



REBECCA GEORGE

AN INTERACTIVE BOOK
WITH SIX SESSIONS
OF VIDEO INCLUDED

DO THE THING

GOSPEL-CENTERED GOALS,
GUMPTION, AND GRACE
FOR THE GO-GETTER GIRL

FOREWORD BY MICHELLE MYERS

REBECCA GEORGE

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Books for Courageous Women
from David C Cook

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Chapter 1

HEAVEN ON OUR HEARTS

A few years ago, as I trained for the St. Jude Memphis Marathon, I had some big goals in mind. I was hoping to beat my personal record of 4:25 and run the 26.2-mile course in under four hours. Fighting the extreme heat and humidity, I ran stride for stride with my best running buddy, Kristi—until around mile 12. At that point, her gait remained smooth as she focused on finishing strong. Despite my best efforts, she eventually pulled ahead of me, and I had to face the hard truth that I was *not* going to meet my desired time.

As partners, Kristi and I had agreed that we would never hold each other back, so I cheered for her as my own goal slipped through my hands.

By mile 13, I had already passed through the St. Jude campus, where patients and their families lined the streets to encourage the runners. I cried (I always do!) and pushed through what I *thought* would be the most emotional part of the race. But as I entered the last 10K, God did something special.

With heat exhaustion and personal frustration setting in, I was tempted to call it quits. Then, as I approached a downtown bridge, a little girl in a wheelchair caught my attention. Perhaps reading my name on my bib, she and her family started cheering, “Go, Rebecca. Go!” Their voices lifted my spirits and,

suddenly, I could breathe easier. But it wasn't just their cheers that inspired me. This girl was holding a sign that read: "The same power that raised Jesus from the grave is living inside you. YOU CAN DO THIS!"

**If we actively partner with God, He
will empower us by His strength
to serve Him and love others.**

Tears streamed down my face as I was reminded that the Holy Spirit was alive *inside me*. Did I still have to do the hard work of putting one foot in front of the other to reach the finish line? You bet. However, for the remaining 6.2 miles, the words on her sign echoed in my mind, fueling me forward until I collapsed into Kristi's arms. (She had finished about five minutes before me.)

Isn't that race experience like our walk with Jesus? We get weary. Something happens to remind us that He is sufficient and that we simply cannot do anything without Him. Then, once we remember the Divine is taking up residence inside us and we are never alone, we hold tight to our faith and finish the work we are called to do.

For me, running a marathon is always a great reminder that I have limits and God does not. In endurance running, we don't race the clock. We race the distance. In other words, it's not the time that crushes us mentally, physically, and emotionally; it's the number of miles we must endure to cross the finish line.

Like a marathon, a spiritual journey is a long game. No matter how defeated we may feel, we have to keep putting one foot in front of the other and never give up.

You might be feeling like you don't have what it takes to start that business, train for that triathlon, or lead that small group. The simple truth is this: you don't. But in Christ, you DO! That's the secret. If we actively partner with God, He will empower us by His strength to serve Him and love others (see Rom. 8:11).

I tell you all this not to suggest you go sign up for a marathon (although I'd love for everyone to experience the thrill of crossing that finish line). Rather, I tell you this story because, as you dare to do the thing God is calling you to do, you may have moments of exhaustion and personal frustration along the way. You may even have moments when you want to call it quits. In those difficult stretches, I hope you'll picture me cheering you forward, shouting "Go, friend. Go!" Page by page, I'll be right here by your side, holding up a sign that reads: "The same power that raised Jesus from the grave is living inside you. YOU CAN DO THIS!"

Find Your Foundation

Since we're talking about marathons, something else I've learned as a long-distance runner is that I need to wear the right shoes in the race. And because I'm not trained as a cross-country runner, it also helps for me to run on a solid surface rather than a rugged trail. Likewise, to move forward in our spiritual journeys, we must start with the right foundation.

Are you familiar with the bestselling novel *Redeeming Love* by Francine Rivers? If so, you may remember that the first fifty pages (!) make up the prologue. I confess, I nervously wondered if I would ever get through that first chunk of *Redeeming Love*. But had I skipped the prologue, I would have missed the fullness of the story that Francine so beautifully penned for us.

