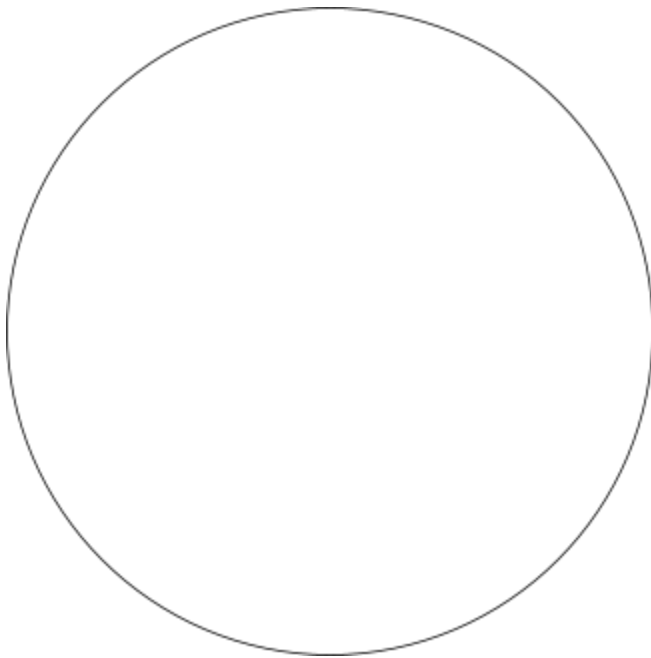


THE PIE AND THE PATHWAY

PART 1: THE PIE

How do you spend the hours in your week?

Make a pie chart representing a rough estimate about where you spend your weekly hours using the four categories: work, family, social time, extra time.



(It should look something like this)



Where on your chart do you categorize your work for Jesus?

Think about it this way: *Where on your chart do you work with Jesus towards His mission?*

Most likely, you answered the first question in the extra time space. But the second question probably made you think a little more. Did you find yourself asking, “Shouldn’t I be on mission with Jesus in my whole life?” Typically, we perceive our work for Jesus as our extra time. This idea is reiterated when non-profits ask, “Will you volunteer a few hours on Saturday?” and churches say, “Give up your Tuesday nights to lead a Bible Study,” “Join us for a city-wide serve day,” or “Go on a mission trip with us for a week.” Are you feeling the tension?

Sometimes people look at a pie chart of their hours spent during the week and think, “I want to do significant, spiritual work with more of my life. So I’m going to get a job that allows me to be on mission with Jesus in my work hours.”

But not everyone can do that.

Maybe we’re looking at the word “work” the wrong way.

Write down a thought or two about how you and society think about work?

Let’s take a look at how God views work.

The first thing we learn about God is found in Genesis 1:1 - *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

God is a creator and a worker. Other gods described at the time didn’t do work, so God is distinguishing Himself by saying He is a worker. It’s the first thing he tells us about himself.

Now let’s read Genesis 1:26-27 - *Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness...So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*

We've been created in God's image, which includes a lot of things, like we are made for relationships. But right now, we're focusing on work. If God is a creator and worker, and we are made in his image, that means He made us to be creators and workers.

We know this is true because God actually gives us a job description in Genesis 1:28-30. He says, "*Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion.*" It's a job description, and all job descriptions lead to outcomes.

God describes His completed project in Revelation 21:1-4 and in more detail in Isaiah 65:17-25. Take a moment to look up those verses.

What's our job description, and what are we working towards? Write down a few things that stand out to you:

We start in Genesis with a garden, but Isaiah and Revelation are describing a city, Shalom City, the New Jerusalem. It takes a whole lot of work to go from a garden to a city. So not only are we created to work, but we've actually been given a mandate to work toward this Shalom City.

Shalom means universal flourishing, wholeness and peace. It's when all creation, humanity, and God delight in one another. Simply put, it's the way things are supposed to be. So, Shalom City is what humanity is made for and what God works toward.

So, how do you fit in this story? Let's go through Ephesians backwards.

Ephesians 4:11-12 - Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the shepherds and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry.

This might change your perspective about the job of your church's staff. They're supposed to equip the congregation for ministry. In other words, they're responsible to teach YOU to do ministry. The majority of the spiritual work should be happening through the congregation, not with the church staff. Ministry, or spiritual work, simply means service to God and service to others. What is this work we're supposed to be doing?

Ephesians 2:10 - For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

God has given us good works to do, and surely he wants us to do them to the best of our ability. But what is the direction and intended impact of those good works?

Ephesians 1:9-10 - Making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

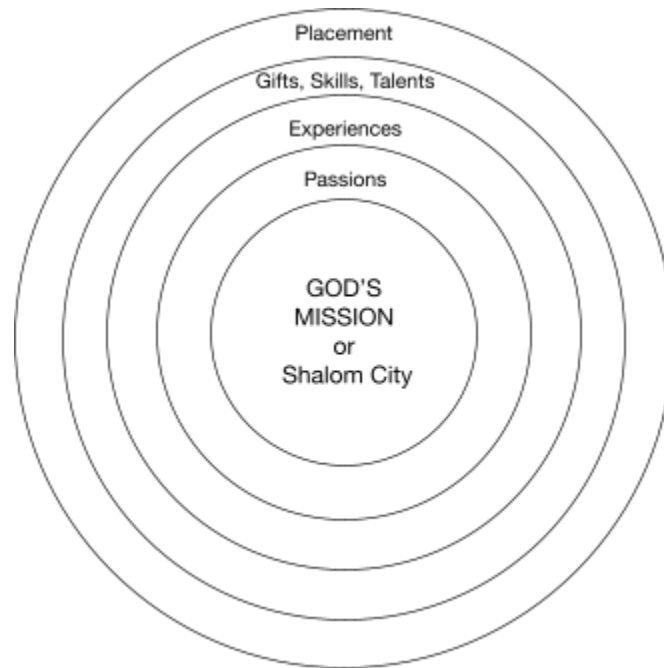
We often say church staff are the people in ministry, but Ephesians says they equip us to do ministry. Ministry is the kind of work that helps bring some aspect of heaven into reality on earth - in other words, Shalom City.

