



The Parable of the Talents

¹⁴“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants¹⁴ and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents,¹⁵ to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.¹⁶ You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

In this presentation, we'll cover five steps to engaging the community.

Assumptions

The Process is more important than the Program.

Why we don't

- Engaging the community is unpredictable
- Engaging the community can be a time-sink
- Engaging the community can seem like church growth.

However...

- Engaging the community gives you Credibility with the community
- Engaging the community gives you Credibility with your members
- Engaging the community gives confidence in your "No."

"People think focus means saying yes to the thing you've got to focus on. But that's not what it means at all. It means saying no to the hundred other good ideas that there are. You have to pick carefully. I'm actually as proud of the things we haven't done as the things I have done. Innovation is saying no to 1,000 things." -Steve Jobs
#quotedalmostasmuchascslewis

Engaging the community is not a replacement for actual gospel proclamation. (See Babylon Bee Article)

"It is impossible to get drunk if you don't drink alcohol." -some Baptist

"It is impossible to evangelize if you don't talk to people." –some Lutheran



Step 1: Identify Your Gifts

What am I good at? Self-evaluation is a gift.

What one thing would I not want to give up?

If I could hire someone to _____ ...

If I had an associate, what one thing would I be happy to give up?



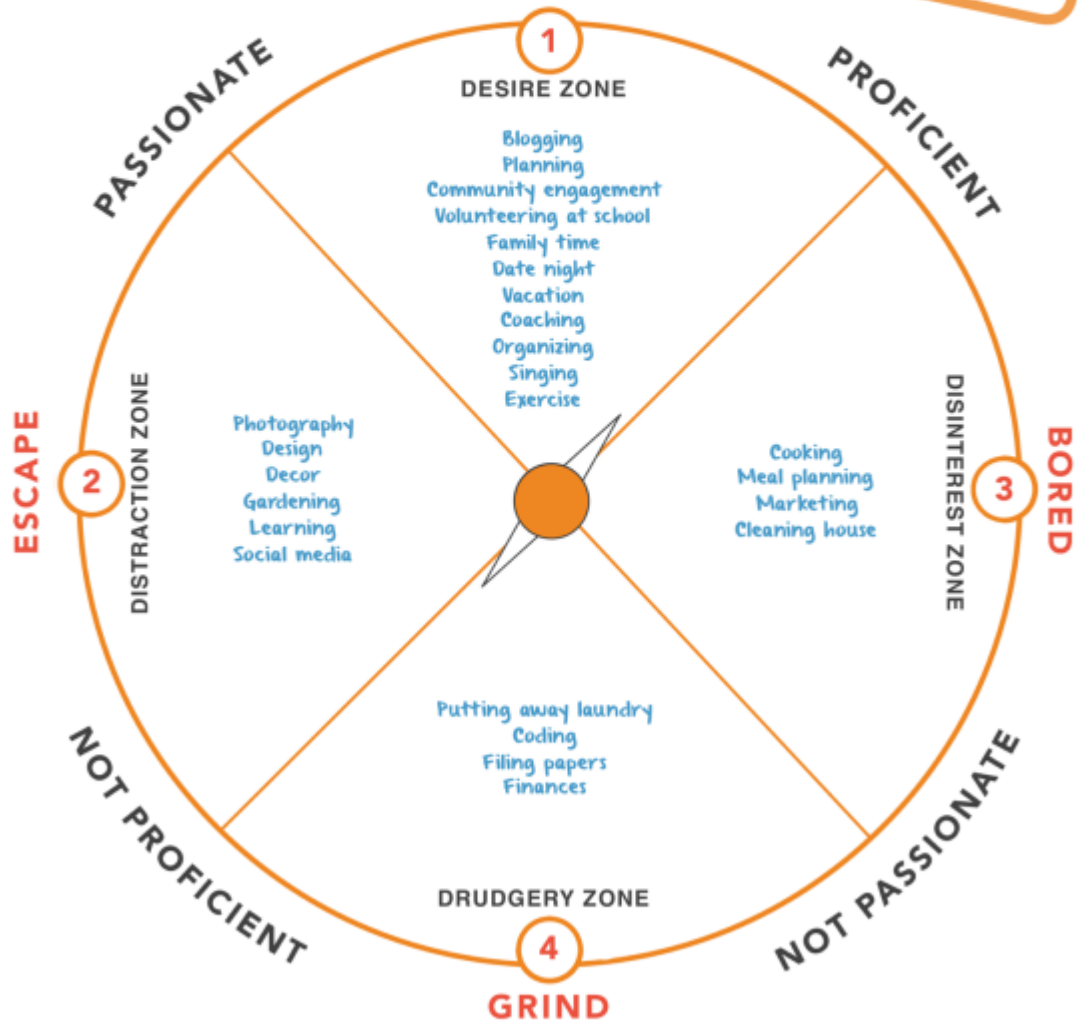
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SAMPLE



