

## ***Pit stop 4: The Power in Natural Abilities***

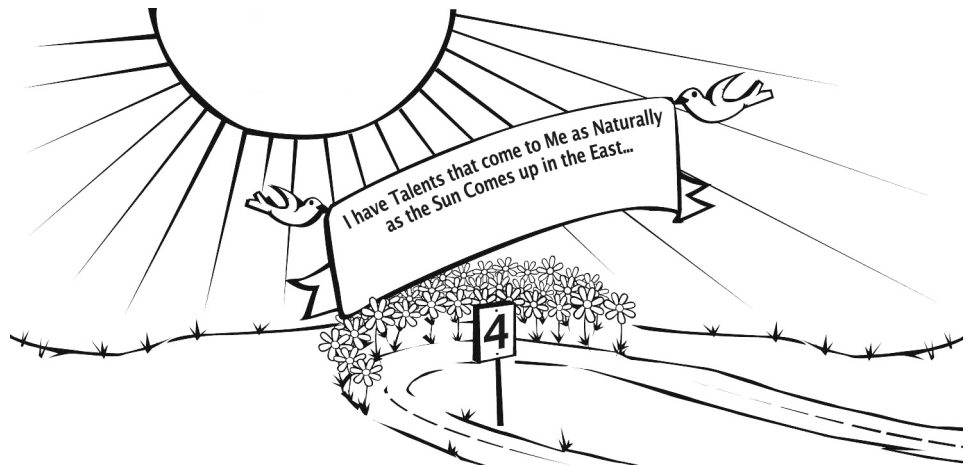
### ***Facilitator Focus:***

#### **Purpose 1:**

To help participants learn to accept and embrace positive feedback about themselves.

#### **Purpose 2:**

To help participants identify their natural talents and how to use those talents to help others.



## *The Power in Natural Abilities*

What does the phrase 'natural ability' mean to you?  
Let's define it.

### Natural Abilities:

Instinctive skills; abilities that came easily to you and seem to require little effort;  
gifts you enjoy using

Why is it important to identify and own your natural abilities?

To love yourself more.

To get comfortable with yourself / appreciate yourself

To establish your individuality.

To appreciate people who are different from you.

To see and appreciate what others can do that you cannot do well / respect others

To see natural abilities in other people.

To determine what kinds of jobs and hobbies will make you happy and engaged throughout life.

To know what part you play in making the world a better place

How does it feel when you are using a natural ability?

Easy

You are grateful

Might overlook them b/c it does come so easily

How does it feel when you are trying to do something that doesn't come naturally to you?

frustrating

awkward

tough

causes stress

## ***The Power in Natural Abilities***

Is it possible that natural abilities come so easily to you, that you don't actually consider them ABILITIES? Let's explore it.

Have you ever had anyone give you a compliment?

Compliments are great clues into our natural abilities. Often times others see what we cannot see in ourselves.

What do you do with a compliment? Accept it or dismiss it?

When someone gives you a compliment and you blow it off or dismiss it, what might you be saying to that person without even realizing it?

You are wrong

I disrespect you

I don't care

That is not worth noticing

Don't give me a gift b/c I don't know how to receive it

I don't know myself

I don't believe in myself

Why might you avoid identifying and owning your natural abilities?

You don't want to appear stuck up or arrogant.

You fear you may not have any natural abilities.

You fear you they may not be the abilities you *want* them to be

You fear that if you own them you might have to actually use them for the greater good.

(So much about fear)

Write down two examples of compliments you have received.

1. *Several people have told me that I*.....

2. *One time, .....* said that I am good at

.....

What do these compliments teach you about a natural ability you have?

## *The Power in Natural Abilities*

Sometimes it is difficult to see your own natural abilities, so here is a list to get you started. Go through the list and circle the words that seem natural and easily describe a trait you have.

Athletic	Artistic
Creative	Friendly
Funny / make others laugh	Making others feel comfortable / hospitality
Organized	Leadership
Logical	Persistence / diligence
Analytical	Hard working
Problem Solving	Ethical
Listening	Honest / Trustworthy
Detail Oriented	Attentive
Computer Savvy	Connect with people
Respectful of other people	Spontaneous
Studious	Hopeful
Prepared	Imaginative
Optimistic	Inventive/original
Open-minded	Kind-hearted
Investigative	Reasonable
Resourceful	Positive
Confident	Genuine
Innovative	Technological
Consistent	Structured
Motivating	Motivated
Encouraging	Loyal
Disciplined	Intellectual
Committed	Helpful
Focused	Forgiving
Task Manager	People Manager
Sincere	Considerate
Caring about the well being of others	Visionary
Compassionate	Speaking in front of a group
Sensitivity	Writing
Inspiring	Empathetic
Problem Solver	Team Player
Musical	Communicating ideas / concepts

## *The Power in Natural Abilities*

### **Owning your Natural Abilities affects others!**

Owning your natural abilities is important because your abilities empower you to live life more fully. There is a huge difference in owning your natural abilities in a way that helps others or hurts others. *How can you tell when you are using your abilities to help others or hurt others?* Think of it the same way as self-confidence... When you use your natural abilities in a positive way, you are reaching out your hand to help someone else along the way... to teach, to inspire, to encourage, to empower. When you **abuse** your natural abilities you show up as arrogant and selfish. Imagine using your abilities to reach out to help pull someone else up rather than pushing someone down in the dirt. Own them, and check yourself. The ways you use your natural abilities are a big part of what gives you the Good kind of self-confidence.

<i>I have the natural ability to...</i>	<i>I can use it to pull others up by...</i>	<i>I can use it to push others down by...</i>
Be Funny Make people laugh	Including everyone and not making fun of one particular person. Laughing always makes people feel better	Making people laugh at the expense of another person... making fun of someone

## *The Power in Natural Abilities*

### **Personal Exploration**

Name at least four natural abilities you have.

1.
2.
3.
4.

Is there a natural ability above that you have a difficult time owning and using in a positive way... to help pull others up?

Why is it difficult for you to own it?

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If you could own it, how would it affect your life?

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What do you need to do in order to own this natural ability?

Ask other people to validate it? Use it? What will it take for you to embrace it?

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### ***The Power in Natural Abilities***

Choose *one* natural ability and make a conscious effort to use this ability to pull other people up today. Notice if you use it to push someone else down, too, and think about using it differently!

Which natural ability did you choose?

How will you purposefully use it to pull someone else up?

Come back later and write down how did it felt when you used it?

Go to the map at the end of you workbook and write your natural abilities on this icon.

