

## INTRODUCTION

At Fellowship we believe that church is a participation sport. As part of the family of God, you have the choice to sit on the sidelines and watch other people use the gifts God has given to them, or you can get off the bench and use what you've got to actively participate in the game. What do you do with every good gift God has given to you (James 1:17)?

## SCRIPTURE

*Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.*

Genesis 2:15 (NASB)

*<sup>7</sup>That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, "Ask for whatever you want Me to give you." <sup>8</sup>Solomon answered God, "You have shown great kindness to David my father and have made me king in his place. <sup>9</sup>Now, LORD God, let Your promise to my father David be confirmed, for You have made me king over a people who are as numerous as the dust of the earth. <sup>10</sup>Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of Yours?" <sup>11</sup>God said to Solomon, "Since this is your heart's desire and you have not asked for wealth, possessions or honor, nor for the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life but for wisdom and knowledge to govern My people over whom I have made you king, <sup>12</sup>therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you wealth, possessions and honor, such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have."*

2 Chronicles 1:7-12

## GROUP QUESTIONS

1. If God told you to ask Him for anything, and He would give it to you, what would be your request? How do you think you are *supposed* to answer this question? How do you really *want* to answer this question?
2. Read the following verses, and discuss the main point of these passages:
  - Psalm 24:1
  - Psalm 50:9-12
  - Haggai 2:8
  - Colossians 1:16
  - Job 1:21
  - 1 Timothy 6:7
3. Aaron read Genesis 1:1 - *In the beginning, God....* God created everything, and everything belongs to Him. You came into the world with nothing and will bring nothing with you when you leave. So why is it so easy to forget that *everything*, including the shirt you wear, belongs to God?

*Study Questions for Community Groups*

4. Read Genesis 2:15. As Aaron mentioned on Sunday, the meaning of the word *cultivate* (NASB) or *work* (NIV) is *to work (in any sense); by implication, to serve* (Strong’s Concordance). Does the added definition of *serve* change how you view your purpose (in your home, community, workplace, church)?
  
5. Read 2 Chronicles 1:7-12. Has there been a specific instance in your life when you have asked God for influence as you entered a situation – meeting, job interview, family crisis, hospital visit? How did God answer?

**APPLICATION**

This week, consider why God has placed you where He has placed you, and begin to map out your sphere of influence (similar to what Aaron did on Sunday for Ginny). In the upcoming Sundays, we will get very specific about how you can use your influence for the glory of God.

**FOR FURTHER STUDY**

1. Solomon asked God for wisdom and knowledge to govern God’s people. He requested this because he recognized that the people and the position he held were both given to him by God. Read the following Scripture verses and fill out the chart below:

PASSAGE	CHARACTER	POSITION/INFLUENCE	OUTCOME
1 Chronicles 28:1-7 1 Kings 6:1, 38			
Nehemiah 1:1-2:9 Nehemiah 6:15			
John 19:10-16			
Acts 10:1-11:18			

What do you learn about how these Bible characters used their position/influence?

2. God has strategically positioned you exactly where you are, in your specific family, in your specific job, in your specific relationships, with your specific friends and colleagues and neighbors, to serve as an influence for the glory of God. Will you choose to leverage your influence for the glory of God? If so, list below some specific action steps you will take: