

Redemptive Gift Teaching Unit

Lesson 1

Introduction

Objective: To introduce students to the concept of God's design not being limited to our physical world, but including our unique personalities and potential through redemptive gifts: a particular set of characteristics we are born with.

The study will include the characteristics of the gifts and studies of individuals with those gifts. It will also show ways the seven gifts appear throughout the Bible and how each is aligned with one of the seven pillars of wisdom

1. Begin your introduction with a discussion about gifts (such as birthday gifts) in general and discuss their significance in our lives. What is special about receiving gifts at birthdays or Christmas or "just because." What is the meaning of gifts?
2. Why do we give gifts to others? What sort of gifts are most cherished?
3. Do gifts which come from special people matter more?
4. Does God give gifts? What kind? (The discussion could range from beauty on earth, to water and food, to air, or enter the range of special abilities, peace or even spiritual gifts.)
5. What if we discovered that God gives each of us a special gift when we are created that we bring into the world which causes us to have a certain way of looking at life that is part of a pattern of his creation?
6. Would that be impossible for God?

7. Do you have siblings? Are each of you different from the other in the way you react, figure things out, see things, abilities, and so on? Why? You have the same mother and father.

8. Does God put clues in the universe so that we might discover who he is? (All of creation declares His glory.)

Give examples: the stars declare Him: Psalms 19

9. Would it be impossible for God to design mankind himself as a way of our learning who He is? Can anyone think of ways He might do that? (Answers could be our intelligence, our ability to make discoveries about creation, our emotions, our desire for fairness or to do good, and so on.)

10. For the final part of the lesson today, have the students design a person. They can choose from a list of characteristics they are given or devise their own. It is not a super hero with super powers, but a person. They might divide into groups to do their “design,” but it is meant to help them realize that believable characters have characteristics that “go together.” They could describe their “person” to the class and check for believability.

Some of the characteristics they might use to choose among are as follows:

quiet, flamboyant, intelligent, argumentative, shy, intense, arrogant

diplomatic, strong willed, good follower, helpful, leader, likes to be in charge

charming, challenging, careful, cunning, champion of the underdog, bully

risk taker, relaxed, rambunctious, recluse, rigid, studious,

sensitive, sincere, somber, social, soft spoken, serious, creative, competent,

Lesson 2

Redemptive gifts

1. Yesterday's discussion was about gifts and today the class is going to talk about the gift of design that God the Father gave each of us: our redemptive gift.
2. Why are they called "redemptive" gifts? What does it mean "to redeem"? Some people call them motivational gifts, but we like the term "redemptive," because we believe they are part of the way the Father chose to redeem us.
3. A redemptive gift is a design which comes from Father God and is meant to let us experience an aspect of God's nature. He is a clue giver to His own creation and our own personalities are part of a plan to lead us to Him and an indicator of our destinies.
4. Although we know that God has every right to be the judge of us all, in a **prophet** sense, we also are grateful that He sometimes serves us by meeting our needs, or by the ultimate expression of servanthood, dying for us. He teaches us, and encourages us, and has dominion over the earth. He is our provider and our strong protector, and His mercy endures forever. It is every aspect of God that we adore, and in ourselves, His creation, we are like aspects of His nature. He is perfect in His spirit, and He demonstrates all of the gifts of **prophet, servant, teacher, exhorter, giver, ruler, and mercy.**
5. Read scripture to show that God hid clues in His creation.
6. These gifts are listed in Romans 12: 6-8. Read those verses.

There are seven. Each of us is given a primary one at birth.

They are as follows, and the order is important.

Prophet

Servant

Teacher

Exhorter

Giver

Ruler

Mercy

7. They are recognizable because they have certain ways they behave. Everyone was designed with one of these as the primary way they view things, although we are to grow in all aspects. In other words, our gift may be Ruler and we are often the one who is in charge and pushing to complete the task, but it doesn't mean that we should not give or serve, or show mercy. It is just that our strongest motivation will be that of ruler, but we recognize the need for all seven.

8. Put the following names on the board and discuss characteristics of these people:

Peter, Joseph the carpenter, Luke, Paul, Abraham, King Solomon, David.

9. Underneath each name, write the person's characteristics in a column

Have the class brainstorm characteristics about each one, or either tell their stories and have the class brainstorm afterwards. If you want to go to scripture and study these seven it would be thorough, and it would take awhile. Decide how much time you have for the study. The quickest way would be your telling the seven stories in such a way that who these people are becomes apparent in how they reacted to certain situations and their personality traits we glean from watching them. Students will have to think in abstract ways to decipher characteristics from action, but that is the whole study of our gifts, so lay a foundation on thinking in this way.

Your first character, prophet, is **Peter**. Peter followed Jesus abruptly, walked on water, was first to realize that Jesus was the Son of God, cut off a guard's ear, betrayed Jesus, preached at Pentecost.

Your list might include: Rash, brave, outspoken, daring, confrontational, lost hope but got it back, full of faith, powerful, able to stand alone, able to interpret or “get” what God was saying, impulsive, not always right, transformed through trials

Next, servant, Joseph who was Mary's husband

His characteristics might be:

able to leave everything in order to serve another person, loyal, able to endure embarrassment and not change course, didn't have a personal agenda, humble, able to obey and surrender to God's will

Next tell the story of Luke, the apostle. Have someone read Luke 2: 1-7. What do they notice about these passages? They are full of facts and description. There is lots of detail, it is linear in structure, and it establishes the truth based in time. What was Luke's profession? He gives a very clear series of facts as he sets his foundation.

Characteristics might also be intelligent, logical, set the stage with references to time and events, precise, concerned that his story could be validated

4. Tell the story or ask students to tell the story of **Paul the apostle**. Summarize his life's work; letters to the churches; establishing the churches and so on: his personality: he sang in jail, he argued with whole nations converting them through persuasion, he was great with words, he kept his cool when he stood before a King.

List his characteristics: able to relate to everyone, a great preacher, a good writer, good evangelist, able to argue win the argument, able to keep the church from going back under the law but staying in grace, able to win over nations to Christianity, his “truth” still helps the church today to stay on track

5. **Discuss Abraham and how God blessed him.** God chose him to start a nation and to bless him. He lives his life in abundance, making others envious of His God and the relationship he has with him

able to follow God without understanding everything about Him, wealthy, able to raise an army of his own to rescue Lot, able to understand giving, willing to sacrifice Issac, not always right, (as in giving Sarah, his wife, to be a concubine to the King,) multiplied everything he touched, others saw him as “blessed” and revered his God because of it; father of a nation, his family became a nation

6. **Solomon** was a ruler. He expanded the kingdom and built the temple. He built extravagantly. He was wise, a writer, and a builder, but he finished his life in futility, questioning everything. He had not built a structure that gave him fulfillment. He was so famous that people sought him out, and he might have evangelized the whole world to faith in his God. He built and built and built, but in the end, he failed to accomplish something that fulfilled him, even though his was the greatest temple and he was the wisest man. What does this say about rulers? Their potential is huge, but even they, despite their wisdom can fall short.

He was powerful, wise, strong, able to build, famous, sought after, had many accomplishments in his life; he obviously had people under his authority able to build what he required, powerful, admired, the leader of Israel

7. **David** the psalmist and king: He faced a giant as a boy because he could not bear to have Israel’s God mocked, played his harp for Saul to comfort him when he was almost mad, was a friend of Jonathan, became King, married Bathsheba after he had her husband killed, raised armies, conquered kingdoms, brought back the ark, worshipped God

He was a writer, worshipper, warrior, poet, sensitive, emotional, a man who sought God with his heart, didn’t care what others thought about his worship, made decisions based on his heart, although sometimes they were costly ones made because of emotion, not wisdom.

7. David the psalmist.

artistic, sensitive, compassionate toward Saul, musical, emotional, led by his heart and his emotions, warrior, writer, song writer, worshipper, understood the heart of God, intimate with God

After you have written the seven sets of characteristics, write the 7 redemptive gifts above each name. Have the students copy this in their notebooks so they can refer to their lists later.

