

Discerning God's "Mission Impossible" for You

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God has created each person uniquely for His purpose

How do you discern where Jesus might be calling you to follow Him?

Connect with the real Jesus of the Bible, overcome blind spots and fears; and strengthen foundational beliefs. Exploring the maximum overlap between how God has SHAPED you and factors beyond yourself might help you discern God's "mission impossible" for you.

*"And who knows but that you have come to your royal position
for such a time as this?" Esther 4:14*

Many Christians struggle to discern God's plan for their lives.

Circle the challenges limiting you or contributing to your analysis paralysis? Type in chat

1. Confusion	2. Too many options	3. Fear of making the wrong choice
4. Fear of failure	5. FOMO	6. Too much sacrifice
7. Family expectations	8. Too hard	9. Other

Identify two to three areas where you would like to discern more clearly about God's "mission impossible" for you:

What do you want to see and discern?

- Perhaps our struggles to discern God's plan for our lives is related to a wrong focus?
- Is God's plan for you an "End or Means to an End?"
- A guarantee of your happiness?
- What is your destination or goal?

Our focus is often on what God wants us to DO or His plan

- **Why?**
- **What are you afraid of?**
- **What if ...**
- Guarantee for our happiness?
- Risk, pain and suffering?
- Your life's specifics, blueprint plan or happiness is NOT God's focus!
- God's plan for you includes significant risk, suffering and sacrifice?
- Will you accept and embrace that plan enthusiastically?

What does God want us to focus on?

This workshop is about:

1. Focus

2. Foundation

Challenge your fears and foundational beliefs so you can grow in courage

3. Freedom to explore viable options

4. Function in Community

and you need to work

1. Focus on the Real Jesus of the Bible

BEING LIKE JESUS more than our happiness and success? Romans 8:28,29

Includes sacrifice and suffering – just like for Jesus

Where do you want to grow to be more like Jesus?



Focus on Jesus instead of self by fighting the whirlpool of self-absorption

Identify where you might be tempted to be self-absorbed?

2. FOUNDATION – Redefining Success according to Jesus

The world's definition of success - essentially according to your possessions, power, popularity, achievement, appearance and outward symbols.

Worldly success attacks our identity and security.

Jesus directly contradicts the world. ***Is greed a blind spot in our discipleship?*** Luke 12:13-34

A. Being God's children (dependent on God more than self-sufficiency) Romans 8:1,2; 28,29;
1 John 3:1-3; Luke 10:17-20; Mark 1:16-18.

- Being is far more important than doing!
- To form core identity and security more than possessions, outward symbols, etc.
- Inside-out
- Dependent on God, trust, surrender = success
- Risk-taking and sacrifice with Jesus

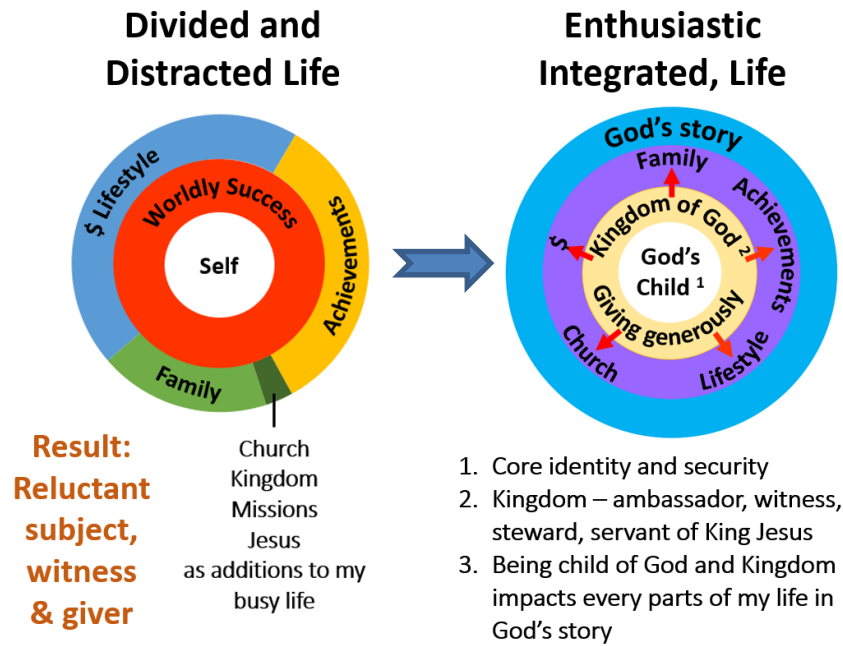
Where might you place your identity and security in other's approval, or your achievement, appearance, career, possessions, or outward symbols of worldly success more than in being God's child? Usually exposed when you are suffering or need to sacrifice.

B. Kingdom-focused (more than self-absorbed)

Which question are you asking?

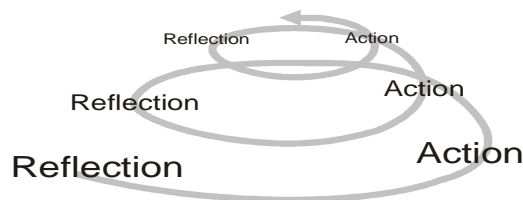
"Where does God fit into the story of my life?"