Recently I was honored to interview Francine for my podcast (a dream!). During the conversation, she shared that she hoped readers would not skip the prologue in her novel, for it is vital to understanding the rest of the book. In other words, if readers didn't anchor themselves firmly to that foundation first, the rest of the story wouldn't make much sense.

The same is true for us in life. We must begin with seeing ourselves as God (our Author) sees us. Only then will we understand the full journey He has called us to take.

A Kingdom Perspective

Although we each carry out different jobs here on earth, God created us all to glorify Him through worship and through our work. While that may sound simple, this mission may prove difficult at times.

Why?

Because we live in a fallen world.

As Christians, we long for Eden, for the return of what this world was designed to be: faithful people living in perfect fellowship and communion with our Creator. This fellowship was broken as soon as Adam and Eve partook of the forbidden fruit, shame entered the picture, and "fig-leaf religion" (as A. W. Tozer called it) came on the scene. In his book, *The Purpose of Man*, Tozer writes, Adam and Eve "lost the focus of their inward beauty and purpose, and no longer satisfied the criteria of fellowship with their Creator."¹

Adam and Eve's story teaches us that we can't afford to lose our focus on our inward beauty and God-given purpose. Nor can we lose fellowship with our Creator.

In my early twenties, I was waiting on a lot of dreams to come true. I believed God had gifted me to write and to speak, but was discipling a group of college

girls in my living room enough? I believed He wanted me to be a wife, but were any of my dates ever going to lead me to the right husband? I cared deeply about being a good friend, but how many bridal showers and engagement parties could I plan for everyone else while my dates kept resulting in dead ends?

Feeling weary, I sat in church one morning desperately needing a dose of hope. Loneliness and self-doubt cut deep that day. Then we sang “King of My Heart.”

*Let the King of my heart be
The mountain where I run
The fountain I drink from ...
He is my song.²*

As the chorus swelled, I began to doubt the message: “You’re never gonna let me down.” I began praying and telling God how I really felt: *let down* by my life circumstances. That’s when the Holy Spirit spoke to me and asked, “Rebecca, who do you know that I am?”

I mentally began listing off everything I knew to be true about God: He is sufficient, all-knowing, faithful, omnipresent, a provider, a sustainer, a deliverer ...

And you know what I realized? These aspects of His character were truer than true and could never be compromised. While life might have let me down in that season, God had not. Suddenly, 2 Timothy 2:13 had a whole new meaning for me: “If we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.” In other words, God’s faithfulness didn’t hinge on my ability to notice it in that season of disappointment.

Because of the brokenness we experience in this world, it’s easy to become discouraged, burned out, and even cynical about the path we’ve been given. When we lose sight of eternity, we can end up chasing quick wins and temporal

rewards. Whether we find short bursts of relief from shopping, skydiving, exercising, or the like, those dopamine hits will soon fade, leaving us looking for our next easy “high.”

But with *heaven on our hearts*, we can lay aside the temporary for the eternal.

Hebrews 12:1–2 reminds us to “lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.” As directed in these verses, we must make a daily choice to surrender to the obedience of Christ as we pursue the tasks He has placed before us.

Knowing I am made to worship a sufficient and all-knowing God, I want to make choices in alignment with what I know to be true about Him. Perhaps you’ve lost sight of God’s character in your current season. Maybe you *have* taken steps to do the thing, but you haven’t quite seen the progress you anticipated.

If you came to this chapter feeling weary today, as if life has let *you* down, remember that God’s character remains, always. And He is bringing everything together for your good ... in His divine timing.

You Have a Helper

One risk as a runner is that you can get a little too excited, a little too self-confident, and charge ahead on all cylinders right out of the gate. Needless to say, that kind of *overstriving* can lead to burning out before you ever reach the goal. The same can be said about the work God has called us to do. We may embark on that “race” with great magnitude, believing that if we can just work hard enough, run fast enough, hustle long enough, then we can do the thing and give God all the glory.

The problem is that we learned this way of thinking from the world, not from Him.

We cannot accomplish God's will for our lives by ourselves, no matter how much we strive. That's a rat race we were never created to run. The truth is, we don't have to work harder, run faster, or hustle longer to give God all the glory (nor do we do any of these things to earn His love). Rather, we move forward at the healthy pace He designed us to move at and stay the course. Jesus promises the Holy Spirit as a "Helper" who will empower us as we share the gospel with others (John 15:26).