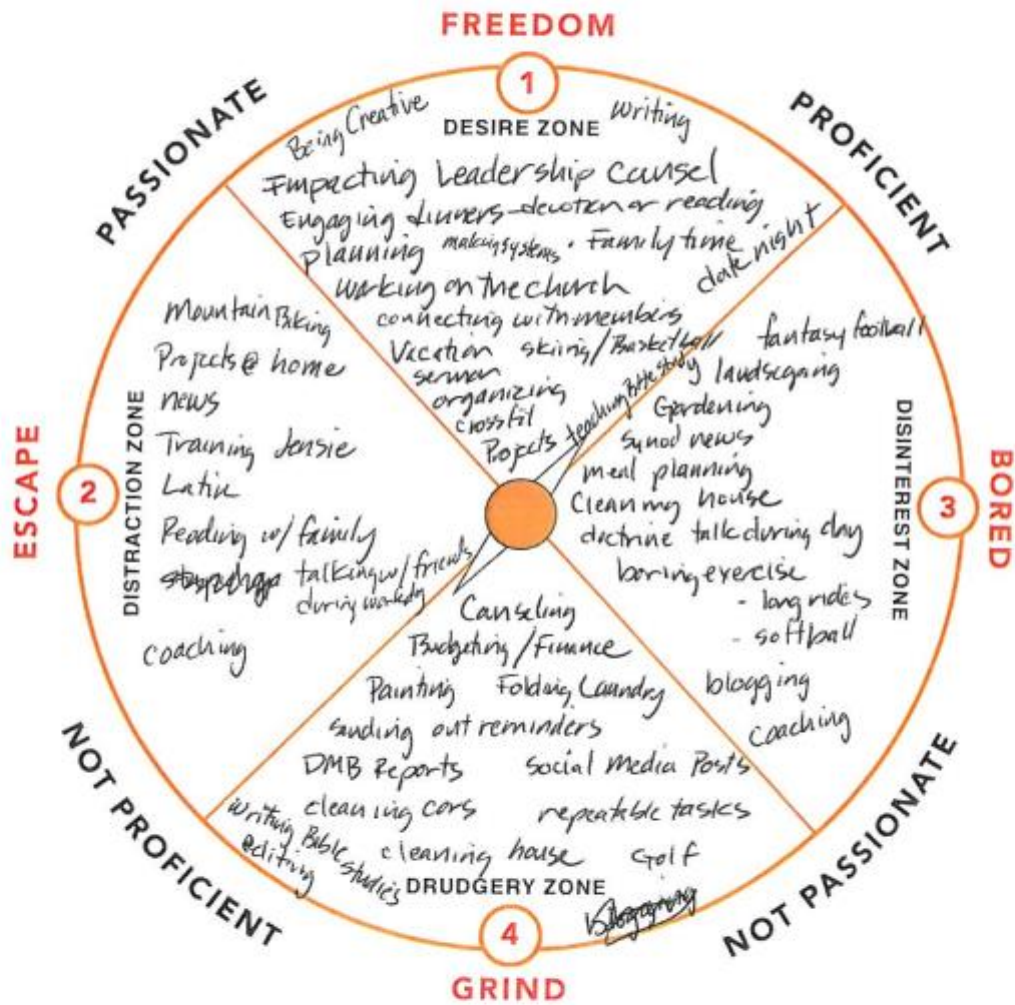
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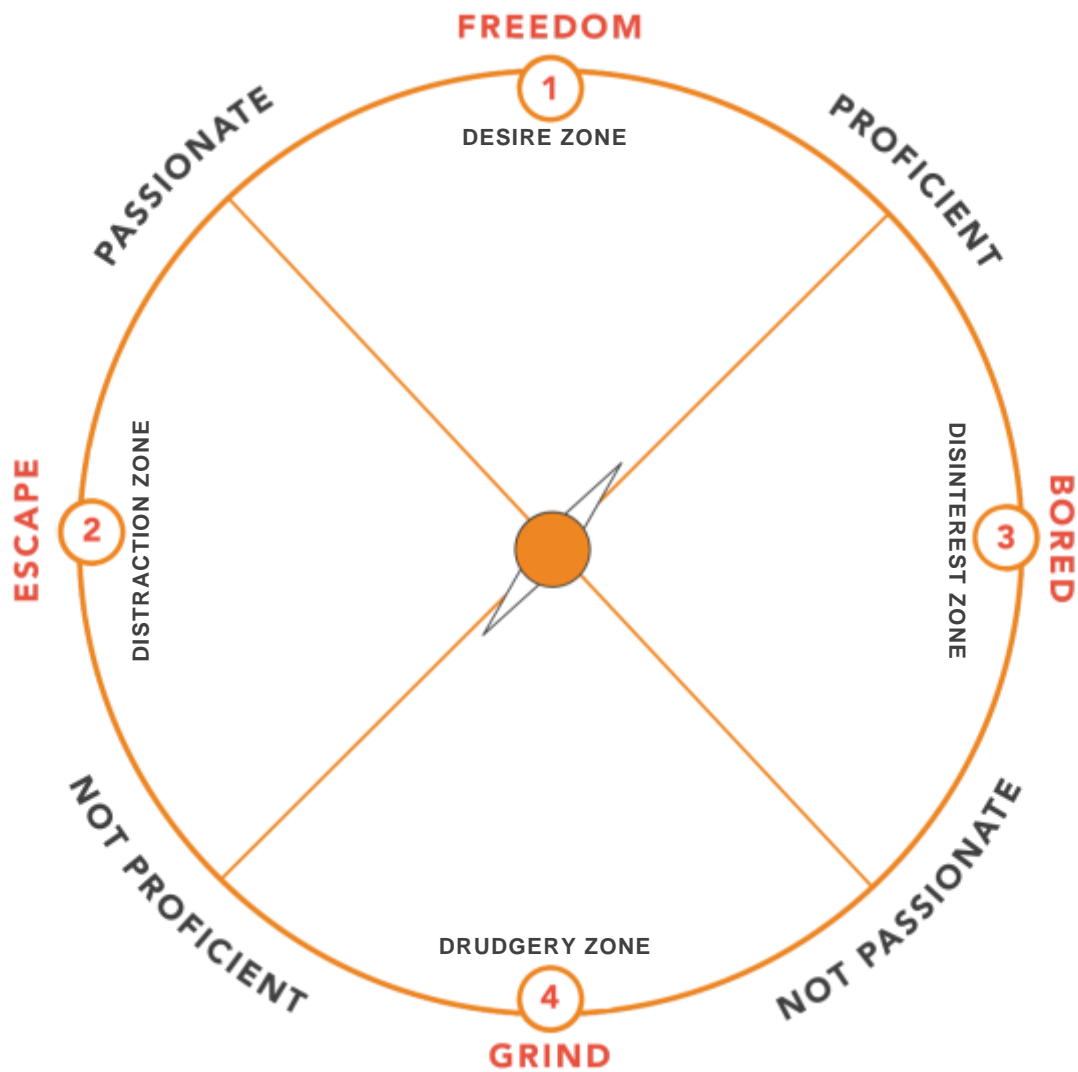




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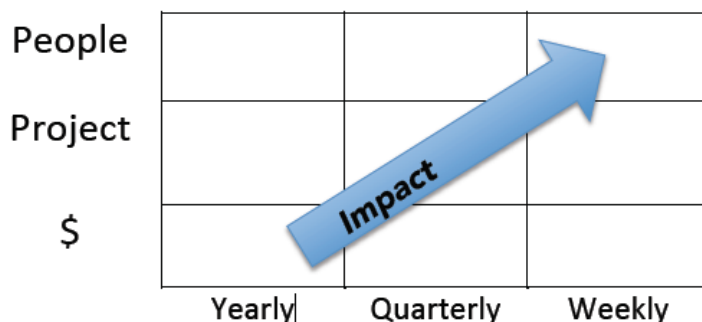
Step 2: Participate in the Community

Immediate Neighbors
 (Art of Neighboring)
 Store Clerks
Join a Gym
Have people over
Coaching
 Meet other pastors
 Government officials
 Softball Team
 Basketball League

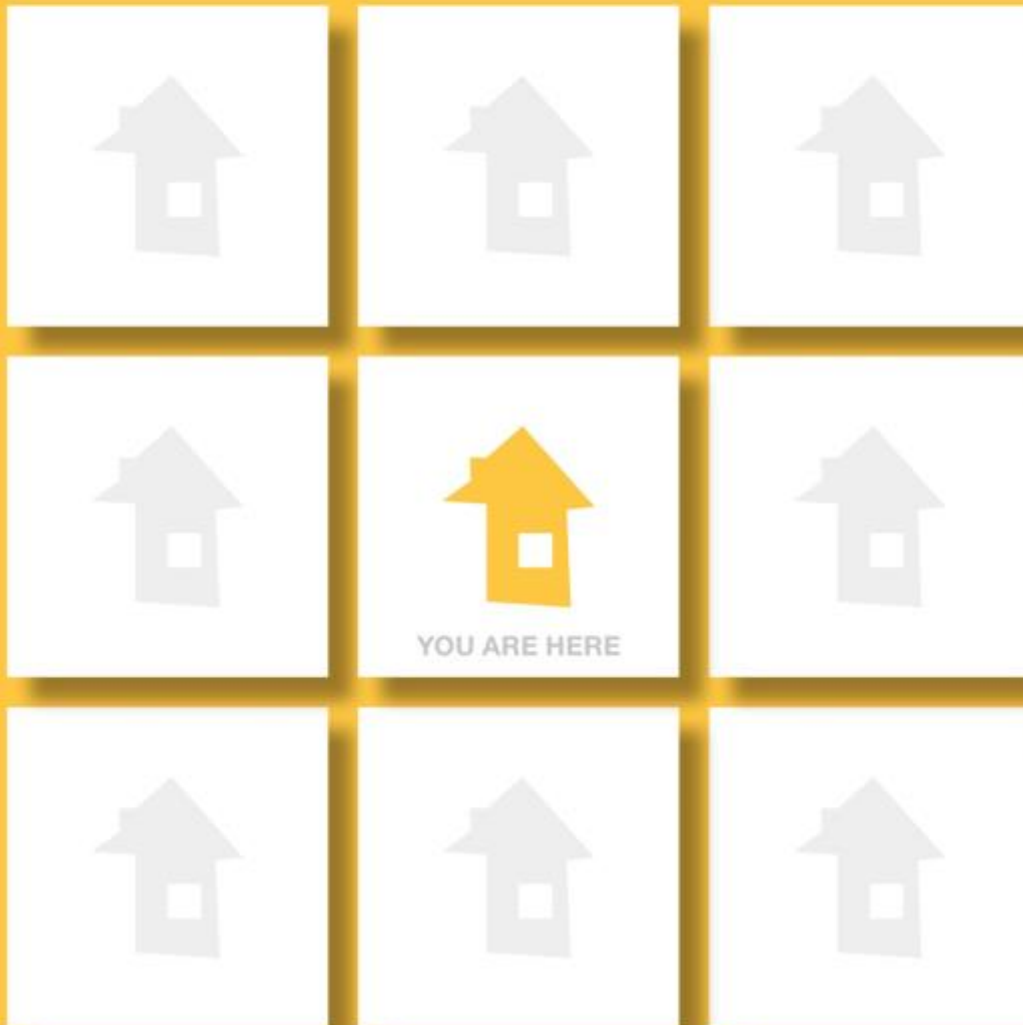
Open House
 Community Events
 Mountain Biking
 Neighborhood Party
 Golf League
 Running Club
 Teaching
Local School (especially elementary)
(kids/staff/facility)

The Church takes on the personality of the Pastor. If you don't seem to care about your neighbors....

LAW OF CIRCUS PEANUTS: Crappy Participation is worse than no participation



WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?





