

Experiences:

Reflect on, and discuss the following quote:

'Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards'

Soren Kierkegaard

Read Romans 8: 28. What does this passage tell us about our past experiences, both positive and negative?

Think about Paul's experiences expressed in 2 Corinthians 11: 16–12: 10. What is Paul's attitude towards his experiences in 2 Corinthians 12: 10?

Think about your own positive experiences (maybe in areas such as personal, vocational, relational, educational, and spiritual). How has God shaped you with these experiences?

Now, think about your own painful experiences (once again in areas such as personal, vocational, relational, educational, and spiritual). How has God shaped you with these experiences?

Read Psalm 23 and Romans 8: 28 for some perspective.

Now it is time to discover your SHAPE!

Use the QR Code here to start the SHAPE Discovery Tool, or use the following link <https://forms.microsoft.com/r/etbuwGFGLW>

Hard copies are also available in the church foyer.

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 SHAPE 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 3

30 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 our Heart (Passions) and Abilities; what have you discovered that you were not aware of previously?

This week we are looking at the last two concepts in SHAPE, our personality and our experiences.

Personality:

The Bible is full of the stories of people with a variety of personalities. Read Luke 22: 33 (Peter), Philippians 3: 2 (Paul), Jeremiah 8: 20-21 (Jeremiah) and Exodus 3: 11 (Moses). What do you notice about the different personality traits in these passages?

Reflect and discuss the following quote:

“Like stained glass, our different personalities reflect God’s light in many colours and patterns.”

Rick Warren

Consider the following personality traits, and discuss in your group your response to the related descriptions, remember, all traits are needed:

Outgoing or Reserved

- Look for ways to be part of the crowd
- Build deep relationships with a few individuals, as opposed to many people
- Start conversations with people I don't know
- Hesitate in being part of a large group

Self-expressive or Self-controlled

- Share my feelings freely with those I have just met
- Withhold my thoughts and feelings from others at certain times
- Seek opportunities to share my life with others
- Hold my cards closer to my chest so that only a few individuals can truly know me

Cooperative or Competitive

- Focus on making sure people are okay when I'm around them
- Find importance in achievements
- Embrace conflicts and enjoy winning
- Look for ways to make others content

High Risk or Low Risk

- Avoid too much change
- Relish chaotic environments
- Thrive when Risk is very low
- Become motivated when I have the chance to overcome obstacles in order to achieve success

People or Projects

- Embrace opportunities that impact people directly
- Look for ways to complete projects
- Enjoy orchestrating and coordinating many projects
- Find fulfilment when I am able to work with someone one-on-one or in a small group

Follow or Lead

- Find myself in positions of leadership
- Feel comfortable when I can follow someone else
- Impact others with my life
- Receive fulfilment by helping others find success

Team or Solo

- Enjoy working within a team environment
- Look for opportunities that allow me to operate solo
- Become energised by being around others
- Work most effectively when I'm alone

Routine or Variety

- Begin many projects at one time
- Find fulfilment when I can complete one project at a time
- Have high capacity and look for ways to spin many plates
- Become overwhelmed with constant change

Look for ways to encourage each other with their personalities