

Find your
thing,
do your
thing.

The Life of a Servant

What is the evidence of God's presence? How do we know when God is at work? Jesus gave evidence that God, the Father, was present in him. He quoted the prophet Isaiah,

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, **because** he has anointed me to **preach good news to the poor**. He has sent me to proclaim **freedom for the prisoners** and **recovery of sight** for the blind, to **release the oppressed**, to proclaim the year of **the Lord's favor**."

Jesus came because **people matter to him**.

Jesus showed them his love through **acts of mercy**.

Jesus left behind a **community of believers**—the Church—to continue his work of renewal.

This is what the "SERVE" in "Gather, Plug in, Serve" is all about: *finding your thing and doing it*.

What's a "thing?"

Your "thing" is a need you're passionate about which you are uniquely gifted, resourced and positioned to meet. It's a mission you believe God is leading you to pursue. It's your piece in God's puzzle of renewal.

Your thing can be...

- **Filling a volunteer role in a ministry** of Rio like Children, Youth, Journey, Rio Men or Women, Seniors, etc.
- **Using your time, talent and resources to meet needs** like foster care, homeless ministry, social justice, counseling, etc.
- **Supporting global efforts** to end suffering and spread the message of Christ's saving love—The Gospel.
- **Raising** your kids! **Serving** your co-workers! **Loving** your friends and associates in your own world!
- **Being a Renewal Entrepreneur**—finding and leading new ways to do any or all of the above.

How do you find your thing?

Consider the following...

- **Your gifts**—Things God has specifically and naturally wired you to do.
- **Your abilities**—Skills you've acquired throughout your life of work and play, failures and success.
- **Your personality**—How you're wired emotionally and psychologically. Your "personal style."
- **Your life experiences**—The events and seasons of success and failure that have made you who you are.
- **Your passions**—The things you feel the most strongly about. Issues, needs, people, ministries that inspire your compassion and energize you when you think about them.

How do you start?

- **If this process is new to you** or you feel like you need to start fresh, work through the resources in this packet.
- **If you've done something like this before** and are confident you know your *gifts, abilities, personality, life experiences and passions*, you might want to skip to the "do your thing" section, which provides several ways to, well, do your thing.
- **If you're already serving**, consider going through this process to make sure you're doing the *best* thing.

Then what?

Do your thing!—Use the "do your thing" resources for ideas and contacts to get going. If you want to talk through this with someone or have problems connecting to a ministry, contact Matt at 954-522-2518 or Matt@riovistachurch.com.

This exercise is designed to help you find "your thing" and give ministry leaders guidance as they assist you. May God bless your journey.

Your gifts

Things God has specifically and naturally wired you to do.

God has promised every follower of Christ spiritual gifts. These aren't acquired skills. They are part of our DNA. 1 Peter 4:10 says,

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

Below is a list of spiritual gifts found in Scripture. Contemplate these things and circle three or four you believe you might have. Get some feedback from people who follow Christ and know you well. See if they confirm what you think.

Administration-The ability to see and set short and long term goals and execute a strategy to accomplish them.

Hospitality-The ability and *desire* to create welcoming, meaningful environments for people to connect and be cared for.

The Arts-The ability to communicate through music, drama, print, media or any art form.

Serving-The propensity to discern unmet needs and use available resources to meet them.

Discernment-A proven ability to detect distortion of God's Word in the Church, whether in people, teaching or worship.

Intercession-The special ability and desire to converse with God in prayers of adoration, confession, thanksgiving and need.

Shepherding-Being a spiritual servant leader to someone over a longer period of time.

Evangelism-The proven ability to be uniquely effective in drawing people into a healthy relationship with Christ.

Knowledge-The special ability to accumulate and retain information, and use it productively in service to God and people.

Speech-the special ability to communicate with the spoken word.

Exhortation-The ability to use God's Word to comfort, encourage and equip followers of Christ and motivate them to action.

Leadership-The natural ability to draw others to a purpose and motivate them to work together toward its success.

Teaching-The ability to pass on knowledge in a way that people understand and can apply in practical ways.

Faith-The special ability to keep the vision of God's hope even through testing and trials.

Manual Craftmanship-The natural ability to make things with your hands.

Wisdom-The special ability to take knowledge and experience and apply it to situations in a way that builds up and renews.

Giving-The special ability *and desire* to acquire and assimilate resources for use in Gospel ministry.