These will be their “prototypes” to refer back to when they need to. These are complex models, as is every person. Each one of these had parents, experiences, trauma, hard circumstances and so on. But each of these seven is also like every person born since them. We are all primarily like one of them. Our quest will be to discover which one by looking at this through different angles.

Now discuss how one could not have done what the other one was able to do. Joseph, the carpenter was perfectly suited to his job, but he would not have been able to impress the world as Solomon did. Would Peter have made a good husband for Mary? Would Solomon have preached to the whole world like Paul. Could Peter have gone to the Gentiles like Paul did?

When we envy another person's personality, it is because we don't know who we are and what we are meant to be. As the saying goes, “Be yourself; everyone else is taken.”

Maybe we admire the outgoing people, and we are more introverted and studious. It is a waste of time. We all need to grow in all seven gifts as much as we are able, but we will not change our basic motivation. It is liberating to know that, and that each of us has a purpose according to our design and that is the key to fulfillment. We don't have to wander through life wondering who we are and where we are going waiting for someone to give us an award to prove we are on the right track.

There is one of these 7 gifts that we will discover is our own personality and it is where the key to our fulfillment lies.

Lesson 3

Design vs. Function

Good design is about both form and function. A chair might have overstuffed arms, no arms, slender wooden arms and so on. It might be silk or linen and be beige or bright orange. That is design, but function is about how comfortable it is, how it feels when we use it as a chair. Some chairs are far more about design than function, in that they may look interesting, but of no earthly good as far as sitting is concerned. The most comfortable chair can look worn.

So when God chooses people, He knows their design. He assigns their tasks, their set of problems he designed them to solve, according to their design. The design is form; the task is function. We want both.

1. This will be a good time to differentiate between the gifts in Romans 12 and the offices in Eph. 4. The redemptive gifts are **design**, but the **offices** are given by Jesus to equip the church. For instance, John the apostle is mercy, but he was in the office of apostle. It would be like saying the car was a Ford but it was used as a taxi cab, or a race car, or a family car. The offices are about function in order to equip the body of Christ. The redemptive gifts are about DNA or form. A mercy gift could function in the office of Pastor, Prophet, Apostle, Evangelist, or Teacher. The gifting would greatly influence the flavor of each office.

2. It is also a good time to discuss the gifts of the Holy Spirit that are listed in 1 Corinthians 12. These gifts are for power and miracles and any believer can have any of these gifts according to the Holy Spirit's giving them to us to work miracles. These gifts are different from redemptive gifts and from offices. A person could have a redemptive gift of giver, prophesy, and be in the office of Pastor. Another could be a redemptive gift of mercy, prophesy, and be in the office of teacher. Or a redemptive gift of servant, have a healing ministry, and be in the office of Apostle.

1. Birth order: everyone recognizes that birth order affects us, as would being an only child or even the number of siblings. A first born carries some of the characteristics of

prophet such as a drive for excellence and seeing things as more black and white. A first born prophet would have even more pronounced characteristics.

2. Parents: one's parents redemptive gifts strongly affect us, as parents often try to train their children according to how they see the world. A servant parent would instill the importance of serving as a mercy parent would be cautious of the feelings of others. Sometimes we can identify with what we are taught as being who we are. It is helpful to ask parents what we were like as children. Sometimes that is the best picture.
3. Culture: Our culture influences us by telling us what our roles should be, and what it appreciates. For instance, in our American culture, servants do not get much respect. A male mercy might learn to hide his nature because he was considered to be overly sensitive.
4. Gender: The gifts manifest in different ways according to gender. A female ruler might be "softer" than her male ruler counterpart. A male mercy might seem "tougher" than a female mercy. There are ways that each gender might present as a particular gift that are different.
5. And many other things such as whether we are more right brained than left, more aggressive or passive, extroverted or introverted, to name a few.

Lesson 4

1. For the next 7 days, take an hour a day to go through the characteristics of each gift.

I would suggest having the students write down the characteristic as it is discussed. This will help them focus on them, rather than just reading down a list.

Day 4: Prophet redemptive gift.

Since this is being taught to young adults, I am going to write the characteristics that might be seen in a child or young person.

1. Has a deep sense of what is fair and what is not, and is deeply offended by things he perceives as “unfair”; is able to make a passionate case for what he believes is fair
2. Argues along the lines of “right” and “wrong”: it’s the “principle” that matters. Holds people accountable to what they said, what they did, what they meant by what they said.
3. Loves to start a new project or pursue a new passion; most passionate at the “beginning”; may be passionate about one thing for awhile and then off to something new: loves new things; extremely passionate and gets very excited about things which inspire them
4. Is quick to think things through and figure things out: wants to “get it” and understand it
5. Likes to solve problems and fix things: not necessarily a broken bike, but often people and situations where he spots dysfunction
6. Can easily go from one thing to another
7. Can be obstinate about some of his beliefs and unwilling to let go even if he loses a friend over what he feels so strongly about
7. Has opinions about everything and is quick to judge
8. Needs to be alone at times to reenergize ; constant people and activity may be draining
9. Intense, independent
10. Needs to understand “why”
11. Hard on himself and his mistakes and shortcomings; beats himself up for failure
12. Sees through situations and recognizes there is a greater reality behind the surface; is always trying to figure out what is really going on
13. Can be intensely emotional : outraged, despairing, exuberant, passionate
14. Has a heart for the underdog, but it would be show in his wanting to help pick them up and cause them to flourish; not just being merely sympathetic

After reading the characteristics and discussing them, ask the students if they can think of one in our modern day culture.

Dr. Phil is a flamboyant example for the sake of identifying easily. He’s confrontational in his truth telling, opinionated, intense, black and white, goes for the root issue, believes

things can be fixed, works by principles (How's that working out for you?" he always asks when someone is operating on a principle that is false and causing them pain)

Not all redemptive prophets are as intense and confrontational, but he is a larger than life example. Historically, President Andrew Jackson was a prophet. He didn't exemplify the highest, but he was polarizing (either you liked him or hated him), for the underdog (invited the whole nation to the White House for his inaugural party), made enemies and kept them, (not recommended), said what he thought. Now he was an ornery one to be sure, but the gift is still recognizable in the worst of us when every way we act is the opposite of the best.

The redemptive prophet is not the same as the office of a prophet or prophesying. It is a gift and way of looking at things. Sometimes we may see the negative side of the gift in the extreme, or a person who has had emotional wounds where it is hidden under layers of ways of coping.

What about in literature? Good authors, whether they understand this teaching, often hit on perfect representations of the gifts because they know people. Start watching in literature for some examples as you read.

What about Huckleberry Finn? He tells the truth, fights for justice, does not conform to society, is willing to risk everything to save Jim, goes against society's rules to do what his own conscience says is right, independent, able to go it alone.

Caution them on the need to hold back from jumping to conclusions about themselves or classmates until they have gone through all seven gifts. And remind them if they are first born, they have some of these characteristics because of their birth order.

It would be a good time to reiterate that there are many things that need to be considered. Some gifts are easy to spot, like exhorter. Others are much harder, like giver. A giver who is in the 7th grade may not recognize himself at all. Or he may know he would like to have lots of money or resources. Or that he is already an entrepreneur and has an after school job.

At a young age, Joseph the “dreamer”, had his father’s favor, but when his brother’s decided to throw him in a well, we don’t know what ruler traits he was showing.

As a child, Miriam, prophet, came up with the idea to save her brother and executed it.

Since most of our examples are men, what would a **feminine version look like of a redemptive prophet.**

She might look intense and be known to think deeply. She might say things that come out harsh or critical at times and rub others the wrong way, or maybe she has learned to just think her criticisms without blurting them out, or she has been trained to be polite and only says her “truths” to a friend. But she probably has a friend or a parent who gets to hear her assessments of what is wrong with her locker, her hair, her friend, her math teacher, her so on and so on. There is usually a situation somewhere that she needs to verbally process and pronounce judgment on, not because she is a mean girl, but because she cannot help seeing what is wrong and how it needs to change. She wants to speculate how she would fix it if they would let her. She usually has a solution for everything, or can come up with one in a heart beat. She knows there is a better way.