**You have His power coursing through
your veins, filling in the cracks of your
weaknesses so that He may be glorified.**

Maybe you own a small business and can honor God by the way you treat your customers. Perhaps you are a ministry leader fully relying on God as you prepare to speak at a conference. Or you may be a stay-at-home mom feeling led to tutor in your few minutes of spare time.

I don't know your story, but I do know that as a follower of Jesus, you have a helper in the Holy Spirit. You have His power coursing through your veins, filling in the cracks of your weaknesses so that He may be glorified.

Some people resist a deep dependence on God because that kind of surrender means admitting weakness. It can be scary to admit our own limitations. But personally, I shudder at the thought of a life without the power of Christ guiding my work. Your greatest ideas, your most brilliant endeavors, will be a by-product of you partnering with the King of the Universe.

As Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 12:9–10, "[God] said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore, I

will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

The more aware I am of my weaknesses, the more awake I am to God’s power in my life. If we could all become better “weakness braggers,” then I think we could all live with a deeper dependence on Christ in our everyday lives.

Flip the Lights On

After I graduated from the University of Tennessee, I scored my first “big girl” job—an HR role that was a little bit of a catchall. On any given day I could be leading a new-hire orientation, completing verifications of employment, or conducting interviews. At twenty-two years old, I had figured out that I loved serving people. But I didn’t quite know how to balance my deep love for Jesus with the gifts and talents I was beginning to see develop in my life. Even then I was a little too opinionated and spunky for ministry (as it had been modeled for me), and I really, really, really liked Shania Twain’s music. Do you see the dichotomy here? I wanted something more than corporate America, but I also felt I didn’t fit the mold of “ministry leader” as I knew it. (The irony that I went on to marry a pastor is not lost on me.)

I loved encouraging others, especially women, and I was beginning to recognize my gifts for writing, speaking, and leading. But I had no idea how I was supposed to use those passions to serve God.

Can you relate?

I desperately wanted to find the assignment God had for me. Little did I know, I was exactly where He wanted me to be. I failed to see that I could make God known through the ordinary moments of my normal routine.

How often do we walk right past the doors God puts before us? Maybe you don't like grading papers as a teacher. But by investing in the hearts of children, you could be changing the course of their eternity. Or perhaps you don't like the administrative paperwork you must complete for a specific project. But what if that paperwork could earn the grant needed to put your faith in action for people in need?

I've found that God uses my gifts in many different spheres of my life. It's okay (actually, it's amazing!) to find ways to use your gifts outside the local church. We must look outside ourselves to see ways we can serve where we are, here and now.

Perhaps Martin Luther King Jr. said it best:

And when you discover what you will be in your life, set out to do it as if God Almighty called you at this particular moment in history to do it. Don't just set out to do a good job. Set out to do such a good job that the living, the dead or the unborn couldn't do it any better.

If it falls your lot to be a street sweeper, sweep streets like Michelangelo painted pictures, sweep streets like Beethoven composed music, sweep streets like Leontyne Price sings before the Metropolitan Opera. Sweep streets like Shakespeare wrote poetry. Sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will have to pause and say: Here lived a great street sweeper who swept his job well.³

When that light switch of understanding is turned on, the connection between our gifts and His glory is made. As 1 Peter 4:10 says, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

Keep your eyes up, sister. And sweep those streets with joy on your face, knowing you're working from a kingdom mindset with a deep dependence on the One who set you free.

Are you ready to flip on your light switch?

The Lampstand

One night as I brought macaroni to a boil over the stove, my husband, Dustin (who by now you know is a pastor), shared an analogy about how we can each think of ourselves as an oil lamp, usable by God when we surrender our desires to His will.

As you know, when it is lit, the wick in a lamp gives light to the area surrounding it. The wick, Dustin explained, represents our gifts and talents. Each of us has been given our own unique skills (or wicks). Some wicks are longer than others. Some are wider than others. Some burn faster than others. Some are more frayed than others. But they all serve the same purpose: to shine God's light into the darkness.

Still, the wick cannot burn without oil.

In Scripture, oil is often used to symbolize the Holy Spirit. Just as the oil in a lamp must be refilled, our spiritual "oil" must be replenished by walking in step with Christ, communing with God in prayer, and reading His Word daily.