Writing-The special ability to communicate through the written word.

Helps-The special ability *and desire* to do the "behind the scenes" things which allow others to thrive.

Mercy-The special proclivity for compassion toward suffering, hurting people.

Your abilities

Skills you've acquired throughout your life of work and play, failure and success.

Below is a list of skills and abilities you may have developed through jobs, hobbies, school activities, mentorships and other life experiences. Don't just think about things you do now. Think back to when you were a kid, in college, in other seasons of your life. It's not comprehensive. Circle as many as apply and add others not listed.

The Arts—Singing, playing an instrument, graphic design, painting, drafting, composing, poetry, drama, film/video

Other:

Human Resources—Health and fitness, counseling, social work, medical care, financial coaching

Other:

Administration—Office/people management, budgeting, facility management, accounting, legal

Other:

Technology—Audio, lighting, IT, web design, multi-media

Other:

Communication—Public speaking, teaching/training/coaching, marketing/advertising/PR, radio, tv, print

Other:

Sports—football, basketball, baseball, soccer, volleyball, endurance, cycling, coaching, fitness training

Other:

Design—Interiors, landscaping, graphics, architecture, civil/electrical/mechanical engineering

Other:

Hospitality—Party planning, decorating, catering, hosting, event organization, travel agent/trip planner, tour guide

Other:

Fundraising—Event and activity planning, grant writing

Other:

Trades—Mechanical, electrical, plumbing, carpentry, heavy construction, masonry

Other:

Natural Resources—Agriculture, biology, geology, water management, recycling

Other:

Etc.—Fishing, hunting, sailing, skateboarding, water sports, flying, race car driving, basket weaving, mouseketeering

Other:

List the education/training you've had:

List the jobs you've had:

List your hobbies:

Your personality

How you're wired. Your "personal style."

You may have done a personality assessment before. Here's a simple one.

Are you an **Expressive**, an **Analytical**, an **Amiable** or a **Driver**? A combination? In the four columns below, circle traits that **best** describe you. Ask someone who knows you well what *they* think of your self assessment. The column with the most circles will indicate your tendency.

Expressive	Analytical	Amiable	Driver
Future oriented	Past-oriented	Past-oriented	Present
Visionary	Logical	Personal	Now-oriented
Imaginative	Conceptual	Adaptable	Efficient
Idea-oriented	Deductive	Responsive	Practical
Intellectual	Analytical	Empathetic	Perfectionist
Individualistic	Serious	Accepting	Independent
Creative	Objective	Subjective	Efficient
Idealistic	Detail-oriented	Dependent	Assertive
Seeks excellence	Orderly	Understanding	Results
Dislikes routine	Cautious	Supportive	Decisive
Dramatic	Considers alternatives	Respectful	Severe
Undisciplined	Systematic	Personable	Thorough
Unmoved by status	Moralistic	Prefer familiar	Risk-taker
Dislikes detail	Frugal	Flexible	Competent
Concept-oriented	Structured	Loyal	Realist
Promotion	Comparative	Willing	Autocratic
Big Picture	Patient	Encouraging	Self-confident
Prefer the new	Persistent	Prefer involvement	Determined
Dislike repetition	Prefer privacy	Dependable	Prefer action
Seeks new challenges	Habitual	Aware of feelings	Dominating
Impatient with routine	Moderation	Seeks praise	Expedient
Enjoys the complex	Must know reasons	Relationships	Seeks impact
Original	Process-oriented	Responsive	Likes control
Complex	Accurate	Agreeable	Pushy
Stimulating	Fact-oriented	Influential	Competitive
Inspired	Stuffy	Diplomatic	Self-sufficient

Expressives need to be heard. They love new ideas and vision. They are creative. They need lots of encouragement. They are "big picture" and don't like to dwell in details.

Analyticals value logic, organization and moderation. They learn from the past. They want things in writing and need time to think before they make decisions. They don't do well with spontaneity and are not big on emotion.

Amiables are easy going, team-oriented and aware of people's feelings. They offer praise and help and do well one on one. They are very flexible. They don't do well with dictators or being pushed hard for change.

Drivers are about results. They admire self starters and have an ability to get things done quickly. They do not like abstract or vague discussions or anything that gets in the way of achieving short term goals.

So what personal style best describes you? _____

Your life experiences

The events, struggles and seasons of failure and success that have made you who you are.