She can be serious, or she can be funny, or tragically sad. She is passionate wherever she has landed. It is always the worst problem, the worst day, the best day, and so on. She does extremes.

There are things she is passionate about: an author, a character, an idea, and she sort of obsesses about it. Not sort of. Really obsesses.

She cleans her room by moving everything out and back in again. She loves to wipe the slate clean and start all over.

She doesn’t like to maintain things, so the next time she really cleans her room, she moves everything out and starts over.

She is very quick to decide if she loves or hates, believes or disbelieves, is staying or going, is “in” or “out.” If she decides she is “out” she can leave alone. She doesn’t need others to verify her decisions. She works things out based on an internal system of right and wrong, and she is capable of moving quickly based on her system.

She can walk away from relationships if her ideas are challenged or dismissed.

She needs to be heard, when she is on a rant or defending something. She hates being misunderstood or dismissed because she has ideas that matter. Being misunderstood can send her under her bed covers because she judges herself so harshly. To think that others are judging her like that, is almost unbearable. They have no idea how hard she

tries and how much she thinks and how much she invests in doing what is right. How could they think she is wrong? Her identity can be tied up in her ideas of right and wrong.

She can identify with her ideas more than with people and not understand why she is not being heard or her opinions respected.

She is okay with being different; in fact, she is pretty sure she is, so sometimes she just goes with it and becomes a bit of a character wearing the most “different” hairstyles and clothing.

She likes trends and will be first to try them, and the first to discard them when they become mainstream.

She wants to fit in, but not enough to compromise herself to do it.

She is a trial for her parents at times because she hates tradition and can spot hypocrisy. If she thinks her parents are “keeping up appearances,” “being hypocrites,” “not trusting her well thought through judgments,” bar the door, Katie. She may argue vehemently, scoff rudely, or rebel. She does not give up without a fight or at least personal outrage which she tells a friend or records in her diary. Time outs and groundings are the worst for her. Unbearable.

She is creative and innovative. She is competitive. She likes excellence and believes in perfection. She lives by inspiration and whatever has inspired her is her mission for the day. She is never happier than when change is in the air and she is on the cusp of it. She believes that anything can happen and that when it does, she will be up for the task.

If you make her angry, there is no way to get back into her good graces without a thorough discussion of what she thinks was wrong and probably your sincere repentance.

Lesson 5

Servant

The next gift would be that of a servant.

A young person who is a servant would likely be like the following:

1. A good follower and team player without enemies
2. Never much thought about being a leader or wanted to be one. Had rather be in a support role.
3. Doesn't have a plan to see that he is recognized and given some big role. He is content to help where he is needed.
4. Sometimes feels he gets picked on. (Doesn't automatically make one a servant to get picked on.)
5. If he gets picked on, has a hard time making the bully stop by standing up or pushing back and setting boundaries
6. Trustworthy
7. Reliable
8. Very loyal to family
9. Sentimental; hangs on to memorabilia
10. Good natured when others joke about him
11. Sees what people need and enjoys helping others; doesn't see spending his time on another person's needs as a waste of time or wishing he was doing his own thing
12. Easy to take advantage of his help
13. Sees the best in others and defends them, even those who probably don't deserve it
14. Honest, dependable
15. Likes to be behind the scene helping someone achieve his best
16. Has to overcome just letting himself be taken advantage of and not standing up or pushing back
17. Feels ashamed at times; must work toward self worth
18. Can be competitive, but in a game or place where it is expected

19. Is able to hear truth and respond well, receive it, agree, change

20. Prone to worry and anxiety

Read through the characteristics. Ask the students if this type of person would be likely to have a lot of respect in our nation. It looks like we value fame in our culture. We tend not to give much honor to a servant, and yet there are nations where serving is a valued part of the culture.

Vietnam is a servant nation. (Yes land and cities have redemptive gifts.) There are professions, like waiters or manicurist who are obviously in a servant role, and a true servant is able to serve without making anyone feel uncomfortable. However, roles and gifts are different. The servant redemptive gift greatest desire is to meet the needs of those around him. He is designed by God to move toward need.

Does God move toward need? How? When?

Is He waiting to meet our every little need all of the time? Why not? He is not our “Servant” God, for one thing. We don’t command Him. And he knows what we need as we move toward the goal of transformation into His likeness. In other words, he is after something far greater than meeting our needs, although He promises to do that.

What would God want the servant to know about serving?

That there is a right and wrong time to do it.

It doesn’t always help; sometimes the lessons are bigger than a quick “fix it.”

If God prompts one to serve, then it has to be right.

Serving God’s purposes are higher than serving man’s.

Now discuss Jesus as servant:

When did he serve?

washing the disciples feet

feeding the five thousand

healing the sick

Serving is powerful. Mother Teresa has been one of the most respected modern day Christians by serving the least. The whole world respects a self sacrificing servant. It is something that the world marvel's at when it is pure and from the heart.

Can the class think of an example of a servant. This is hard, because they don't seek fame or recognition. It is possible that Ghandi was in that everything he did was out of humility and he made his point by suffering by sacrificing himself by fasting. There may be some one in the community or school they know that is out of the limelight but secretly running the show.

Give honor to servants. They are amazing! God plans to honor them one day when He says those who are least will be the most. Talk about how we don't see things like God does. He is looking for a whole different reality than man is. He values what we discard. He is blessed by servants.

If you want to spend more time on this gift, go to Esther in the Bible and study her as a servant.

What might a redemptive servant look like as a teenage girl?

She would be able to give into other's ideas, never making her wants and needs known. If the gang says "What would you like to do?" She honestly says "Whatever." And she means it. She is not one for thinking up agendas and planning ahead. She is happy to "go along with the crowd."

She lives in the present, and she is usually content to be there. She is always busy, because she has a million things to get done, and she is usually content while she works.

People sometimes tease her, and she doesn't seem to mind that either. Her brother picks on her, which annoys her, but she forgives him without even trying to. Her offenses just seem to float away.

People genuinely like her. She makes others comfortable and feel cared for. Of all their friends, she is the most sincere and trustworthy.

She can be messy, but she longs for order.

She keeps everything because it has meaning, and one day she is going to organize it all.

There are some bossy types that take advantage of her willingness to help, and she plans to stand up to them when she figures out how.

Her mother and daddy worry about her lack of ambition, but she doesn't have any and has no idea how to get it. They keep making suggestions and seem to think that they have failed to inspire her, but she still doesn't know how to be more ambitious.

Her mother wants her to take singing lessons, but the thought of singing in front of people makes her ill. She wishes she didn't have a good singing voice, if it is going to lead to singing on a stage.

She gets tired of working hard sometimes, even mad about it, when no one notices or appreciates her. She can't quit serving (of course, not) and she realizes that she should say "no" and she doesn't. She wishes people would know when she is overwhelmed and not keep giving her things to do. Can't they see she is overwhelmed?

She has to prove herself physically, even if it kills her. She can outwork anybody and she has a little pride about it. Not much, but a little.

She feels invisible most of the time, and it's okay. She likes to be invisible. Except that her math teacher cannot remember her name. That is annoying. He has called her the wrong name for two years now. Maybe she should tell him.

If you hurt her feelings, she is likely to see where she was wrong and let you off the hook without mentioning it.

Lesson 6

The next gift is teacher.