Or "Where does my little life fit into this great story of God's mission." – Christopher Wright



C. Generous to the poor (more than hoarding and acquiring)

Easy in theory but most challenging to apply:



Join Redefining Success according to Jesus 7-week Bible Study/Challenge to go deeper and apply

Week	Topic
1	Identify Harmful Definitions and Blind Spots
2	Transformed by the Real Jesus
3	Being God's Children
4	Review, Celebrate and Apply
5	Being Kingdom-Focused
6	Giving Generously and in Community
7	Review, Celebrate and the Motivation

ONLINE – Check out redefiningsuccess.com.au

3A. FREEDOM TO EXPLORE – Dot theory Vs Circle Theory

Blueprint Vs Spirit-guided choices

Dot Theory	“Circle” Theory
God’s blueprint for your life	God gives us guidelines, boundaries, ideals to aim for and wisdom
Restricted to our interpretation of His will/Plan A = perfect, precise, ideal. What if we miss Plan A?	Freedom to choose from equally “good and perfect” options; What if we choose poorly?
Emphasis on unique spiritual experience or ‘God’s call’	Emphasis on “Wisdom” and Community
Sometimes downplay wisdom and community	Sometimes downplay unique spiritual experience
Go to a prayer retreat, get holy and download His Plan A?	Listening to God, wise counsel from community of Christ’ followers

- Dot theory leads to waiting for a ‘call’, voice from heaven or green light?
- When God has already spoken, are we listening and obeying?
Witness to family, friends, people around us and from other cultures, the least reached.
Acts 1:6-8

In practice?

Dot Theory	“Circle” Theory
Strong on God’s sovereignty but weak on human free will/choice/ responsibility, “God made me do it”	Room for both/and - God’s sovereignty and human free will/ choices/ responsibility
Appears more definite, predictable	Mystery; sometimes less definitive
We function more like children – receive and implement	We function more like adults - agency, make and own choices
Risk of following the blueprint more than listening to Jesus	Adaptability; Journey – one step, crest, bend at a time
Individualistic, so leadership and community just rubber-stamp	In community – invite input

When suffering?

Dot Theory	“Circle” Theory
Self-condemnation or self-doubt	
Temptation to blame God or others	
“Did I hear God correctly?”	“Did I/we choose wisely?”
Cling to God’s call, no matter what – sometimes unwise?	How can I respond well? Susceptible to avoid suffering under the guise of being wise
Find new blueprint? Plan B, C, etc	Learn, adjust, adapt, pivot to new circumstances or season

Your preference? Your practise?

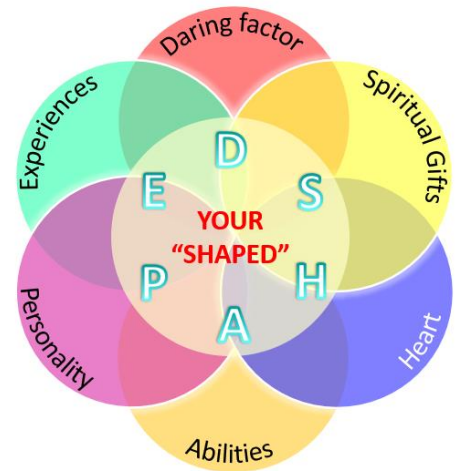
Balancing God’s sovereignty, grace and plan with our faith, responsibility and freedom to choose and bless. Ephesians 2:8-10

3B. Discerning how God has “SHAPED” you

(Partly based on “Purpose Driven Life” by Rick Warren, chapters 30-32)

Make a list and discuss with people who know you well under the following:

- **Spiritual Gifts** Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-12:
Ephesians 4: 4-13; 1 Peter 4:10-11



- **Heart** - vision, passion, holy discontent
I feel most alive when:

- **Abilities** - God has made us as whole beings –
physical, rational, emotional, spiritual.
He gives us special skills for His purpose.

- **Personality** - sometimes the least influential

- **Experience**

- **Daring Factor** - Give yourself a score for your risk appetite. When you are willing to take more risks there will be more ministry options.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Petrified		Cautious		Average		Moderate risks			Willing to be a martyr

What are you afraid of? Try to be honest with God, yourself and others:

- ◆
- ◆
- ◆

3C. Discerning possibilities beyond yourself

- Your “SHAPED”
- Your Church’s vision and “SHAPED”

- **SWOT**

Season – age, family factors, further education, medical needs, etc

World Needs – local, cross-cultural and global

Least reached peoples, least number of witnesses

Perhaps they are “unreached” simply because no one has gone to be with them? Romans 10:12-14 NLT

Opportunities

Timing –

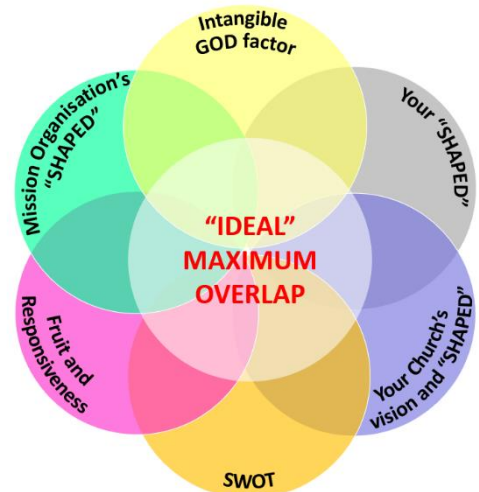
- **Fruit and Responsiveness**

Where have you seen fruit?

Responsive people?

- **Mission organisation’s “SHAPED”**

- **Intangible God factor** - God’s power in weakness, increased dependence on God, where you “sense”; “something in your spirit”; “inner voice”, etc that God might be leading you



4. IN COMMUNITY – Psalm 20:5; Acts 13:2,3

Who are you journeying with to point out your blind spots, and for support and accountability?

Identify a few steps God is inviting you to take, even on a “perhaps”? Jonathan in 1 Sam 14



The Motivation:

- ✓ Avoid guilt, shame or fear
- ✓ Love for God and people
- ✓ Be motivated by the love of Christ – 2 Corinthians 5:14-15
- ✓ Jesus is worthy to be worshipped by all nations