

# What's Their Style?



## **How does this relate to me?** These people think in subjective ways.

They look for personal relevance in everything. They like to see about how things impact to their own lives and the lives of other people. When they read Scripture they look for the personal meaning in the passage. They like faith sharing, brainstorming, guided meditations, reading, and listening to speakers. They aren't crazy about hands-on experiences or action projects.



## **What are the facts?** These people think in logical, objective ways. They want to

know what the experts have to say. They like lectures, courses or seminars that include statistics, research findings, hand-outs, and references to good books or websites. They don't care about other people's opinions or experiences. They don't like brainstorming, group sharing, or touchy-feely experiences.



## **How can I do this?** These people like to jump right in and do things.

They like to volunteer. They like to figure out how things work. They like demonstrations, action projects, and hands-on experiences. They don't like to sit around and listen to someone talk about doing something. They don't like brainstorming or group sharing. They get restless during lectures – especially if there are uncomfortable chairs.



## **What if we took this to the next level?** These people are creative and

future-oriented. They are excited about new ideas and they want to implement them. They are trail-blazers that turn dreams into reality. They like brainstorming, action projects, and skits. They don't like to sit and listen. They don't care much about facts, but they are fascinated by stories of how other people implemented change.

# Helping People to Discern their Gifts

## Format for an Evening of Discernment

In an evening of discernment, you would want to include six key elements:

- An early bird activity for people who arrive before the start of the program
- Prayer
- Information on how to discern gifts
- Time for reflection
- A witness talk so people can see the benefits of using their gifts
- Some kind of commitment activity.

**Early bird activity:** Think of the best gift you ever gave. Share your experience of gift-giving that with someone sitting near you. If you have a large group, you might want to seat people in groups of four. Ask them to introduce themselves and share with someone they don't know.

## Agenda for the evening

- Welcome
- Opening song or the breathing prayer (see attached)
- A 30-40 minute talk on how to discern your gifts and how to match gifts with the needs of the parish.
- Guided meditation (see attached)
- Index Card Activity with people writing down their own gifts. You could have soft music playing in the background.
- Witness talk (10 minute talk from someone who has used their gifts in the parish and how it changed this person)
- Closing song or prayer
- Sign up sheets so people can commit to some parish ministry or organization. You have to make sure that if someone commits their gifts will be used. The worst thing is to have people volunteer and never be contacted, or even worse, to be rejected or told they are not needed.