1. Loves knowledge and is happiest when he is pursuing it
2. Is not quick to accept a new idea until he has thought about it or researched it
3. Is in no hurry to come to a conclusion; doesn't jump to conclusions; may question people that like to jump to conclusions
4. A safe person that people like to be around; doesn't judge
5. Likes history, tradition, family, things the way they are
6. Fears risk
7. Likes to know where he is going to land before he jumps
8. Admires education, degrees, credentials, and often pursues them
9. Has a hungry mind and so he feeds it

- 10.Picks things that he wants to be responsible for, and ignores others
- 11.Doesn't like confronting others; would rather let them figure it out on their own
- 12.Can observe and listen in a group and speaks after he has processed
- 13.Great sense of humor
- 14.Very tolerant
- 15.Once he has facts in place in his head, not easily persuaded
- 16.Intellectually proud at times
- 17.More difficulty with emotions; had rather rationalize how he feels
- 18.Believes knowledge is the key to success
- 19.Does not reject new ideas without thinking them over
- 20.Likes the details; likes to make arguments that are powerful because they contact fact and theory
- 21.Likes precision
- 22.Make look very different from each other; one teacher could be methodical and linear, and another one be random and unorganized. Whether one is left brained or right brained has a great deal of influence on this gift often making it tricky to identify this gift.

Sadly, for some reason, teachers often resist being “teachers.” They may need quite a bit of processing time to realize or accept it.

The students are likely to know some teachers. If there is one in the school who is a redemptive teacher (likely), discuss how many of these characteristics apply. He might arrive at the same point of the lecture the same day every year (methodical), or he might be more random in his approach.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, was teacher.

Think about how she “pondered things in her heart.” It took her a long time (Jesus was thirty) until she had added everything together and asked him to perform a miracle. The miracle was to turn water into wine so that the host wouldn't be embarrassed. She was protecting a family's reputation and safeguarding a marriage tradition of joy at a wedding; abundance, not lack. It was important to her, because family and tradition are important

to the teacher. It was not a random miracle to get Jesus started on his way. She had concluded that Jesus was capable and so why not? It was logical.

Dr. Oz is a teacher. Every day he has another way we can be healthy. He often gives so much detail and tells us more than we want to know about how our bodies work. But we respect his intelligence and his career, and we believe he knows what he is talking about. He has an authority that has come from years of study. He is safe and compassionate. He is gracious and kind, and he works hard to make all of his guests feel secure. He doesn't inspire us like a prophet or an exhorter might; he teaches us, gives us many options, and leaves it up to us to adhere.

A teacher will not be heard without his having integrity. If we found out that Dr. Oz was secretly living on chips and cokes, we would lose all respect for him. A teacher knows he has 'to practice what he preaches' to put it in cliché form. His credibility as a teacher is at stake based on his own life style. Taken too far, this is what a Pharisee was. A person who wanted everyone to know that he was the most holy, obeying more than 600 laws that he had added to scripture. Remember when Jesus said that the Pharisees weren't taking care of their aging parents, but they were tithing mint.

They were choosing to do the thing that made them "feel and look" holy by doing something ridiculous and not doing things which God wanted them to do. That is being selective about what we choose to be responsible for. Teachers usually like rules and the law, but it should not blind them to the practical ways we need to be responsible.

Go to the beginning of Luke 2 and look at the detail Luke put in those verses.

He is not putting in hard to pronounce names for future tongue tied reading, but laying a detailed foundation of "who, what, where, and why." He would not feel credible or believable without doing that.

So what would the feminine teenage teacher look like:

Well, we might find her in the library. She is a learner and a great student.

She likes more classic clothes than the other friends; in fact, her look is preppy. She has been tracking her GPA since 6th grade, and she knows exactly how close she is to her rival. She also knows exactly how many classes will transfer to her chosen university from high school, has taken her second round of tests for admittance, and she knows what her major will be.

Her room is neat and she knows where everything is. She believes that order is necessary for anyone to achieve, and she is most happy when everything is where it should be. (If she is more right brained, her desk could be piled high with books and she has a couple in every corner and one under her pillow. She might stay up half the night reading.)

She seems to absorb facts and data, and she can remember facts which she is able to remember when called upon.

She respects teachers who show a clear understanding of the material and give the best notes. She does not like the random creative types who are all over the place and whose plans are always subject to change.

She feels more conservative than her own mother at times, and she can't figure out how that happened. Her mother is spontaneous and impulsive, and sometimes makes her feel like she is "the adult."

She is always the teacher's helper and she has the respect of adults. She is responsible and it has its benefits.

She is most angry when she studied for a test and the teacher doesn't give it. She despises that kind of irresponsibility, and never can she imagine herself doing such a thing. It disappoints her and frustrates her more than anyone else in the class. Why should people who did not prepare receive a reward due to a teacher who failed to design the test? She has thought about going to the Principal. She despises students who break the rules because she believes it reflects on the school.

She loves to make puns and point out irony. Her favorite language is often sarcasm, but it does get her into trouble at times.

Everyone thinks she is smart and funny. She sees those as very good things to be.

She is amazed at how goofy some of the other students are and how out of control and lost and directionless they are. She wonders how they function so haphazardly.

If you make her mad, she withdraws and thinks about it. She doesn't like confrontation and working things out verbally very much, so she will likely think her way out of being mad and get out of it on her own. She might rationalize the whole event and then forget it.

Lesson 7

Exhorter

1. Able to get along with everyone: other races, other classes of people, different religions
2. Loves people; people are what is all about
3. Doesn't like or consider the word "impossible"
4. Able to dream really big
5. Keeps friends
6. Can debate without making others mad
7. Can argue in a tense situation and stand his ground without getting angry
8. Everyone loves him
9. Able to persuade anyone
10. Able to persuade through relationships : conscious effort to persuade followers and to lead
11. Likes to know the majority opinion
12. Very flexible about taking new opportunities because he sees possibility
13. Good with words and comes across as tactful
14. Not disciplined with time; tends to tackle whatever is in front of him at the time
15. Intuitively knows what sort of time frame people need to accept new ideas
16. A starter and a mover of people and ideas
17. Extrovert
18. Outgoing
19. Great communication skills
20. Takes rejection hard
21. Very busy

22.Hard worker

23.Friends may cover for him

Exhorters have changed the course of history, both good and bad, with an idea and a personality that was big enough to match the idea.

An example of a magnificent exhorter is William Wilberforce who served in Parliament for 37 years and fought, and fought, and fought until slavery was abolished in England without bloodshed.

Hitler, on the other hand, was also exhorter, convincing a nation that they were the superior nation and people, destined to rule the world, with permission to annihilate their neighbors who were also German, but Jews.

Winston Churchill was also exhorter. He held England together to win the war with encouragement and hope. He became the comforting voice over the radio that encouraged and his famous statement: “We have nothing to fear, but fear itself,” is exhorter thinking. The obstacle is not what matters, it is that is only impossible to move, unless with believe it is.

Exhorters are also easy to spot. Whether they influence a small community or the world, they are “people people.” They usually have loads of friends, are able to make their arguments elegantly, persuade, influence, and bring change. Their battle is whether they will pay the price to bring about the change God means them to bring.

A feminine teenage exhorter might look like this.

She is the most popular girl in her class. She is head cheerleader and in several clubs where she is usually an officer. If she is not “most popular” she definitely has a group where she shines.

She is surrounded by a group of girls who see her as the center of the group. She includes who she wants, and everyone who feels loved by her has a sense of belonging. Her exclusion or disapproval can be a social failure. She is powerful because she has so many relationships.

She is quick to draw in new people, and every group in school likes her. She is outgoing and friendly to everyone.

She feels she was meant to lead, and so she does it naturally, because she can. She loves telling stories. In fact, every thing that happens to her, she turns into a story. She is animated, almost an actress, when she tells the story over and over until everyone feels important that she told it to them. She is usually in the story, it happened to her, and people seem to delight in her story telling and her wanting to tell them personally. She is easy to listen to, has an ability to make others laugh, and command attention.

She loves the limelight, and she will wear clothes sometimes that attract attention. Her room is purple. Walls, bedspread, and carpet. She likes purple.

She has so much life, that she is a welcome addition to any club or group.

Before she gets her hair cut, she takes a picture from a hair style magazine and asks everyone in the school if her hair would look good like that. She is so well liked, people stop and think and give her their sincere opinion. She mentally takes a poll of this useful information.

