Student Union
- In our communities
  - Clubs
  - Civic Organizations
  - Parent-Teacher Organizations
  - Boards
  - Rescue Missions
  - Ministry Organizations
- <sup>s</sup>Along the Way<sup>9</sup>
  - Grocery Store
  - Restaurant
  - Bank
  - Gas Station
  - Post Office

Where are the ordinary venues in your life?

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## Stepping Outside Your Comfort Zone

Are you willing to take a step of faith, to go outside of your comfort zone, to minister for God simply because you love Him?

If you answered "yes" even a timid "yes" counts then here are a few examples of how you can step outside of your comfort zone:

- Going "out of your way" to reach others
- Putting yourself in unfamiliar places of outreach
- Using newly-developed gifts
- Changing locations or taking financial faith steps
- Serving in ways that seem "lowly"
- Serving in ways that cause you to sacrifice
- What are some other ideas you have?

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## Next Steps

Now that you've begun to identify what ministry can look like (your unique hobbies, interests and passions) and you know where and when ministry can take place (the ordinary venues in your life), here are some next steps to help you carry out your unique and distinct ministry.

- Look back at your inventory and see how your unique hobbies, interests and passions can be specifically applied to ministry in your life situations.
- Prayerfully ask God to give you opportunities for ministry.
- Take time to search scripture for verses about your gift.
- Read a book about your area of unique ministry.
- Talk to someone about your area of ministry.
- Make a list of the people and places that could benefit from your ministry.