



FINE ARTS

# deployed february week 3

## discipleship dimension: holy spirit

### DIMENSION OBJECTIVE:

Identify God-given gifts and talents and how to use them in life.



# Purpose over Performance

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### scripture

“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip. The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money.

‘To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.’”

**Matthew 25:14–18, 29**

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### discover

My middle school and high school memories are jam-packed with tons of Fine Arts highlights at both district and national events. My whole family is so gifted in singing, including my parents who were worship leaders. I loved singing worship to God too, so when I could be in Fine Arts, I entered vocal solo excitedly.

When my moment came at our district festival, I realized the sound guy played the wrong part of my cassette tape and it was in a much higher key than I could sing. I struggled on to complete my presentation and honestly can't remember if I even made it to the bathroom before I burst into tears of embarrassment. It isn't a pleasant memory, but it did teach me a lot!

The 2005 National Fine Arts has always stood out in my mind too. I was waiting for my turn to preach my short sermon. The guy before me had already started. His obvious nervousness came out in rushed speaking and some stammers, but I remember his content was so good. He didn't make it past the introduction when he declared to the room, "I can't do this!" I frequently thought about him over the years and wondered if he ever did Fine Arts again.

A few years ago, I heard a district youth director (DYD) recount this same story! He shared how he wrote a letter to this same student after Nationals. He told him to not give up, but to keep pursuing the call of God on his life. Years later, this student met this DYD at an Assemblies of God event and pulled out his wallet to reveal the letter folder up. "Your letter meant so much to me! I'm a youth pastor now and I've carried it with me and take it out from time to time to encourage myself when ministry gets difficult."

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## develop

Through my 7th grade Fine Arts moment and subsequent events after, I realized with the help of mentors and even just trial and error that I wasn't gifted in singing. I still belt it out in worship to God in church, but when I stopped trying to make it happen the way I saw those around me succeeding in it, I found something incredible. I found something God had gifted in ME and recognized it as a calling.

The next year in 8th grade, I tried short sermon. As my youth pastor coached me through the different types of sermons, how to use references, and practiced with me, I saw that every time I gave my sermon I felt a confidence emerge. I discovered that was anointing. God was showing me this is what He was calling me to do with my life. Further, the feedback I got from various people about how a sermon I preached in middle school or high school was powerful and impacted them, showed me I could gifted in this area. A few key ways that we can identify the giftings God has given us are:

1. Rather than hop on trends or what others are doing, ask God what talents and gifts He's specifically given you.
2. Try out various activities to see what you're good at. Sometimes it will be like my story.
3. Review your feedback. Listen to your coaches, mentors, and other trusted people to see what areas they notice you're gifted in.

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## deploy

Evaluate the things and talents you've practiced by asking yourself why you started doing it in the first place; what feedback you've gotten by asking a coach, mentor, or pastor their thoughts; and how it makes you feel when you're preparing for or presenting that skill. A team has each other's backs and celebrates each other's wins, too. Take turns putting each person of the team in the middle and ask each member to say one thing they believe this person excels in. It doesn't have to be about one of the arts like singing. Don't overlook passions and personality traits that may help them discover their tangible talents, such as how extreme kindness and gentleness can often be marks of someone who's gifted with working with children.

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## prayer

**Pray for a revelation of your gifts and talents and the patience in developing them. The Holy Spirit can use us way more when we offer ourselves completely to Him and hand over control rather than trying to force our own path.**