Let's pause for a second and let you think about your role according to Ephesians. If you don't work in a church, what role have you been given? What kind of ministry are you doing? Education ministry, health care ministry, or maybe plumbing ministry? If you work in a church, what's your role? How are you specifically equipping the people in your church to do the work of ministry? Write down your perspective of the role of the church staff vs. congregation.

PART 2: THE PATHWAY

Hopefully now you're at a point where you understand that God wants you to join Him in His mission to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to earth. But you might still be in a place where you don't know exactly how He wants you, specifically, to do that. How can we be on mission in our whole lives, not just our extra time?

We're going to create a target specifically designed for you, but the center should be the same for everyone - we're all aiming for God's Mission. Let's start there and work our way out.



The first inner ring represents your **passions**. The things you really enjoy, or the things that bring you a “holy discontent.” Another way of putting it would be, what gets you out of bed in the morning, and what keeps you up at night? Write your answers below:

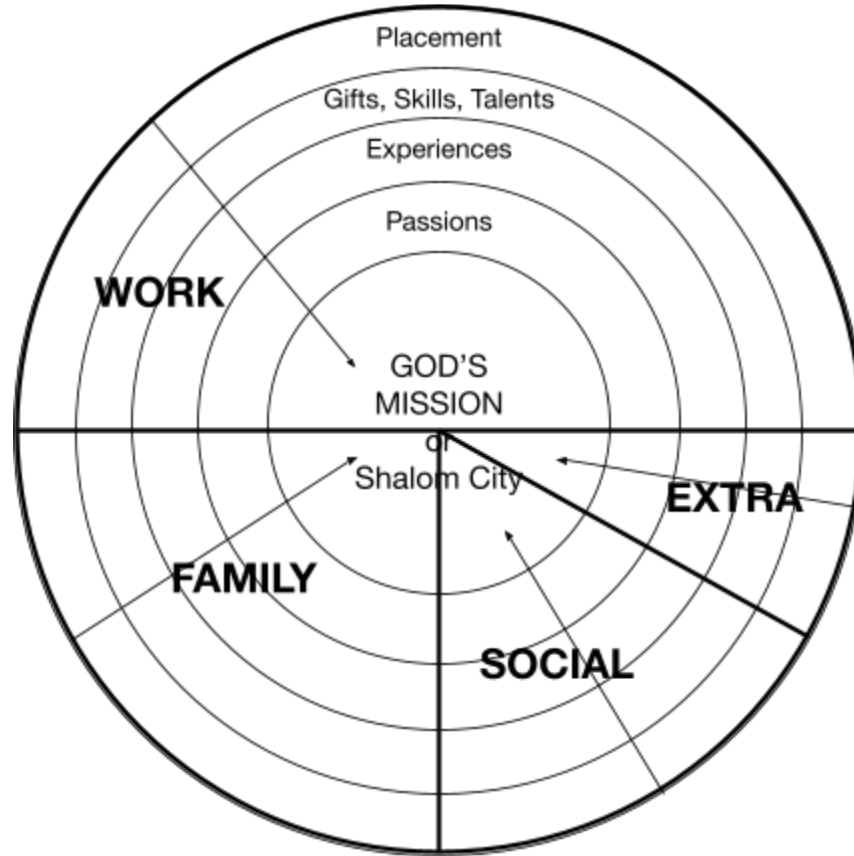
The second ring represents your **experiences**. What positive and/or negative things have you experienced that have shaped your sense of identity and purpose. They may be unique to you, like certain jobs, schools, friendships, trips, etc.

The third ring represents your **gifts, skills, and talents**. What are you good at? What have people acknowledged about you? Maybe it's something you've developed, or something you're naturally gifted in. You could ask a close friend or family member to help you answer this one.

The last circle represents your **placement**. Acts 17:26 says, *From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries.*

This makes our placement in history and our own neighborhood pretty significant! God knew and even chose when and where you would live. Write out where you're placed. Think beyond time and location: What generation are you in? What city do you live in? What neighborhood? Where do you work? What family were you placed in?

Once you have all those written out, we want to help you see your whole life working towards the target by placing your life pie on top of your pathway. On the next page, draw an arrow starting at the placement circle toward the inner circle of God's mission for each area of your life.



Now, hopefully you can see how you can use your placement, gifts, skills, experiences, and passions to point towards God's mission in every area of your life.

Use the Pie and the Pathway as a tool for imagining how you can be on mission with Jesus in your whole life in the unique way God has made you. He's set aside good work for you to do with great purpose in every area of your life.

Take a few minutes right now, or over the next couple of days to write out some ideas how you, in light of what you wrote out for each ring of the target, can point towards God's Mission in each area of your life.

Understanding your placement, skills, experiences, and passions, in what ways can you envision bringing heaven to earth in each area?

Work

Family

Social

Extra
