

4. What is the cause? Consider the list of causes included in the insert. This list is not exhaustive. Can you think of others?
5. As you consider your passions, age groups and causes, how would you describe your 'dream for the Kingdom'?

Read Romans 7: 15-17. What is a warning here regarding our desires? How do we address that warning in our own lives?

Abilities:

Read Matthew 25: 14-30. What does this passage say to us about the natural abilities that God has graciously given us?

Consider the non-exhaustive list of abilities included in the insert (you may like to include others). Rank each ability according to the following statements:

Love it! (I can't imagine life without this activity)

Like it. (I enjoy this activity, but I can 'take it or leave it')

Live without it. (This activity is a chore, and I have little desire to do it)

Discuss your responses. What have you found?

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, passions and natural abilities 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 2

23 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'.

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

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.

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.

Recap last week and our discussion on Spiritual Gifts; what have you discovered that you were not aware of previously?

This week we are looking at the next two concepts in SHAPE, our heart (passions) and our abilities.

Read Colossians 3: 23-24.

“Physically, each of us has a unique heartbeat, just as we each have unique thumbprints, eye prints, and voice prints.... It’s amazing that out of all the billions of people who have ever lived, no one has had a heartbeat exactly like yours. In the same way, God has given each of us a unique ‘emotional heartbeat’ that races when we think about the subjects, activities, or circumstances that interest us. We instinctively care about some things and not about others. These reveal the nature of your heart.... And are clues to where you should be serving.” Rick Warren (Purpose Driven Life)

What does this Bible passage and quote from Rick Warren tell us?

Reflect on the following questions in relation to your passions, and discuss them as a group:

1. What drives you? What do my desires drift toward? What do I really want to do for God? What motivates me to action? What do I crave?
2. Who do you care about? What age range do I relate to? What affinity group can I serve?
3. What are the needs you can meet?

Spiritual Needs: Those who feel led to meet these types of needs long to help people discover Christ and reach their full potential in him. People who lean toward meeting these types of needs tend to use gifts of teaching, wisdom, evangelism, knowledge and prophecy.

Physical Needs: Those who focus on meeting physical needs use their resources to make sure people in need have food, clothing, shelter, and other simple necessities. The spiritual gifts of giving, helps, healing, administration, hospitality, pastoring and mercy are most often used to meet physical needs.

Relational Needs: Those who take an interest in meeting these needs find fulfilment in connecting people-helping them find and build satisfying relationships. Those who are drawn to meet such needs tend to use gifts of encouragement, wisdom, hospitality, mercy, discernment, and pastoring.

Emotional Needs: Individuals who are hurting emotionally need reassurance to know who they are in Christ. People who feel gratified by meeting emotional needs tend to be interested in counselling, encouraging and listening to others. The gifts used to meet these needs include encouragement, wisdom, mercy, discernment, and pastoring.

Educational Needs: People drawn to minister in this area enjoy everything from helping people learn, to showing them how to live life to its fullest. Spiritual gifts expressed here are teaching, pastoring, knowledge, and prophecy.

Vocational Needs: Many individuals (from young mothers to company executives) need help to maximize their personal or professional potential. People who love to meet these needs typically use their expertise to train, coach, and consult with others to overcome barriers and reach goals. The gifts expressed in meeting vocational needs are wisdom, leadership, teaching, encouragement, and discernment.

Which of these needs do you feel most passionate about?