She is devastated if someone gets angry with her or turns on her. She loves people, and doesn't want anyone to dislike her. It is very hard for her to imagine why anyone would since she loves people and wants to befriend them all.

She can be a drama queen, because she enjoys drama and theatrics, sometimes in her own life.

She often thinks others are way too serious. Life was meant to be enjoyed.

She sometimes doesn't get the grades she wants, because she miscalculates how much time she should study and doesn't understand how important certain assignments are. She feels she works very hard and is disappointed if she isn't appreciated and compensated for her hard work. Other more disciplined gifts sometime think she doesn't work hard because she is always talking. She is not one to keep her head down working silently.

She makes great plans, but if something or someone comes up and interrupts them, she usually "goes with the flow." It is very hard for her to "stay on track." It would be very hard to continue on the library, if she encountered a friend who needed her counsel.

She encourages everyone, because she sees potential and possibility everywhere she looks. She cannot abide doom sayers and people who expect the worse.

She decorated the auditorium for a school party and it was beyond anyone's imagination. She has grand ideas. Her plans for her own life are big, and she is always on the lookout for an opportunity to do something great. If it comes, she plans to snatch it and run.

If you make her mad, she will withdraw her friendship. When she is ready, she will renew the relationship.

Lesson 8

The Giver

The giver. Givers are often difficult to spot, since they appear well rounded and competent. If they are financially well off and at the same time funneling money to a worthy cause, that makes it easy. Like Bill Gates and Sam Walton. But there are many givers who are not so large in profile and who are generational thinkers, nurturing, people who are able to execute and build. They are busy, moving from one project to another, connecting people and the dots.

Traits:

1. Thinks long range of what he wants to invest and what the long range outcome might be: not just money, but everything he sees in a practical way of investing and getting a return;
2. Likes the environment of family and relationships; thinks about the future
3. Very independent; doesn't need others to help because he can stand alone; that can include not having a "need" for God at times
4. Doesn't like anyone laying guilt on him, but can tend to blame others
5. Hates manipulation of any kind to make him do something he doesn't want to do
6. Able to relate to many different types of people
7. Networks people together by connecting them
8. Private about his own life: doesn't tell everyone everything
9. Looks for options others don't consider
10. Sees opportunities and goes for them
11. Not confrontational; had rather negotiate

12. Tends to see money as security
13. Has resources at his disposal; uses his resources to have nice things, gather people, invest and get more; he is strategic about what he owns and how he labors, saves, and builds
14. Finds bargains; loves a great “deal”
15. Lives more in present and future, not in the past: in fact, he doesn’t seem to learn from the past because he believes today is totally different from yesterday
16. Feels comfortable when he has his options still open and has not made up his mind; enjoys considering his options over and over and is not quick to commit to one option; may commit and then go back to pondering options all over again
17. Does not like absolutes: any idea that is in concrete and is always true (and there are real absolutes); this can get him in trouble with God’s absolutes
18. Open to new ideas; not frightened by them : can think “outside the box”
19. Practical and down to earth
20. Multi focused: a number of things going on at once
21. Natural peacemaker; doesn’t like people being unhappy and disgruntled; wants to fix it
22. Can initiate projects and see his grow faster than the other gifts
23. Faith is often hard for him, because he relies on his own resources and his own ability to hang in there, which he is very good at
24. Has a hard time with gratitude since he lives in the present and may think he earns what he receives
25. Frugal in order to save and invest and get ahead; really enjoys being frugal; a penny saved is a penny earned makes very good sense to him
26. May have his eye on retirement all of his life

Some high profile givers are Sam Walton and Bill Gates. Both men started companies that succeeded massively. They left or are leaving legacies in science and education. They were unassuming in their personalities, never flamboyant or seeking the spot light. As rich as they are or were, their lives remained private. Warren Buffet is another giver who is living in the same house he bought at the beginning of his career.

Let's take it down a notch because there is only one Warren Buffet.

A giver would be the kind of nurturer who doesn't sympathize or coddle in her group, but who is competent and non judgmental. She might be the one who always drives or uses her home for all the events, gets the gang together, or is considered the most responsible one. She would not mind assuming the role of "mothering" the group, but out of her sense of responsibility and knowledge that she is the stable one, not enabling. She would demand maturity from others, and would hold others accountable, and be intolerant of foolish behavior that might have dire consequences. She would see clearly the link between actions and consequences, in the most practical way. She would not see as a prophet as whereas something was "good" or "evil," but more practically like it could lead to wrecking something valuable, being punished, or so on.

She would love sharing her resources, whatever they might be, in order to create a bond between others and a sense of "family." Others might see her as controlling, but she would have a strong sense of danger and consequences for action and she lives out of those. She believes that opportunities lead to success and risk can lead to failure. She regrets not taking valid opportunities, but she doesn't regret risk taking behavior which she sees as a bad investment. She tends to see everything as an investment. She invests time in friends. Is her reward a good return? She invests in studying. Was the grade indicative of her large investment? And so on. She has a lot of friends who depend on her sound judgment and they know that she is rock solid and there for them. She can fit almost anywhere in any group and sees everyone as a peer.

If you make her mad, she will be miserable because she likes her friendships intact and harmonious. She will worry about it and likely try to fix it.

The ruler. Task oriented. Donald Trump. What is the difference between Sam Walton and Donald Trump? Walton had a reputation for being frugal and building an empire to serve the ordinary citizen. Trump is the opposite. Rulers build kingdoms and lead people to complete the task. They are not known for frugality, but for enlarging the kingdom and taking risks. They are also good at spotting gifts in people, putting them in the right place, and accomplishing the goal. A ruler doesn't have to be high profile, but they are very good at putting systems in place, organizing, and getting the task done.

Lesson 8

The ruler

Traits:

1. Doesn't mind pressure and doesn't mind putting others under pressure
2. Good at time management
3. Has a lot of things going on at once, but manages them
4. Doesn't ask "why"; way more about "how": is not one for pondering what went wrong
5. Wants the group to own the task together to get it done most efficiently
6. Doesn't have to think up the plan, but knows how to get it done
7. Doesn't like blame, just wants it to get "fixed"
8. Focus is on what needs to be done immediately; prioritizes well
9. Wants loyalty from others; loyalty is the "key" to others following
10. Does not need others to agree or praise his plan once he decides
11. Even with limited resources, he can produce a lot
12. Stays intensely focused on the task
13. Enjoys doing a number of different things at once
14. Is able to own his own problems, not look for help
15. May see himself as capable in his own strength and not relying on God
16. Overload of work; keeps building and taking on more and more
17. Can withstand opposition; doesn't need approval
18. Can be insensitive to other's needs; pushing all the time
19. Not always ethical; production oriented may cause him to cut corners or compromise
20. Willing to be in charge because he sees how to get things done
21. Is a risk taker

A very high profile ruler is Donald Trump. Go down the list again and you will see him in every characteristic. Those who admire him, admire his "no nonsense get it done" atti-

tude. He has gotten away with saying outrageous things, and it seems like even the media is afraid of him. He is totally confident that he is capable. He is a risk taker.

1. In the Bible, Solomon and Joseph were both rulers.

Compare the two men: one built and the other came up with a system for saving Egypt

The accumulated massive wealth, they both ruled, they were powerful

2. We have discussed that nations have redemptive gifts. Ask the class if they can think of a nation that might be a ruler? One that thought it could rule a nation better than that nation and just took it over. Sometimes they left good things behind, other times, they just conquered it. England and Russia are both rulers. You might look up all the nations the Union Jack flew over, or discuss Russia's habit of taking nations.

3. How is the United States, a prophet nation, different from England, a ruler nation.

4. Why did the prophet rise up against the ruler? It is a whole different way of looking at the Revolutionary War.

5. What are some positive things that came from British rule? Some negative things?

6. Why do people often dislike rulers? Is that fair? What does the class think God might want rulers to know?

7. What is God like as a ruler? Do people every think that God is unfair in his ruling or uncaring? Is it true? Is it because they don't know Him in other ways that they think He is an uncaring ruler?