Inspired by Dustin's perspective, I set the wooden spoon down on the stove. "Wow!" I said, "I've never thought about my life as a believer in that way!"

Later, as I was reading my Bible, I continued to unravel this theme of the oil lamp. In the Old Testament, the Lord instructed Moses on how to care for the lamps in the tabernacle, God's dwelling place. If we take a deeper look at God's words in Leviticus 24, we can apply those same instructions to our lives today:

Command the people of Israel to bring you pure oil from beaten olives for the lamp, that a light may be kept burning regularly. Outside the veil of the testimony, in the tent of meeting, Aaron shall arrange it from evening to morning before the LORD regularly. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations. He shall arrange the lamps on the lampstand of pure gold before the LORD regularly. (vv. 2–4)

It's important to realize that these lamps were the light source inside the tabernacle. They were the very means by which people could experience the presence of God. Therefore, it was crucial to keep the oil replenished and the wicks trimmed so the light could continue to shine.

Why does this matter to us, now that Christ has been resurrected, enabling our bodies to serve as God's temple? What can we possibly learn from how the Israelites tended the lamps of the tabernacle?

Again, it's important to realize that oil is used a symbol of the Holy Spirit's presence. Though the Holy Spirit lives within us, we must keep the "oil" replenished if we hope to keep the Holy Spirit at the center of our lives.

The wicks of our lamps also need to be trimmed if we want God's light to continue shining through us. God accomplishes this by bringing us through trials, crossing our paths with various people, and even letting us experience deep suffering or loss in order that we might become more sanctified in the image of Jesus Christ. This can be a very painful process, but as followers of Jesus, we are not promised freedom from pain. *Quite the opposite*. Jesus promises us that we will experience sorrows, but He also reminds us that even our pain has a purpose.

Three times in Leviticus, we are told the lamps are to be tended to "regularly" or "continually." The same goes for us today.

It's important to recognize that when we burn the candle at both ends, striving for success or accolades or approval, we will quickly burn out and our oil will run dry. By keeping the Holy Spirit as our guide and allowing God to "trim" our lives to His will, we can serve as His vessels and allow the Light of the World to shine through us.

Who Cares?

I often coach other creatives who are hoping to begin a podcast or ministry that God has laid on their hearts. Recently our youth pastor, Kreig, came to me about a podcast idea that had been swirling around in his head. He nervously played with a straw wrapper on the table as he told me how he wanted to honor the important ministry leaders in his life. "I want their stories to be told," he said. "I know they'll never write books, but they are doing amazing things to further the gospel. I've learned so much from them, and I think others would too."

After going around and around with him about different ideas and strategies, I finally said, "Kreig, I think there's something you need to establish before you hit Record. Figure out how this project matters to you, how it matters to God, and how it's going to matter to other people."

Have you been wrestling with a big idea and don't know what to do next? If so, I offer the same advice.

First, discover why this project matters to you. That fire you feel deep inside is God-given. All you have to do is lean into those desires and discover how you can use that passion to further the kingdom.

Second, discover why this project matters to God. Remember, He has gone before you in this next season, and your calling was His idea long before you were

even born. Praying and seeking His glory ensures that your work will honor Him and further the message of the gospel. This is how good ideas become great ideas.

Third, discover why it matters to other people. Some business ideas fail simply because they don't have their end consumer in mind. Blockbuster eventually tanked because technology advanced far beyond its vision of the future. After years of success, Toys“R”Us flopped due to the growth of online retailers, which made it easier for customers to shop without needing to visit a brick-and-mortar store. We must ensure we're cultivating an idea that serves the specific needs of the people we are trying to reach, and we must be willing to shift that service appropriately as their needs change over time.

Glory Goals

As A. W. Tozer wrote in *The Purpose of Man*, our purpose is “that we might worship God and enjoy Him forever.”⁴ God's glory should be our ultimate aim. Our pursuits should be an act of worship. The way we love others should give evidence of our surrender to Christ. The tasks we pour ourselves into should be done with such care, responsibility, and grace that they make a nonbeliever stop and wonder who we're living for.

