

The Four Priorities Chapter 25

Book by John Tolson

Facilitator Guide by Reclamation Church

Chapter 25: Your Culture and Calling

Note: The timelines below are only a guide, as well as the questions to ask. Make this your own and go where the Holy Spirit leads you. Take your time and, when needed, break this chapter into several meetings.

Some potential responses to the questions in this guide are written in **green** and are only intended to aid the discussion. You may consider other ideas beyond the ones provided.

**Open
(10 min.)**

Spend a few minutes each week catching up with one another, then share prayer requests.

Do: Open in prayer.

**Recap
(5 min.)**

Briefly give a summary of your meeting last week. We discussed:

- There is a much-needed harvest available to us.
In Matthew 9:37-38, He (Jesus) said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.”
- We can help lead someone into a saving position with God through Christ Jesus by clearly sharing the Gospel message.
- Next, we can begin to disciple (teach) someone *how to obey* all that Christ Jesus taught, which means growing in our spiritual walk with Christ.

Ask: Did you encounter anyone this week who needed to hear this Good News? Explain.

Say: In this next section of the book, the author describes a few types of believers and how they either engage or disengage with unbelievers.

Strategies,
pgs 238-239
(30 min.)

Rejection:

Ask: In what ways do many believers live their lives with the mentality of the Amish (pg. 238)? How about for yourself personally?

Say: To evangelize and be a witness for Christ, we need to be *among* unbelievers who need Christ! If we only surround ourselves with other believers, we cannot possibly expect to help free others from this dark and wicked generation.

Accommodation:

Ask:

- How have you seen others experience the compromise discussed on page 239?
- How have you personally experienced this pull away from your faith and toward a worldly point of view? What brought you back, or do you still struggle?

Creative Tension

Ask: Without making a compromise, how have you found it meaningful to engage unbelievers in a spiritual? (If they have not done this yet, share some of your own examples, both positive and negative.)

Say: It is important for us to remember that we all start out as unbelievers in need of the Savior! All unbelievers engage in sinful activities and behaviors and cannot help but do so. They do not have the Holy Spirit to save or grow them. Help guide them to receive this incredible Gift!

Where to start? It is helpful to **determine how God has gifted us** and what areas of passion drive us to do the work we do for others and in evangelism.

Passions and
Gifts
(30 min.)

Definition: *Passions* are activities or interests that excite and motivate you, while *gifts* are natural talents or abilities you possess.

Passions often stem from personal experiences and desires, whereas gifts are typically innate skills or traits. Passions can be cultivated and developed over time, while gifts may require less effort to excel in, given their inherent nature.

Example: I might have a gift for teaching others, and my *passion* might be teaching those in China or in prison.



Passions, cont.

Say: Passions and giftedness may be difficult for some people to pinpoint in their lives. Some people know right away what their passions are, while others are led to them by the Holy Spirit. These passions can also change over time.

Examples of Passions: Creating cards and mailing them to shut-ins, singing music to the elderly at senior centers, bringing a meal to someone after surgery, teaching God's Word to young men or women, hosting meetings for other ministries, sending words of encouragement to others, getting involved in missions, or leading the efforts to accomplish something meaningful to those around you or within the church, just to name a few.

Ask:

- Can we brainstorm other passions together?
- This question can also help identify our passions:
What types of things happen in society that cause you anger, frustration, and/or a desire to fix things?
- Have you identified any areas of passion as they relate to helping and serving others?
- How might we help get you connected to seeing your passions put into motion?

Gifts

Say: The 4 Priorities book does *not* go into detail about the Spiritual Gifts the Holy Spirit gives to the church. But your gift(s) need to be explored and discovered so that you can ensure you serve the body of Christ and others with your unique gifts.

The most important thing to remember is that God chooses the best gift(s) fit for you and your personality. We should not envy the giftedness of others but use them together for the benefit of honoring God and blessing the body of Christ.

Examples of Spiritual Gifts: Teaching, healing, encouragement, creativity, leadership, and hospitality, just to name a few.

Do: Read the following scriptures to see more about the Spiritual Gifts given to believers by the Holy Spirit.

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Romans 12:6-8, and Ephesians 4:11
- Got Questions has a description of each gift as well.
<https://www.gotquestions.org/spiritual-gifts-list.html>



Gifts, cont.

Resources:

1. A free assessment can be found at this site:
<https://www.spiritualgiftsassessment.org/>
2. Network *Discover Your Spiritual Gifts* <https://www.brucebugbee.com/>
(This workbook explores your personal style (people or task), spiritual gifts, and passions, and how these all work together. It also gives excellent descriptions of each gift, as well as strengths and weaknesses associated with each.)

Note to facilitator. After you finish the Four Priorities, you might consider studying the Spiritual Gifts/Passions study together.

(Take Action
(15-30 min.)

Read through and discuss the questions at the end of the chapter.

Close
(5 min.)

Homework:

Read Chapter 26 (and referenced scriptures in the Bible) and come prepared with questions you might have from this chapter, as well as completing the end-of-chapter questions.

Close in prayer.