DISCOVERING YOUR SHAPE

Table of Contents

Abbreviations	3
Introduction: Purpose & Goals of Class	5 - 7
Lesson 1: Spiritual Gifts	8 - 14
Lesson 2: Heart	15 - 21
Lesson 3: Abilities	22 - 27
Lesson 4: Personality	28 - 32
Lesson 5: Experiences	33 - 37
Appendix	
A. Personality Types – Four Disciples of Jesus	41
B. Personality Types - Understanding Myself	42
C SHAPF Profile	43 - 44

ABBREVIATIONS

AMP	Amplified Bible @	2015 by The	e Lockman Foundation	All rights reserved
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GNT Good News Translation © 1992 by American Bible Society.

LEB Lexham English Bible 2012 by Logos Bible Software.

MSG The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language © 2002 by Eugene H. Peterson. All rights reserved.

NASB New American Standard Bible © 1995 by The Lockman Foundation.

NCV New Century Version®. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

NIV New International Version © 2011 by Biblica, Inc. All rights reserved worldwide.

NKJV New King James Version © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. All rights reserved.

TLB The Living Bible © 1971 by Tyndale House Foundation.

INTRODUCTION: PURPOSE & GOALS OF CLASS

29 "God knew what He was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to **shape** the lives of those who love Him along the same lines as the life of His Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity He restored. We see the original and intended **shape** of our lives there in Him. 30 After God made that decision of what His children should be like, He followed it up by calling people by name. After He called them by name, He set them on a solid basis with Himself. And then, after getting them established, He stayed with them to the end, gloriously completing what He had begun." Romans 8:29-30 MSG

THE PURPOSE FOR THIS CLASS

1.	Totemperament, and life	_and experiences.	my	spiritual	gifts,	inborn	talents
2.	То	_ me for works of m	inistry tha	t will lead to	my		
	and the	of	the				

What is the Biblical Concept of S.H.A.P.E.?

We all know what it is like to be "out of shape". Too often we find ourselves out of breath
with the least bit of exertion. Typically we resolve to "get back into shape". Even more
important than my physical shape, however, is my spiritual shape because

What God made me to *BE* (my shape) determines what God intends for me to *DO* (my ministry).

• I will understand the **purpose** I was created for when I understand the kind of **person** I am.

This is the secret of knowing God's will for my life!

- God is consistent in His plan for my life. He would not give me spiritual gifts, inborn talents, temperament, and all sorts of life experiences and then not use them!
- The purpose of this study is to enable me to discover for myself how God has fashioned me to be an integral part of His eternal purposes. In other words, this study is to help me discover my **S.H.A.P.E.** But, what is that?
- The five core dimensions of my **S.H.A.P.E.** are:

S – Spiritual Gifts (what am I gifted to do?)
H – Heart (what do I love to do?)

A – Abilities (what talents and skills do I have?)

P - Personality (what is my unique style?)

E - Experiences (how have life's experiences shaped me?)

• By reviewing and studying each area of **S.H.A.P.E.** as it applies to me personally, I can have a greater sense of God's purpose for my life and discover the ministry God has for me, ...that is, the *unique way* God intends for me to serve Him.

What Does the Bible Say About Ministry and Me?

•	You and I are God's c	reation.	
	God has been	and	me for ministry since
	was born. In fact, Go	d started uniquely	me even before I was born.
	my ways 13 For yo give thanks to You, j Your eyes have seen	ou formed my inward parts; You we for I am fearfully and wonderfully t my unformed substance; and in Y o	a are intimately acquainted with allove me in my mother's womb. 14 I will made; wonderful are your works 16 our book were all written the days not one of them." Psalms 139: 1-16
•	The Bible says:		
	The Pastors are the _		
	The People are the		
		Himself gave some as pastors and r the work of the ministry, for build Ephesians 4: 11-12 L	
•	I am God's	created for	which God has
		for me beforehand.	
		rkmanship, created in Christ Jesus nand so that we would walk in then	for good works, which God prepared n." Ephesians 2:10 NASB
•			ely, we have often tried to put square at was not meant for us. The SHAPES
•		ninistry I have been shaped for th	-
THE (GOALS OF THIS CL	ASS (MY GOALS)	
1.			A.P.E.) for ministry and commit to
	others through my ch		gifts and abilities in serving God and
2.		-	in the ministry of my church that best
		what God made me to b	

NOTES

LESSON 1: SHAPE - SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1"Now concerning what you wrote about the gifts from The Holy Spirit. I want you to know the truth about them my friends. 4 There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. 5 There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. 6 There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to all for their particular service." 1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-6 GNT

What is a Spiritual Gift? A special ability, given by The Holy Spirit to every believer at their conversion, to be used to minister to others, and therefore extend and deepen the ministry of The Lord Jesus Christ on earth.