In a recent worship service, before my husband stood to preach, we sang “Evermore,” a very popular song by Jason Breland. I had been writing this chapter, and the lyrics led me to pray that you, too, could enjoy God through worshipping Him. As you think about what God is whispering in your heart, I encourage you to pray these words:

*Evermore I will love You, evermore I will serve You
Evermore I will glorify the name of the Lord*

*Evermore I'll adore You, evermore bow before You
I will bless Your name forevermore.⁵*

I think we all can become overwhelmed by the idea of a “purpose” or “calling.” We’re sent mixed messages by the world as to what “success” means (and how to achieve it). It’s easy to become so focused on the negatives that we become paralyzed by fear (another clever ploy of the Enemy).

That’s why we’re going to change up our language to gain a clearer picture of where God is leading each of us. Let’s start by calling this “thing” our *glory goal*.

What do I mean by a glory goal? A **glory goal** is our attempt to clearly communicate our faith through our actions: “This is how I am using my gifts and talents to advance the kingdom and bring God glory.” It is the God-given assignment that will allow us to further the gospel and make disciples along the way.

Your glory goal might seem small, or it might seem larger than life. No matter what it is, your glory goal will require surrender. As you move to a complete dependence on God and walk in step with the Holy Spirit, you’ll develop a “more of Him, less of me” mentality, remembering the declaration: “You have the same power that raised Jesus from the grave living inside you. YOU CAN DO THIS.”

When we live in this truth, we are able to work from a place of gospel-centered, here-to-worship-God purpose. *This* is where glory goals are born.

Discovering Your Thing

What were you made for? This is one of the most important questions you’ll ever answer about your life. Perhaps your path is unclear and you’re wondering,

Well, what does this “do the thing” idea really look like in my life? What is my glory goal?

To answer these questions, I encourage you to think about where you are naturally gifted. For example, while some people may find organizing closets stressful, you might find it therapeutic. If so, maybe God has gifted you with organizational skills. Perhaps you have a knack for tackling spreadsheets or tracking your family’s budget and finances. Maybe planning busy schedules, leading meetings, or managing travel is your thing.

Whether it’s sewing, baking, cleaning, or couponing, your interests and passions can be considered sacred work, especially when you use your talents not to gain praise from others but to shout praises in adoration of the King.

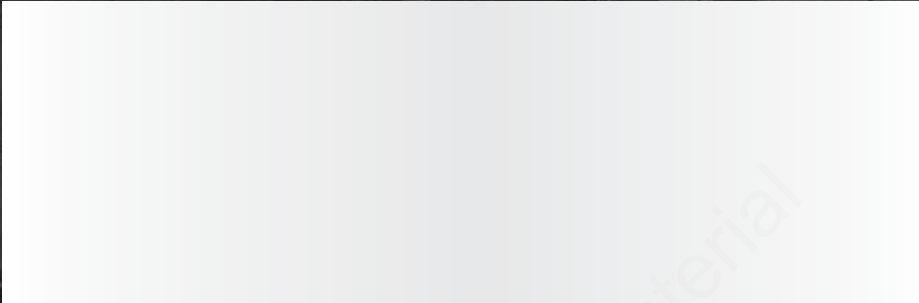
It might take some prayer and thought to discover your God-given talent, but this important discovery will give you clarity as you move forward.

Prayer Prompts


Use these prayer prompts to help you pray and journal about what God is revealing to you in this chapter.

God, will You help me:

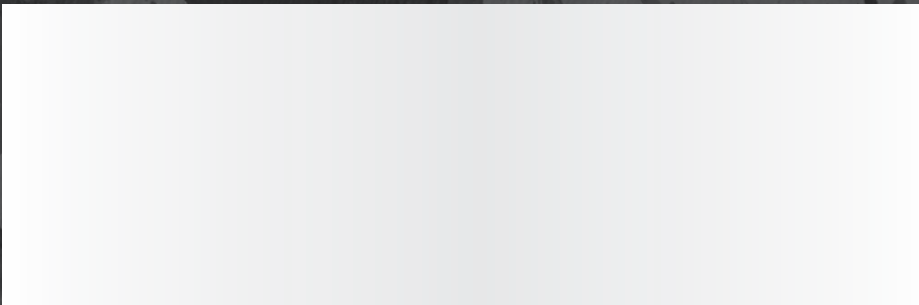
- see how I can use my gifts and talents to honor You in this season