Step 3: Become a Community Expert

Council Member
Mayor
City Planner
Community Forums
Read the local paper
Road/Park Plans/Shops
History
School Principals

Other Non-profits
Chamber of Commerce
Percept study
Community surveys/canvas
Shop local
Real Estate
Eat local
Visit other churches

“Experts not only know their community; experts love their community.” –some expert



Love Local Challenge

Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." Jeremiah 29:7



The Subaru Elephant Rock Cycling Festival, Sunday June 5, 2016 (always first weekend of June). Includes Rocky Mountain region's premier cycling festival and 5 courses from an 8mile-family ride to the whole 100 mile century!



Music in the Meadows - Wednesday night music series at Butterfield Park (June 8, 24, July 14 & 27) Nothing better than enjoying the summer evening with some live music! Free.



105 West Brewing Company- 1043 Park Street (tucked behind DC Guns). The best micro-brewery in Castle Rock. Come visit our friends and try their IPA 2.0 (you can compete to name it), the Coal Train Porter or a flight sampler. Usually have food trucks there as well.



Car show Street Party Downtown - Friday, July 17, 5-8pm, 5pm -7am. Classic Rock and Classic Car-on Wilcox street between 4th & 5th Street.



Castle Rock Half Marathon - Saturday, June 25th-weave down Plum Creek Trail as you look for a new personal best or just sign up to volunteer.



4th of July Fireworks-New "Low Altitude" show with more fireworks than ever before. Metzler Park-You can still see them from around town, but they check to see if you can see the park lights from your favorite spot.



Castle Rock Farmers Market - Saturdays, 8am-12pm, July 9-October 1 (downtown 414 Wilcox) Uber local farmers market with crafts and other local small businesses. Afterwards try Yolanda's Tacos next door.



Castle Rock Wine Festival - The Grange in The Meadows, Saturday, July 16 2pm-8pm. \$29-more than two dozen wineries from Colorado.



212 Pizza Co. (next to Founders King Soopers). Locally owned artisan pizza. As much as possible, they use organic, all natural, and locally sourced, ingredients. Definitely worth a try!



Race the Mac- Come join the fun at Castle Rock's own Race the Mac Mountain Bike series sponsored by Grist and various LBS's (Local Bike Shops). Awesome prizes and tons of categories. Philip S. Miller Park Trails, Wednesdays @ 5:00pm (July 20, 27 & August 3, 10) www.raceco.org



Douglas County Fair & Rodeo - July 30-August 7, This event has been going on for over 65 years. Parade is August 6th downtown. Try out Midway games or Fair food.



Neighborhood BBQ - Anytime, at Your Place. Yeah this one's on you. Host a BBQ, hoist a beer and say hi to the people who live on your own street. Someone new moved in? Go say hello. Nothing better than chatting out front while the kids play up and down the street. Car...All Clear.



Eternal Rock Church Picnic- August 14th 12pm-3pm, Bison Park, Catered Food, Kona Ice, Corn Hole World Championships & games for the kids. This might be the best event of the whole summer!

Other's ??? - We just chose "some" of what Castle Rock has to offer. Write in your own and suggest them for next summer's issue.

* The fine print. We love our community that's why we made our list of suggestions. No one is getting kickbacks, or advertising dollars. We are also not endorsing any one activity over another. Just loving our Local, that's all.



Step 4: Engage the Community

Soccer camp	Clean up day
5k Run	Build something for school
Coaching	Food drive
Organizing	Mornings with Mom
Tutoring	Blessing Bags
Fostering	Docent
Backpacks for hungry	Fall festival
Cleaning up	Easter for Kids
Feeding hungry	Christmas for Kids
VBS	Pentecost 12 for Kids
Preschool	Music Camp
School	Read to Elderly
Trunk or Treat	Start a non-profit

Just because _____ is doing it, doesn't mean you should too.

Be careful not to answer invitations or opportunities too quickly.

What will I have to give up in order to say yes to this?

Will saying "No" to this allow me to say "Yes" to something better?

Give yourself permission to try and permission to fail.



Step 5: Evaluate

- Reload the Shotgun
- Many programs have a three year lifespan.
- Ask yourself, if I was starting a church here today, what would I do differently?
- Just because you are proficient at something, doesn't mean you have a passion for it.