Your life experiences have helped to shape your character and attitude, which will be a critical influence on your desire and ability to serve. God uses your story, including and often *especially* your hurts—the wrongs you've done and the wrongs you've suffered—to equip you for meeting the needs of others. As Christ demonstrated, it's through your pain and sacrifice that other people can be made whole.

Think about your life experiences...

Your *spiritual* experiences

What meaningful decisions/times have you had with God? When and/or where have you felt God in your life the most?

Your *painful* experiences

What problems, hurts or trials have you had throughout your life?

Your *victory* experiences

What have been your biggest successes? Your greatest moments? What are your fondest memories?

Your *Educational* experiences

Not just where you went to school or what degrees you got. What was your favorite subject? What have you learned outside of school, from a mentor or in a training program? On a trip?

Your *ministry* experiences

How have you served before? How are you serving now? What's been the most meaningful and fulfilling?

To help you think through your life, here are some experiences by which you may have been touched:

Painful Experiences

Loss of someone close
Severe financial problems
Addiction
A hard break up
Divorce
Disability

Ministry Experiences

Volunteering in a church ministry
Working with a cause
Helping a friend or neighbor
A mission trip
Working with kids
Serving the homeless

Greatest Memories

A great sports victory
A great team you were a part of
An accomplishment or award
A place you visited
A lasting friendship
A mentor you'll never forget

Your passions

The things you feel the most strongly about. Issues, needs, people, ministries that inspire your compassion and energize you when you think about them.

What do you *love* to do? What topics, issues or concerns get your blood flowing the most?

Let's start with what motivates you. Consider the following. What are your top three?

- **Development**—I love to make something out of nothing.
- **Pioneering**—I love to test new ideas and take risks to do something great.
- **Organizing**—I love to bring order out of chaos.
- **Operating**—I love to make things work efficiently.
- **Serving**—I love helping people. I love seeing people succeed.
- **Acquisition**—I love to shop, collect and obtain things of the highest quality for the best price.
- **Excellence**—I love taking things and making them the best. I love setting and achieving high standards.
- **Influence**—I love to “win people over” to my way of thinking. I enjoy shaping attitudes and behaviors.
- **Performing**—I love to hold the attention of others, to make them laugh, cry, cheer, jeer, think.
- **Repairing**—I love figuring out how to put together new things and fix broken things.
- **Leading**—I love running a team, building consensus, overseeing things, determining how things will be done.
- **Persevering**—I love taking a challenge. I love being told something can't be done and then doing it.
- **Policy**—I love creating infrastructure that makes things run efficiently and equitably.
- **Justice**—I love to fight for what is right and am not afraid to battle injustice.

What about people? On whom do you think you can make the most impact? Who “calls out” to you?

The unborn	Babies	Toddlers	children	Middle Schoolers	High Schoolers
College/young adults	Singles	Young married	Families	Single parents	Empty Nesters
Seniors	Women	Men	Adults	The homeless	Addicts
Professionals	Athletes	Divorced	Orphans	The Poor	Immigrants
The “Unchurched”	Urban youth	Others?	Others?	Others?	Others?

What about causes? What gets you worked up? Breaks your heart? Makes you angry? Excited?

Parenting	Sanctity of Life	Recruiting people for ministry
Marriage/family	Homelessness	Worship
At-risk teens	Drug/Alcohol recovery	Politics
Abuse/violence	Sexual addiction recovery	Race issues
Money management	Illness/injury	The Economy
Loss of homes	Divorce recovery	Disaster Relief
Third World renewal	Grief recovery	Sexuality/Gender issues
Ethics	Health and fitness	Evangelism
Law and Justice	Education	The environment
International affairs	Science and Technology	Disability relief
Other:	Other:	Other:

Congratulations!

You've just started.

Ha! Just kidding. You've finished your profile. But you *have* just begun this journey. It's our prayer that you will either be

- 1) affirmed and better prepared to do what you're already doing to serve,
 - 2) freed to realign yourself with a ministry better suited to your gifts, abilities and season of life,
- Or
- 3) equipped to find your thing and do your thing for the first time.

This exercise is about more than just volunteering. It's about living your life on a mission:

To lead people in a growing relationship with Christ.

