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## PLACE PARTICIPANTS GUIDE USE IN DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

### What is PLACE?

PLACE is an intentional process to connect church members into purpose-driven ministry including self-discovery, individualized ministry coaching and tracking from workshop training to ministry placement. Through the PLACE process, people discover that God has created and gifted them with a unique capacity to serve others.

### Why PLACE Works?

PLACE is not just another church program. It is a process of self-discovery and service for all Christians. The PLACE workshop is not just another seminar that sends you home excited with no real practical tools. PLACE workshop training equips you with the knowledge, tools and power you need to transform your church.

What makes PLACE different and effective is our step-by-step implementation process and resources. Through the PLACE process, participants discover that God created them with unique personality, spiritual gifts, abilities, passions and experiences. Discovering God's purpose and plan for their lives helps members find their PLACE of service within the body of Christ. PLACE is a Biblically based and highly effective way of doing church. Watch PLACE video.

### Why is PLACE Important?

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. *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

**Ephesians 2:10, NIV**

Part of his purpose for us is to edify the church and to serve in its ministries. *...to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.*

**Ephesians 4:12, NIV**

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

Check it out at PLACE ministries: <https://www.placeministries.org>



### Benefits of PLACE:

- Mobilize the body of Christ.
- Encourage one another to serve.
- Identify how our discipleship group members can invest in others by looking at similar biblical characters.

### PLACE participant guide for discipleship groups:

- \$10 each. Order guide online from PLACE ministries or from DiscipleLife staff.
- Workbook is for class discussion, understanding results and moving into service.
- Appendix has the PLACE assessment and rich material to review.
- PLACE Leader Guide not that helpful. We can let you borrow one to get the "fill-ins" for the Participants Guide.

## When to use PLACE and review the results?

There is no wrong time:

- First year = great way to learn your group member's personalities and gifts. You can start encouraging them.
- Second Year = great way to increase serving together and get out of the classroom.
- Third Year = great way to use their results in the Great Commission.

Suggested 4-week plan based on the lesson Table of Contents for the Participants Guide.

1. Personality – week 1
2. Learning your gifts – week 2
3. Abilities (environment) – week 3
4. Connection Passions with Ministry – week 4
5. Experiences – week 4

## Assignment to Discipleship Group - Pre-work (before week 1)

- Take PLACE on paper in the back of the Participants Guide (see appendixes).
- Taking PLACE online at: <https://mountpisgah.org>
  - Search PLACE on MP website. Click on Place Assessment. Read and use the activation code to take the assessment. It takes about 90 minutes.
  - Tell discipleship group members when they take the test, they should think about their ministry/home life and not their work life. Our type of work may affect our personality and abilities. They will not like some of the answer choices to the place assessment questions, but they should choose anyway to rule out "who they are not".
- Ask them to print, bring 2 copies of results – one for the discipleship group leader and one for themselves
- Before coming to class read / review the following from the PLACE Participant Guide.
  - Read introduction on pages 2-3
  - Read Session 1 - and fill in blanks

## Week 1 Lesson Plan

- Review pages 64-72 on guide.
- 25 positives and 25 negatives on page 64 (tell them not to focus on the negative).
- Read and discuss CAUTION on bottom of page 66 (page 66 is not numbered but after 65).
- Discuss DISC lesson 1 pages 5-10.
- Which bible character are you most like?
- Which part in the drama/musical would you be?
- Assign homework:
  - Study pages 64-72 with their results
  - With results, ask them to complete Reflection and "So What?" on pages 9-10.
  - Read session 2 and fill in blank.

## Week 2 Lesson Plan

- Answer their questions and concerns about DISC.
- Review definitions on page 80-81.
- Discuss spiritual gifts lesson on pages 13-19.
- Review Spiritual Gifts Application on 4:19 website which shows cautions and application.
  - <http://419disciplemakers.org> (Search gifts)
- Assign homework:
  - Review and contemplate Spiritual Gifts Application.
  - Review DISC with gifts on pages 82-98.
  - With results, ask them to complete Reflection and "So What?" on pages 18-19.
  - Read lesson 3 and fill in blanks.

## Week 3 Lesson Plan

- Read Abilities definitions on page 104.
- Discuss Abilities lesson pages 21-34.
- Which biblical individual or group do you most relate to?
- Ask them to brainstorm environments in our Church for their abilities to thrive.
- Assign homework:
  - Review and contemplate abilities.
  - With results, ask them to complete Reflection and "So What?" on pages 33-34.
  - Read next session and fill in blanks.

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## Week 4 Lesson Plan

- Discuss both lessons on Passions and Experiences - pages 37-57.
- Help them see that their passions are given by God and experiences used for God.
- Notes pages 39, 40 and 54.
- Discuss places within the Church to serve areas of passion and experiences.
- Assign homework:
  - Review and contemplate abilities.
  - With results, ask them to complete Reflection and "So What?" on pages 45-46 and 56-57.

## Discipleship Leader Suggestions

- Pray for group members throughout the 4 weeks to discover their PLACE and move into service.
- Encourage them to try some new areas of service.
- Encourage group members in class – examples:
  - "Don't you hear the gift of mercy when Jan speaks?"
  - "Sarah your passion for the lonely is very apparent as you often find people unengaged and invite them to join you."
- Meet 1-1 to review PLACE results with Participants Guide's "So What?" pages. Use that time to help them get mobilized in ministry. Introduce and connect them to ministry leaders within the Church.
- Follow up periodically and ask them about their serving.
- Use PLACE results to find helpers within your discipleship group. For example:
  - Birthday Coordinator (gift of hospitality)
  - Social Activities Coordinator (gift of hospitality)
  - Service Projects Coordinator (gift of administration or gift of service)
  - Emails or admin task (gift of administration)
- Some people will try to hide behind their PLACE results saying they do not have the D or I personality to lead or the gift of teaching or shepherding to disciple others. But we are all called to disciple others. Encourage them through the PLACE participant guide's biblical characters that God uses all personalities to lead and will equip them even if they do not see it in their PLACE results yet.