

Personal Asset Based Appreciative Inquiry

³For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

¹⁷How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! (Psalm 139 – NIV)

The goal of this exercise is to **see the things God has given you and created you to be, and to consider how those assets could be focused on his Kingdom and his values.**

For each section we encourage you to invite the Holy Spirit to reveal and lead you. Take some time to ponder the questions. Generate as many answers as you can. Come back to the questions a few days later and see if there is anything you want to add. THEN, sit down with someone who loves you or knows you well in different spheres of your life (home, work/school, friendships) and see if they have anything they would add to your answers.

Moment 1: APPRECIATE

Asset Mapping (blessed with a host of gifts – skills, talents, knowledge, social networks, land/possessions, money, creativity, equipment, etc)

- What am I good at? What do I know something about?
- What do people often thank me for, or naturally turn to me for help with?
- Which activities leave me energized rather than drained? What do I enjoy doing for long stretches without noticing the time?
- What skills, knowledge, or resources has God entrusted to me (relationships, time, finances, practical abilities, leadership, possessions, creativity, hospitality, prayer, etc.)? What does God delight in about me?
- What do I see God doing around me? Where does God seem to be at work?

Moment 2: ALIGN

(Reflect on how your assets could align with God's Kingdom and God's values.)

- Of everything I've noted, what two or three themes seem to stand out most strongly (gifts, passions, experiences)?
- When have I felt most alive and close to God in the last few years? What was happening, and who was involved? How were any of my assets or giftings involved?
- When was a time I knew God used me to bless or encourage someone else. What did I do, and how did it impact them?
- When I look at the world or my community, what breaks my heart the most? What injustices or needs stir me want to pray or act?
- Is there intersection of my assets and real needs in my church, community, workplace, neighborhood – especially where my heart or values are stirred?

Moment 3: ACTION

(Consider specifics the Holy Spirit might be nudging you toward.)

- What further development or strengthening of my assets needs to happen to use them for impact? What areas, if given more attention, could have the most impact?
- What is one small, concrete step I could take in the next month to experiment in serving this way, and who could walk alongside me as I do it?
- What is the Holy Spirit affirming in me?
- Is the Holy Spirit leading me to make any changes this next year?
- Who can I discuss this with?