Finally, don't forget that if you try to SERVE without gathering and plugging In, you will run out of purpose and run out of gas. We're all in this together, with each other and with our Lord, Jesus Christ. He set it up that way so that we could succeed. As we **gather** in worship together, **plug in** to our community groups and reach out to **serve** with our lives and words, ***we will grow.***

Action Steps:

1. Review the various ministry opportunities at and through Rio.
2. Pick at least one or two you'd like to explore.
3. Follow the instructions for connecting with each ministry. You're not committing. Just exploring.
4. Contact Matt@riovistachurch.com if you want to discuss your profile or are having any problems connecting with a ministry. You can also call the church office at 954-522-2518, extension 108.

Do your thing.

The following is a list of ministries Rio operates as a church and ministries we support in the community. It is NOT comprehensive, and more information will be released as it is available. If you know if a ministry that we support but was not included, please contact Matt at the church office. There are also several ministry teams we hope to start in the near future. You'll be hearing about those as well. If you have a ministry idea, write up a single page proposal with the name and/or nature of the ministry, the need it addresses and how you see the ministry working.

My World

Home—There is no more important ministry than your kids and their friends. Take advantage of Rio's youth and children's ministry resources as part of your personal ministry vision for the people living and playing in your home. For children, email Sandy@riovistachurch.com. For youth, Carter@riovistachurch.com or call the church office.

Work—If you work a normal job, you may be the only "Church" your co-workers ever see. Do your job with excellence. Be a part of your work community. Be generous with fundraisers. Go to company events and offer to help. Be kind and compassionate. Be vigilant for needs of your workmates and their families and help people avail themselves of Rio's resources when it's more than you can handle.

Contact Matt@riovistachurch.com or call the church office if you want to make your workplace "your thing."

Play—Wherever you have relationships every day, whether it's your kids' sports team, your gym, a club, whatever, this can be your thing. God has put you in these people's lives for a reason—meet them where they are, to love them, to serve them, to show them that part of Christ they need to see at this point in their lives.

Contact Matt@riovistachurch.com or call the church office if you want to talk about serving the people in your world.

Renewal Entrepreneur—There may be nothing on this list that grabs you. This may be because God has wired you to pioneer. To see problems and find creative, effective solutions. To spearhead new ministries in an ever changing world.

To talk about BIG VISION needs Rio is involved with all over the world, call Matt at 754-235-3153 or email me at matt@riovistachurch.com.

Our World

Kidquest—Our children's ministry exists to support families as they grow in their relationship with Christ. It is the most volunteer intensive ministry at Rio, and we are always looking for excellent people to fill a wide range of ministry roles. Contact Sandy Ives, Sandy@riovistachurch.com, to find out how to connect and serve our families.

Impact—Our student ministry is for middle and high school students and emphasizes growing in Christ through relationships and life changing experiences. Impact is looking for all kinds of support, both administrative and pastoral, and you don't have to work with kids to help out. We *are* looking for adults with a unique ability to relate to teenagers and a desire to mentor and disciple them. Contact Carter@riovistachurch.com or call the church office.

Journey—This is our community of young adults, typically ages 20-30, who get together for friendship, Bible Study and service to their world. It's got a great leadership team but is always looking for more people who want to catch the vision to reach the young adult community of Fort Lauderdale and help them find growing relationships with Christ. Journey is going to be adopting "Paul's Place," a housing ministry of Shepherd's Way, for Christmas, providing Christmas trees and presents for the families living there. To connect, contact Bobby Moses at 954-691-7093.

Rio Men—Our men's ministry exists to equip, encourage and strengthen men for all the challenges of life, as fathers, husbands, professionals and men of character. Iron sharpens iron. So men need other men to help them grow. There are lots of ways to serve in this ministry: teaching, small group leading, event planning, cooking, publicity, and many other things. Contact Ted Moses at tmosesfl@aol.com to get connected.

Rio Women—Rio Women ministers to the unique needs and seasons of life all women face. As with Rio Men, there are many ways to get involved and minister to young marrieds, college students, singles, divorcees, professionals, and any others God places in our path. Contact Terry Fee at fdhfee@aol.com for information.

Seniors—We have a vibrant ministry to adults over 65, which includes a community group, monthly luncheon and other activities as well as mercy ministry for those with both temporary and chronic health issues. Contact Rev. Art Stejskal at Art@riovistachurch.com or call the church office at 954-522-2518, ext. 106.

The Prayer Team—People with a heart for prayer who can give their time as prayer partners on Sunday mornings and/or part of our prayer chain can contact the church office at 954-522-2518.

