

Read 1 Corinthians 13: 1-3. What does this passage warn us about our attitudes towards Spiritual Gifts? What is the most important thing?

In today's sermon we discussed four Spiritual Gift traps:

1. **Comparison:** Comparing your gifts with others. (Read 1 Corinthians 12: 21-22)
2. **Projection:** Expecting others to have the same gift as you.
3. **Rejection:** Refusing to accept our gift.
4. **Deception:** Thinking you have a certain gift, when you don't.

What are the dangers of each of these traps?

Over the next two weeks, we will spend time looking at our heart (passions), our abilities, our personalities, and our experiences. In the meanwhile, encourage each other to listen, explore and reflect on our Spiritual Gifts. Encourage each other with 2 Timothy 1: 6.

Close in prayer

Thank God that we are wonderfully made. Praise Him that we are made with a Kingdom purpose. Pray for each other, that we can discover and serve in the Gifts that God has graciously given each one of us. Pray that we would be an encouragement to each other.



S.H.A.P.E.

Growth Group Study Guide

Week 1

16 July 2023

Series Overview:

Over three weeks, we will discover some important concepts based on the book 'SHAPE' by Erik Rees. These concepts will help us find our unique purpose, and 'SHAPE' given to us by God. We will discover our spiritual gifts, our heart, our abilities, our personalities, and our experiences, all within a biblical framework. We encourage you to prayerfully engage with this series, so that we can be blessed both individually and collectively. We look forward to what God will uncover in our lives as we explore our 'SHAPE'.

Read Psalm 139: 14-16. What does this passage tell us about God's investment in us? How would you respond to someone if they said that they are not of much value?

Read Ephesians 2: 10. What does this passage tell us about God's creation of us? What 'good works' do you think Paul is talking about?

In today's sermon, it was mentioned that if we are uniquely made, then we have a unique contribution to God's plan. Erik Rees, in the book 'SHAPE' says that we all have a unique 'Kingdom Purpose'. He describes this purpose as:

Your specific contribution to the body of Christ, within your generation, that causes you to totally depend on God and authentically display His love toward others – all through the expression of your unique S.H.A.P.E.

What is this S.H.A.P.E?

Spiritual Gifts: A set of special abilities that God has given you to share His love and serve others.

Heart: The special passions God has given you so that you can glorify Him on earth.

Abilities: The set of talents that God gave you when you were born, which he also wants you to use to make an impact for Him.

Personality: The special way God wired you to navigate life and fulfil your unique Kingdom Purpose.

Experiences: Those parts of your past, both positive and painful, which God intends to use in great ways.

Reflect on each characteristic.

Over the next three weeks, we will examine each characteristic. We will begin this week with Spiritual Gifts.

Read 1 Corinthians 12: 1. What does this passage tell us about the importance of discovering gifts?

In today's sermon, we were reminded that Spiritual Gifts are not to be confused with; personality traits, natural talents or the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5: 22-23). What then, are Spiritual Gifts? Erik Rees offers this description:

'A God-given special ability, given to every believer at conversion by the Holy Spirit, to share His love and strengthen the body of Christ'

What do you think of this description?

Read 1 Corinthians 12: 7. Why does God give Spiritual Gifts?

Read 1 Corinthians 7: 7b. Does everyone get a Spiritual Gift?

Reflect on the following quote from Erik Rees: *'If you are a believer, then you have the Spirit living in you. If you have the Spirit living in you, then you have spiritual gifts to use for God's glory and the benefits of others'.*

What Spiritual Gifts does the Bible describe?

Read Romans 12: 6-8, 1 Corinthians 12: 8-10, 1 Corinthians 12: 28, Ephesians 4: 11, 1 Peter 4: 9-10. In the book 'S.H.A.P.E.' Erik Rees defines twenty Spiritual Gifts from the passages listed above. This is certainly not an exhaustive list, but is a good starting point to discuss and hopefully discover our gifts. The twenty Gifts are detailed in the enclosed paper. Reflect on each Gift.