The following is a profile of what a ruler might look like as a teenage girl:

She likes to be in control and be the leader, because she knows how to get things done. She manages people, time, and the task very well. It is very hard for her to watch others not know how to get things done.

She is organized. She has systems for everything. She has all of her notes in order and her homework in another file. She is able to quickly process how to make something work and function properly.

She loves function. She loves the challenge of a hard assignment. She never feels happier than when she is under pressure to get things done; in fact, she does her very best work under pressure.

She is in the band where she serves as President. She expects everyone to be on time and to have every part of their uniforms ready without excuse. She hates the drama if someone is wasting time on a boyfriend breakup when they should be focused on the performance.

She has a lot of energy. She can push harder and longer to get things done than anyone. In fact, she seems as though she never gets tired.

People want to follow her, not because of her popularity, but because they respect her and know she is capable. She does not like sorting out personal problems or pampering anyone. She expects everyone to be as devoted to the task at hand as she is, and she is appalled when they are not.

She sometimes has to run her family. She naturally takes over if they can't make a decision about where to go on vacation, or where to go out and eat dinner.

She knows there is no task too great for her. She could be President of the United States if she wanted to and she has ideas about how the country could run better.

She has friends who follow her and let her be in charge. None of them are as strong willed as she is, so it works out.

Conflict with her can be unpleasant because she only wants to get back to work. She will not argue about how things went wrong and whose feelings got hurt. If it is broken, let's fix it is her attitude, and people feel she hasn't heard their true feelings.

Lesson 9

The Mercy

Traits:

1. Gets along with everyone
2. Admired and respected
3. Safe: go to person to tell hurts, sympathetic
4. Lots of people like them, but only has a few close friends

5. Craves intimacy; touch, likes hugs and physical contact
6. Operates more on subjective feelings and intuition than “why’s”
7. Transitions slowly from one thing to another or one place to another
8. Decides based on heart
9. Indecisive if feeling his decision might hurt someone
10. Doesn’t like choosing sides between people
11. People pleaser and enabler, because he doesn’t like conflict
12. Is kind and nice, which may invite someone to exploit or abuse his nature
13. Has a deep strain of anger (which one may see if he has taken up an offense on someone else’s behalf)
14. Prone to stubbornness; resists non verbally
15. Loves music or worship; can enter the presence of God easily
16. May have unresolved father issues
17. Sees all pain as bad and seeks to flee it or keep others from experiencing it
18. Feels pain acutely; feels everything acutely and is mystified that others don’t
19. Tender hearted
20. May try to hide sensitivity for fear it will be looked down on

A mercy in the Bible is John, the apostle. He often referred to himself as the disciple whom Jesus loved. He would lean on Jesus at the table. His book of John is the most intimate of the Gospels; he writes about Jesus in a more personal way so that we might really “know” Him.

Very often, musicians, song writers, and worship leaders are mercies. They communicate through music deeply, taking people into secret places of thought and feeling. At the least, it is sensual; at its highest, it is worship.

Canada is a mercy nation, and the city of San Francisco is a mercy city. In Canada, different ethnic groups are welcome, and they don't have to give up being "Italian," or "Chinese," or whatever to be Canadian. It is a "you be you" kind of mentality, which is an expression of a tolerant mercy. San Francisco accepts gays. It is an accepting culture, where mercy is extended to everyone. Of course, mercy alone, without the balance of truth, will become distorted, but often mercy cities have art, music, and a wide array of many kinds of people: including the homeless.

Questions:

1. Has anyone been to a city that they think is mercy? Example might be Austin, Tx and New Orleans, La. They usually have an artistic community and are open to all kinds of people. Talk about these cities.
2. Can we give too much mercy? Is God always mercy? Yes and no. Even when He judges us, it is out of mercy. He can never stop being mercy, and we don't want to be. All of us need mercy. This could go deep.
3. How would the class like to feel God's heart for a day or a minute?
4. When did Jesus have a mercy "break down"? Praying over Jerusalem. Over Lazarus.

Here is an example of what a teenage girl who is a mercy might look like:

She is the nicest girl in her class: everyone says so. She is sensitive, quiet, and deeply caring. Everyone feels that she can keep a secret, and so she often listens to other people's heartaches.

Her bedroom is very feminine. She loves flowers and she has a Laura Ashley bedspread. Her room smells like the soft, floral perfume she sometimes wears.

She doesn't have any enemies, because she is kind to people and doesn't ever want to hurt anyone's feelings. On the other hand, it seems like someone is always hurting her feelings and while she doesn't like that about herself, she can't change. She wishes she didn't feel so deeply.

She feels everything intensely, especially pain, and sometimes she has no idea what to do with the pain. She cries into her pillow, but it doesn't help much.

She loves music. She plays the piano and sings, and there is something about her singing that seems to transport the listener to a spiritual place. The words go through her spirit and send goosebumps over the listeners.

She really only has one close friend. Her best friend is redemptive prophet. They have been friends since elementary school.

She wants to be an artist, but she worries it is not very practical. Her parents think she is a dreamer, but they don't say it for fear of crushing her. She knows she is a dreamer.

Sometimes she has a hard time expressing herself. Her words seem inadequate to express what she feels and she thinks no one understands what she is saying.

She doesn't like to come to quick conclusions. She likes to think about things and see different ways of looking at the same thing. Big changes or even small changes throw her. It takes her awhile to readjust and feel comfortable again. She hates things that disrupt her world and throw her off.

has a cat, a Persian, named Mr. Snuggles, that she dotes on and who sits in her lap whenever he can. Her favorite house shoes are old ones she won't stop wearing. They are furry bunnies with floppy ears.

Her clothes are feminine, and although she is older, she still occasionally wears an outfit that looks childish.

She has noticed that when someone feels uncomfortable in a room, they will come and stand by her. She doesn't know why, but people are drawn to her.

Sometimes she avoids people because she wants to avoid pain, and she knows how to just pretend nothing is wrong which she had usually rather do than deal with any of it.

She writes poetry that no one reads, and also song lyrics. But it is all too personal to share with anyone. She feels vulnerable enough already.

If she gets mad at you, she will avoid you, or maybe avoid you forevermore. She hates confrontation and doesn't trust herself to be able to talk about it without revealing all of her pain and pent up emotions and that scares her more than it would you, were she to let you see it.

Lesson 10

Alive with Passion and Purpose

You can find this book on Arthur's website at SLG or on Amazon. You will need a copy for each student. We have not developed a workbook of any sort of the book, so you will need to read it and discuss it as you go. The book is designed to be a right brained approach to identifying the gifts. Instead of lists, you will look at people and discover how the gift thinks and acts, as they live their lives and make their decisions.

Lesson 1: Read *Alive with Passion and Purpose*: this book contains 21 character studies of the 7 gifts: 3 for each gift. The book is written in random order with a list of what character is which gift in the back of the book. There are 7 Biblical characters, 7 others who walked in authority in their gifts, and 7 that are still recognizable, but who lived in the negative side of their gifting.

It may be hard for the students to figure out who is what. Tell them to list characteristics as they read, and that will help see them see the pattern.

But it is a great way to learn, to see real people living out their gifts. It is so much better than a list of characteristics.

There are a number of ways to approach it. You could read the three prophets at once and compare them.

You could take the cheat sheet page out of the books and have the students read blindly and guess the gift as they read.

You could require they find characteristics as they read to justify why the character is a certain gift.

You could have them see the turning points in the character's life and ask themselves what they would have done at that juncture. That is telling of certain gifts as to when they fight or when they flee, and what they will tolerate and won't tolerate, what causes them to

push forward or pull back. But most importantly, what qualities did the ones develop who are shining stars living out the potential of their design.

Lesson 11

The Lists of Seven's

The study of redemptive gifts is far more than just identifying our gift, although the identity key is important for all of us.

Once the mystery begins to be unraveled, it connects to so much more of God's design.

All of the sevens in scripture are significant because each set of 7 are listed according to the same design and sequence as the redemptive gifts.