Worship—You experience our awesome worship every Sunday, but there might be two things you don't know. First, most of the people on stage are volunteers! Second, the worship team has a vision for much more than Sunday mornings. Not only are they always looking for talented musicians and vocalists with high character and a deep understanding of worship leadership, they also need sound and light techs, multi-media people, sound engineers, stage designers and much more. Be prepared to be interviewed AND audition for worship positions. High calling, high visibility and high public scrutiny make this a critical ministry with the highest of standards for excellence. Contact Ryan@riovistachurch.com or call the church office at 954-522-2518, extension 103.

First Impressions—This team works to create a great Sunday morning environment for both regular attenders and visitors. People with good people and organizational skills can help out by greeting, running the information center, passing out church bulletins and helping out with sign ups, etc. Contact Stephen Martin at Stephen.Martin.GT@hotmail.com.

4kids—4kids is the most prominent and effective foster care ministry in Florida and is consulted nationwide for its strategy to end the cycle of abandonment and despair kids face when they don't have a home. We have several families at Rio who partner with 4kids by fostering kids, serving as volunteers, serving on the board, serving on staff and providing other forms of support and publicity. 4kids also runs group homes for older foster kids as they "age out" of the system. Opportunities to serve include becoming foster parents, running independent living residences, maintaining and improving homes, and many other lower commitment volunteer opportunities. Go to <http://www.4kidsofsl.org/> and follow the "get involved link" or contact volunteer coordinator Stephanie Gunderson at (954) 979-7911.

His Caring Place—His Caring Place ministers to young pregnant women who have nowhere to go. Their mission is “to provide young women with the opportunity to complete their pregnancies, accomplish personal goals and discover God’s plan for their lives.” Visit their website at www.Hiscaringplace.org and click on “How can I help” or call (954)429-9222.

Trees of Hope—Trees of Hope exists to heal the wounds of sexual abuse and equip communities to safeguard their children. This ministry provides a 12 week study and discipleship program for victims of sexual abuse and was recently spotlighted at Calvary Chapel in what became the most requested service recording their history. It was founded by one of our members, Dee Proietto.

You can contact her directly at 954-309-0215 or go to the website: www.treesofhope.org

Hope Pregnancy Center—Hope exists to support, educate and encourage young women toward sexual health and provide healthy alternatives to abortion while also providing confidential, compassionate counseling and support services for women who have had abortions. Visit their website at www.thereishope.org or contact Nat Pitcairn, a member of our church and Hope volunteer, at 954-791-0308.

Shepherd’s Way—Shepherd’s way serves the needs of the homeless in Broward county, specializing in holistic family care. Their goal is to get families standing on their own and back into the world healthy, stable, sheltered and self supported. They provide all the services to make that happen, including emergency and transitional housing, food pantry, free day care, financial counseling and other support services. They just received a 15 year lease for a dollar a year from a local Methodist church, and they opened “Hope Central” on Andrews an Sunrise, which caters to all homeless needs. They have many, many ways to serve. Contact Eddie Copeland at 954-667-7233 to connect.

Sheridan House—Sheridan house calls themselves “one stop shopping for families.” They provide counseling and support services for families, single moms, kids in trouble and many others. They have a beautiful facility in Davie and several ways to get involved. Go to www.sheridanhouse.org to get connected.

Church Planting—Rio is committed to church planting as the best way to bring the Gospel and it’s work of renewal to any community. We recently planted City Church north of Broward Blvd. on 3rd avenue, and our philosophy is to support church planting with two thirds of our annual “outward” budget. We are currently working with our presbytery and Rick Hunter of Renew South Florida to identify and support new works. Contact Rick at 954-695-1832 or Matt@riovistachurch.com.

Living Waters Counseling—Living Waters is a the counseling ministry of Norm Wise, who was featured in our week 2 “Mercy” video. They maintain over 40 hours of counseling per week on our campus, in the newly remodeled Manse. There are many opportunities to partner with them and use your struggles to minister to others. Call 954-452-4407 to connect.

The World

Opportunities abound for all sorts of ministry in Haiti, Honduras, Austria, Mexico, Germany and Asia. Rio has interests in all these places and hopes to focus our efforts on church planting and support ministries. Our goal is not just to send money, but to send people and resources to promote the unique vision of Rio around the world.

If you’re interested in global strategies and ministry, contact Matt@riovistachurch.com or call the church office.