- determine what my glory goal might be



- live like the Holy Spirit is taking up residence inside me



FOR THE GO-GETTER GIRL

SCRIPTURE FOR REFLECTION

- 2 Corinthians 12:1–10
- Ephesians 2:1–10
- Hebrews 12:1–2

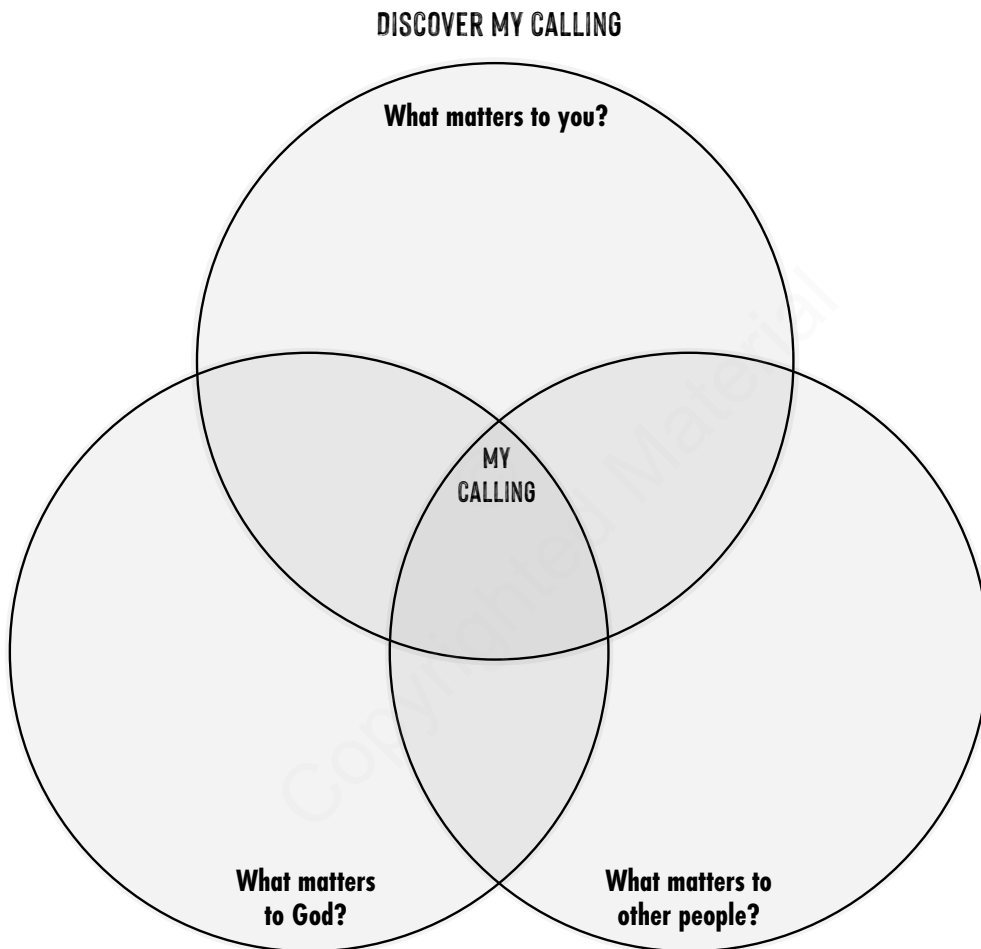
GOALS

Remember creating Venn diagrams in school? Typically, these are used to chart similarities and differences between certain things. Let's use this compare-contrast technique to help you discover your calling. Here's a quick personal example.

DISCOVER MY CALLING



Using the **Discover My Calling Venn Diagram** that follows, let's chart the intersection of what matters to *you*, what matters to *God*, and what matters to *other people*.



GUMPTION

- What does the analogy of the oil lamp teach us about our need to partner with God?

GRACE

- As a follower of Jesus Christ, you are not dependent on your own strength. You have the same power that raised Jesus from the grave living inside you. What would it look like to rely on God's power in you when you're feeling weak?

DO THE THING MANIFESTO

Review our manifesto statement for chapter 1. Depending on your learning style, you may want to write it down, share it with a friend, or read the words aloud.

I am a go-getter girl for the kingdom of God. I seek to make Jesus Christ known through my work and to live in dependence on Him as I use my gifts and talents.