This study of 7's, of which there are over one hundred in the Bible, match the redemptive gifts in order.

I will explain two of the seven's. That leaves a great many for a class to study, if you are inclined. There are seven churches in Revelation; seven pieces of spiritual armor; seven items in the tabernacle; seven miracles in John; and about 90 other lists of sevens.

The Seven Days of Creation:

1. "Let there be light": prophetic of Jesus who will come as the Light of the World. Also indicative of the redemptive **prophet who recognizes the light of truth and receives insights from God and is able to put them into words.**
2. On the second day, God separated the waters above and the waters below. Both atmosphere and water are essential for life, although the atmosphere is

invisible. The servant is invisible, but essential. **He is able to cleanse the atmosphere and sustain life because of his purity of motive and complete surrender to God.**

3. The third day, God separated the sea from dry land. He planted trees and seed bearing plants. The teacher has the truth in seed form. He plants and the miracle of growth begins to take place. **The teacher hungers for truth and sows it diligently into the soil of man's heart and mind.**
4. On the fourth day, God created the sun, the moon, and the stars. They were designed to mark the seasons and day and night, and rule over time. An exhorter is meant to have dominion over time, but often he does not. Just like the heavens declare the glory of God and the sky proclaims the work of his hand, the exhorter is designed to do the same. **Exhorters are verbally expressive and great communicators; their highest expression is declaring who God is.**
5. On the fifth day, God created the birds and fish. It was a diverse day in creation, and the giver has widespread interests. It was also the first day that life blood came into the world. Nurturing and generational anointing are high on the giver's priorities. And it was the first day God spoke blessing. **Givers are able to birth, bless, and leave a legacy.**
6. On the sixth day, God made animals, insects, and human beings. He gave man dominion over the earth to rule over it. **A ruler is ultimately meant to father and nurture the human spirit;** he falls short when he goes no further than projects and logistics.
7. On the seventh day, God rested. He had finished "doing" and was "being." Mercies recognize alignment when everything is in the right place. They are sensitive to things not being in right alignment. **Mercies are designed to celebrate God in worship and to go slowly enough to appreciate God's handiwork.**

Seven Last Sayings of Jesus on the Cross:

1. **Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.** This is an attitude which shows the prophet in his fullest maturity. He is no longer judging, but forgiving, because his love for man is richer than his truth. Jesus could not have done more. He did and said everything “right” and still he was rejected. He could have called down fire, but he called for his Father to forgive their limitations and their ignorance. That is powerful
2. **Today you will be with me in paradise.** Nothing could have looked further from the truth. He was hanging on a cross, scorned by the world. A servant knows scorn, but a servant is free when he or she knows he is someone much different than the world perceives. Nothing had changed about who Jesus was because of his circumstances. He was still the son of God. Jesus could make a promise based on a reality that the world could not see. That is the goal for the servant.
3. **Behold, thy mother.** Jesus gave John a new responsibility. He imposed this responsibility on John, rather than passively hoping that someone would take care of her once he was gone. This is a teacher who is able to walk in personal responsibility, and to require others to do so. Jesus demonstrated the teacher at his best.
4. **My God, my God, why have thou forsaken me?**
5. **I thirst.** The practical giver is a realist. Pain is real and thirst is real. The giver is accustomed to his independence and his ability to solve his own problems. Jesus demonstrated “need” when he asked for water; that even though he was God, he did not need to demonstrate a lack of need in his humanity or rely on His strong will. He was dying in faith, not as a strong willed hero. His death was about sacrifice and surrender, and his trust was solely in the Father’s strength. Faith is the end goal of the self sufficient giver.
6. **It is finished.** Jesus accomplished the task of paying the price for our sins and granting to us salvation and a path to have dominion over sin once more through His shed blood. He purchased our freedom. He finished the right

task in the right way. Rulers are called to more than building kingdoms or building structures that will not last. Their highest call is to build spiritual structures for generations to be able to walk in freedom for years to come.

7. **Father, Unto thy hands, I commit my spirit.** A mercy need to get to this place, that regardless of the pain, where he knows that he can commit his spirit to God and he will be safe, regardless. It is often his desire to avoid pain, but Jesus faced the vicious reality of the worst pain and the worst humiliation, and in the end, He surrendered it all to His Father. It was a leap of faith to throw himself into God's arms: to ignore everything else and surrender in faith, believing that he had cleansed the world and won the Crown.

Lesson 13

Principles

A principle is a universal law that God has set in motion. For instance, the principle of sowing and reaping. God does not have to intervene in every situation in order to show us that reap what we sow, because the natural law is in place in the universe. It applies to all of his creation.

A principle is not the same thing as a moral law such as "Thou shall not kill." Those laws, when broken, may land is in a court of justice. And although at sal-

vation our sins are forgiven, the laws of sowing and reaping are still in place. In order to rebuild our lives, we need to apply God's principles together.

Proverbs 9:1 says "Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn out seven pillars."

The seven pillars are the seven redemptive gifts, and each one has a principle at its disposal that enables us to go beyond our understanding of principles into discovery of unique and creative ways to sow the principles and reap joy in our lives.

The principles are as follows:

Prophet:

Principle of Design: the prophet is able to see patterns and understand principles. He can both find and implement principles to bring clearer paths to freedom.

Like Naomi in the Bible. She realized that Boaz was a kinsman redeemer and that he could legitimately marry Ruth and save both her and Naomi. (Ruth is the tagalong daughter in law that she had brought home with her after she and her family left and lived in Moab during a famine. She was coming home without her husband, two sons who died there. Her other daughter in law lived, but Ruth, the sweet mercy girl now widowed, decided to accompany her mother in law into this strange land. She wasn't a Jew, but a Moabite.

Naomi will tell Ruth exactly what to do to marry Boaz, which will be a good thing. It works because Naomi sees what laws, principles, and facts can be weaved together in faith. Is this manipulation? No, it is faith. These are truths God lets her see and she has the faith to believe if she trusts, it will produce a Godly end. God lets her see these things and apply them. She's not that clever.

This is a good deal more than a Naomi being a good matchmaker. It is a weaving together of some principles and what she knew to be true about Jewish law that God had handed down. It starts with Naomi's grief and her return home.

First she knew her God was forgiving. So she came home. She arrived crying out she was back and she was bankrupt. She might as well go ahead and “get it out there.” No point in trying to hide she had lost everything. She knew what God always honored: honesty, disclosure, repentance.

She knows that God is close to the brokenhearted, hears their cries, heals and delivers them. She comes back to her people and her God asking for help; soon she sees that Boaz is a kind man who follows God (she recognized this because he obeyed the custom of letting widows glean wheat in certain fields: if he fears God in one area, chances are good he is willing to serve him in another.) This is what prophets do. They look for patterns. They add two and two. It is because they know that God doesn't lie (concepts that can be banked every time), and that if every one of their conclusions is true, God is faithful to all of them, like He is to sowing and reaping. (Unless he surprises us and intervenes, and He can, because He is God.) Still, it's all worth a try.

She then added these two findings together with the one about a kinsman (close relative) being able to marry a widowed bride, told Ruth to submit by lying at the foot of his bed (a place of humility and a good hint for a proposal), and he took Ruth up on it, and they lived happily ever after. Not just that, but they are in the lineage of Jesus. No happenstance here: plan of God orchestrated by a prophet who could add two and two and please God by screaming four. Bingo! Yay God! Good job, Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz.

The prophet is called to speak truth and bring light, and he is gifted to help others know who they are and to fulfill their destinies.

The prophet is most likely to know when he is not fulfilling his destiny (because he yearns for purpose and has some objectivity) and to be the most unhappy about it. (Think miserable.) What will bring him fulfillment is helping others to know who they are, and helping them achieve their potentials. The prophet may spend a lot of time waiting to be heard, taming his own prickly personality, or finding optimism. When he arrives at the place where relationships and sowing into people become his passions, he has arrived at his finest hour.

