

Act *anything done, being done, or to be done.*

If someone asked you why you exist what would you say?
What does God's Word say as the reason we exist?

Read **Isaiah 43:7** and choose a picture that best describes what it means to glorify God.



To glorify God is to reflect His heart and character.
What would this look like in your daily life?

Read **John 20:21**.
What was Jesus sent to do?
What then is our specific mission?

Becoming a follower of Jesus came with a job description. **Matthew 28:18-20** lays it out for us. Read it and choose a picture you think best describes it.



Life Direction Circles

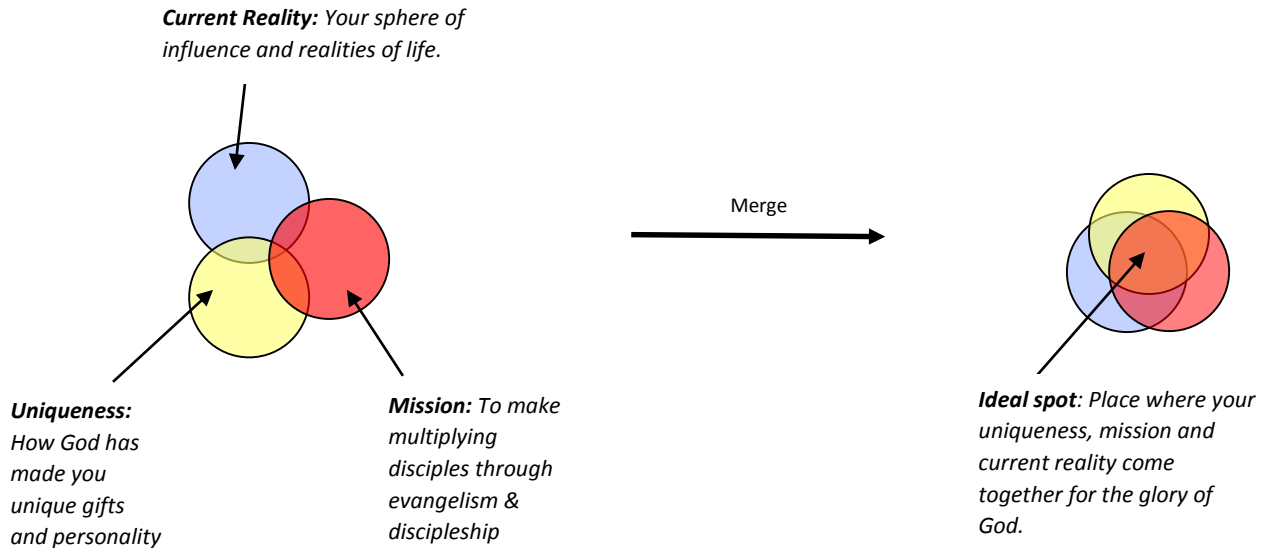
To see a video of this diagram go to <http://www.missionalwomen.com/foundations-group/category/act>

Purpose asks, "Why do we exist?" This is the same for all people. We exist to glorify God.

Mission asks, "What are we here to do?" This is the same for all believers. Our mission is to make disciples through the process of evangelism and discipleship.

Uniqueness is how God has built us. This is different for each person.

Vision is a picture of the desired future, a mental image of a possible and desirable future state. This is different for everyone.



We have our purpose, mission, uniqueness and current reality. But if these remain separate, we can feel like we are running crazy doing everything under the sun yet accomplishing little in terms of making multiplying disciples. The goal is to merge these together as much as possible. Let's use Jesus as our example of how to merge these. He used His uniqueness of being able to heal (so people would know He was God) to preach, and his current reality was traveling around to do it. In Mark 1:35, we see that His uniqueness was getting a little more attention, so He said, "Come let us go to the towns nearby so I may preach there also, for that is what I came for."

The law of entropy says things naturally go from order to disorder. So unless we are intentional about making disciples and making a plan to merge these circles in all reality it won't happen.

What was Paul's strategy in merging his mission, current reality and uniqueness? Acts 17:2

Here's a helpful acronym to help identify your unique blend God has given you to steward. Take some time with the Lord thinking through these questions more in depth but as we read them if something immediately comes to mind, you might want to make a note of it.

The acronym is INVEST. Interests, Nature, Vision, Experiences, Spiritual Gifts and Treasure.

Interests-

* What (types of things) and who (could be a people group, age group etc.) do you enjoy?

Nature/Personality-

* What are some strengths and weaknesses mentally, emotionally and socially?

Vision-

* What is something you would do in your lifetime for the glory of God if you knew you would not fail?

Your vision will never be bigger than your view of God. Jesus loved asking this question. "What do you want me to do for you?" Mk 10:36

*What are you passionate about? What would others describe you as passionate about?

Experiences-

* What do you see going on around you and every time you experience it or think about it, it deeply effects you?

* What is happening that you desperately want to see different?

Spiritual Gifts-

* What comes natural for you to do?

*What do you enjoy doing? What thing(s) really refresh and encourage you after you do them?

*What have others noticed you were good at?

*What have spiritual gift inventory tests said your spiritual gift(s) were?

*What are some things you are confident in doing because of the ability God has given you?

Treasure-

* What has God entrusted to you? What resources are you a steward of?

And finally, the most important question:

How can you use your uniqueness to carry out the mission Jesus gave you of making multiplying disciples through the process of evangelism and discipleship?

Current Reality

Where do you live and what are the realities that surround that?

Where do you spend the majority of your time?

Write down some ideas of how your **mission** can tie together with your **uniqueness** and your **current reality**.

Spend some time brainstorming practically what your strategy could be. It might help to write down some specifics of how God made you (what you like, your personality, passions, gifts etc.) and things that are true about your current reality. Then think through how you can use those things to be about making disciples through the process of evangelism and discipleship. Jot down your thoughts below.

Believe it or not, reaching this world is very possible. Starting with 45 of us, multiplying once annually the whole world could be reached in 29 years.

Let's say for example that a gifted evangelist is able to lead 1,000 people to Christ every day. Each year he will have reached 365,000 people, a phenomenal ministry indeed. Let's compare him with a disciple who leads not 1,000 people a day to Christ, but only one person a year. At the end of the year, the disciple has one convert; the evangelist, 365,000. But suppose the disciple has not only led this man to Christ, but has also disciplined him. He has prayed with him, taught him how to feed himself from the Word of God, gotten him into fellowship with like-minded believers, taken him out on evangelism and showed him how to present the Gospel to other people. At the end of that first year, this new convert is able to lead another man to Christ and follow him up as he himself has been followed up.

At the start of the second year, the disciple has doubled his ministry—the one has become two. During the second year, each man goes out and leads not 1,000 people per day to Christ, but one person per year. At the end of the second year, we have four people. You can see how slow our process is. But note, too, that we do not have only converts, but disciples who are able to reproduce themselves. At this rate of doubling every year, the disciple leading one man per year to Christ, will overtake the evangelist numerically somewhere in the 19th year. From then on, the disciple and his multiplying ministry will be propagating faster than the combined ministry of dozens of gifted evangelists." Walter Henrichsen

How can you be intentional this week about the mission God gave you of making disciples with your current reality and uniqueness?

Practically, what is your next step?

What things could distract you? How can you guard against them?