However, it is not a quick journey or a straight path. He goes through a lot of training and sometimes hardship being “shaped” into a usable vessel who can turn his bent from problem “seeing” into problem “solving.”

Servant:

Principle of Authority. Because of the servant’s ability to see needs and meet them without a personal agenda, he can be dominated and used to meet another’s agenda. God wants the servant to understand dominion, and to submit to God’s laws and agendas, so the servant can rule with authority. He can cleanse people and land when he is submitted to God’s agenda.

When the servant recognizes that he is last for a significant purpose, and that purpose is authority, he can become dangerous as a kingdom player. He can have authority, because he doesn’t seek it or desire it. It is often hard for him to believe that he has been given it, or earned it by many acts of surrender. When he knows who he is and what he is, watch out.

Esther went before the King and it might have cost her her life. If he had not extended his scepter toward her, it would have. What did she have that caused him to extend the scepter. I am sure she was beautiful, but I believe it was her boldness combined with her humility. That is a winning combination. Either one by itself could have been disastrous. But there was something compelling about her standing in her authority as the King’s bride, that caused him to want her to come ask anything so he could grant her wishes. (Get it? That’s what the church is: the King’s bride)

Teacher:

Principle of Responsibility: There are two arenas where the teacher must learn to be responsible. First, he must overcome his own selectivity about responsibility (tending to the things he likes, and disregarding the rest) and, secondly, he must also seek to hold others accountable when he had rather not. It is not enough to teach and hope it works, but to seek to reconcile people to the truth so they can be changed.

Information, truth, and knowledge can liberate us, or it can chain us, daring us to go outside its limits and boundaries. Religion, like that of the Pharisees, did just that. We need teachers who are passionate about the truth, but use to set the captive free and make the believer responsible with the truth. In order to achieve his highest, he must be personally responsible and hold others accountable. He must come out of the ivory tower of learning and help people where truth is tested not just in one's head, but in lives, transforming minds and reconciling them to God.

It is not enough that he lived perfectly before us. Broken people are more intimidated by Pharisees than anyone. Jesus taught, but he never acted "holier than thou."

Exhorter: Principle of Sowing and Reaping. The exhorter is able to see new paradigms, encourage people, and foster change. He is meant to understand time and the law of sowing and reaping, holding himself and others to investing in the amount of time it takes to see that significant change is the result. He sells himself short when he doesn't manage time well or expects quick results.

The exhorter who is willing to spend years pursuing God, turning his back on comforts and the easy path, who is willing to invest whatever time and energy into something that is important to God, has conquering power to move mountains.

Moses was an exhorter. It took a long time for him to be shaped to lead effectively. President Reagan was also an exhorter. He had the potential of a great

President, but he could have remained an actor. Exhorters are capable of changing cultures and moving paradigms.

Giver: Principle of Stewardship. Because a giver receives blessings of one kind or another, he can easily take ownership of everything, or see himself as deserving or earning blessings. He must become God's steward and recognize what he has as belonging to God. Think about Job. In the beginning of his story, he thought he understood how it worked with God: he sacrificed and God protected. Before his story is done, he has a whole new concept of how big God is

Because givers can think in big ways, they are capable of expanding. Abraham was able to follow God into a new country to start a nation.

With his generational worldview, he can accumulate blessings for generations to come. Job, at the end of his life, gave generational blessing to all of his children, even his daughters, which was unheard of at the time.

The giver may do very well financially or be able to amass resources. How he stewards those resources will be his test.

Ruler: Principle of Freedom. God wants the ruler to know when to fight and how to build. The ruler is meant to leave the world a better place by submitting to God's agenda, identifying his resources, assembling principles, and expecting God's blessings. He is meant to build structures that will bring freedom to the next generation, not just a kingdom of his own choosing.

It is sad to see a ruler, like Solomon, with all his building and all his wisdom, come to the end of his life frustrated. The ruler can build a kingdom, but what is God asking him to build?

Mercy: Principle of Fulfillment. Man was not meant to seek happiness, but to seek fulfillment. There are a particular set of problems we are meant to solve, and the mercy gift must find his particular niche where he tackles the problems God gave him to solve. Nothing is worse than a life of seeking God and still feeling frustrated and lacking fulfillment. We are meant to know who we are, what problems we are meant to solve, hone our skills in that area, so that we do our jobs well, and enjoy life as we go.

A mercy who brings alignment and enjoys the presence of God, who is able to bring others into peace and harmony, is a blessing to all of us. There is a way each one is uniquely designed to create this rest and to be fulfilled as he or she finds it.

These principles are deep and may be difficult to understand.

It would be good to go back to *Alive with Passion and Purpose* and use some of those stories to see how well some of the characters did. If you have time, look at all 21 characters and see if they fulfilled their design according to principle.

Did Florence Nightengale live out her Principle of Design? (Yes. She found a “better way” and left a budding institution that would help people in the future.)

Did Joseph walk in authority over death that sought to kill Jesus before His time? (Absolutely)

Was Samuel able to impose responsibility on Israel? (The answer is no. Look at what Samuel said. He pointed to his own integrity as though it had been enough; pitfall of the teacher)

Did William Wilberforce walk out his principle to the fullest. (A+)

What about Nehemiah? (Yes)

How about John Lennon? (He touched the world with music, but it did not carry truth, just an escape from pain.)

What about Emily Dickinson (living as a recluse and hiding from pain are in the negative camp; she left the world with her sensitive poetry, and even that had influence)

These are high profile people who lived big spirited lives. Emphasize that we will live by our principle regardless. If our lives don't reach epic proportions, we can live our principle in an epic way.

Understanding the principle of design for the gift, is powerful. Remember, it will not just "work" for the particular gift, it is where we will feel alive and content.

Look at Jesus who completed all 7 principles in His perfection:

1. Prophet: His design was meant to give the world the potential and the WAY to change all of our destinies. He became light that overcame darkness and provided a way through the Holy Spirit for all of us to have abundant life on earth and eternal life in Heaven.
2. Servant: He died as a servant, laying down his life for the glory set before him, for the crown, for our redemption from the powers of death. He healed us and delivered us through his life and his sacrifice.
3. Teacher: He taught in ways that people understood, and he acted as a priest did, forgiving sins and reconciling people to his Father. He exemplified God the Father through his love and kindness, his cautions and warnings, his touch, new strategies (like mud). He was open to hearing His Father and he taught about who He knew Him to be, not just from the law the people already had heard which had not set them free.
4. Exhorter: He shifted the whole paradigm of the world from law to grace. From animal sacrifice to His atonement. From working hard to faith. From commandments to just two: loving God and loving man.

5. Giver: He gave us everything we needed to live. The Holy Spirit provided us a way to holiness. His death washed the slate clean of sin. His blessings are everlasting. We can have new blessings every day and new strength to choose Him and His life in us. And He called us to steward His message; it is for the whole world.
6. Ruler: He won dominion and He gave it to us. It has been two thousand years and He is still King. We have power that He gave us to rule and to reign with Him forever.
7. Mercy: He lives with us and one day He comes back for us and He will live with us forever. We have His presence and that is the greatest gift of all. We can enter into His peace and His rest. His mercy endures forever.

The end

Method for teaching to grades 9 through 12.

I would suggest teaching Lessons 1 through 9 to 9th graders.

Tenth grade Lesson 10-13.

11th grade could do a project where they discovered the gifts of their family, a character in the Bible or history or both. They could take their own gift and find characters in literature of the Bible to illustrate that gift. The possibilities are limitless. But a special project would solidify their understanding.

Seniors might listen to Arthur's CD's on Curses and Blessings. Or Principles if you want to do more work with that.

Obviously, this year this won't work. 9th grade is still to do lessons 1-9. That will put them on track until they graduate.

Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors would do 1 through 13, so next year everyone is on track.

Next year implement the assignments for Juniors and Seniors.

There is material available on line, through SLG, and I have a website at sandylandry.com. There may be a couple of things on my website that teachers might use, like the redemptive gifts of the characters from Winnie the Pooh. Every time we look at them through a new grid, it helps.