THE PURPOSE AND USE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1.	Not for my benefit,	but		
	"Each of you should	0,5	e received to serve others, as faithful stewards 1 Peter 4:10 NIV	s of
	"The Holy Spirit o		gh each of us as a means of helping the entire nthians 12:7 TLB	?
2.	To produce	and	in our church family.	
	come together to	that oneness in our faith an carried by the waves and b	build up the Body of Christ. 13 And so we shall ndshall become mature 14 Then we shall no slown about by every shifting wind" Ephesia 14 GNT	0
KEY I	PRINCIPLES			
1.	Only	have spiritual gifts.		
		polishness, and cannot unde	t the things that come from The Spirit of God l erstand them because they are discerned only 1 Corinthians 2:14 NIV	
2.	The	is the giver of	gifts as He determines.	
	"All these are the w	-	oirit, and He distributes them to each one, just Corinthians 12:11 NIV	as
3.	I can't		_ a spiritual gift.	
		each one of us grace has b Enhesia	een given as Christ apportioned it." ns 4:7 NIV	

"Peter answered: 'May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money!" Acts 8:20 NIV

4.	Every Christian has at least gift.
	"but each one has his own gift from God, one in this way and another in that way." 1 Corinthians 7:7 NIV
5.	No one receives the gifts.
	27"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28 And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?" 1 Corinthians 12:27-30 NIV
6.	The gifts I'm given are
	"For God's gifts and His call are irrevocable." Romans 11:29 NIV
7.	I am to the gifts God gives me.
	"Do not neglect your gift, which was given you" 1 Timothy 4:14 NIV
8.	I am for how and when I use my gift.
	"The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets." 1 Corinthians 14:32 NIV
9.	It's a sin to the gifts God gave me.
	1"This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. 2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 NIV
	¹² If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³ their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. ¹⁴ If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames. 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 NIV
10	. Using my gifts God and me.
	"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." John 15:8 NIV

CAUTIONS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- **1.** Don't confuse spiritual gifts with natural talents.
- 2. Don't confuse spiritual gifts with the Fruit of The Spirit.
 - "Fruit" shows my Maturity
 - "Gifts" show my Ministry

22"But the fruit of The Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control..." Galatians 5:22-23 NIV

- **3.** Don't confuse spiritual gifts with Christian roles.
- **4.** Be aware of the "gift projection" tendency. (Expecting others to serve the way you do and have similar results.)
- **5.** Don't feel my gift makes me superior to others.

"The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!'" 1 Corinthians 12:21 NIV

6. Realize that using my gifts without love is worthless!

1"I may be able to speak the languages of human beings and even of angels.... 2 I may have the gift of inspired preaching; I may have all knowledge... I may have all the faith needed to move mountains - but if I have no love, I am nothing. 3 ... this does me no good." 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 GNT

7.	Recognize wh	ien you are	out of bal	ance. The	balanced o	order in my l	ite should be:

1.	 <u>.</u>		
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.		and	

8. Recognize that I have both a *Primary* and a *Secondary* ministry in my church:

My **PRIMARY MINISTRY** commitment should be in the area where I am

My **SECONDARY MINISTRY** includes serving in any other area of the Body where I am
.

THREE WAYS GOD WANTS ME TO USE MY GIFTS

- **1.** Through an Ongoing Ministry
- 2. Through Short-Term Projects
- **3.** Through Spontaneous Situations

IT'S EASIER TO DISCOVER MY GIFT THROUGH MINISTRY THAN TO DISCOVER MY MINISTRY THROUGH MY GIFT.

NOTES

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The Bible does not lock us into tight restrictions as to the number of spiritual gifts, or even their definitions. The four major lists of gifts are found in Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 27-31, Ephesians 4:11-12 and 1 Peter 4:9-11 but there are other passages that mention or illustrate gifts not included in these lists.

All gifts are given to help the church fulfill its purposes. *As you read through this list, check off 3 initial impressions concerning yourself.* Remember you can have many gifts.

Ministry Gifts Found in: Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Corinthians 12:28 ☐ APOSTLE (MISSIONARY) - One who has been called out and sent by the church as a missionary and church planter to establish God's work in cultures around the world. A person who operates in many spiritual gifts to raise up new Christians and leaders in the power of The Holy Spirit. □ **PROPHET** - One whose ministry focus is to edify, exhort and console primarily believers from the Word of God. □ **EVANGELIST** - One who is equipped to effectively communicate the gospel to unbelievers so they respond in faith and move toward discipleship. ☐ PASTOR (SHEPHERD) - One who has the divine enablement to nurture, care for, and guide people toward on-going spiritual maturity and becoming more like Christ. Also, this ministry includes teaching the truths of Scripture. ☐ **TEACHER** - One with the divine enablement to understand, clearly explain, and apply the Word of God, causing greater Christ-likeness in the lives of listeners. The goal of the teacher like the Pastor is to equip believers for ministry. **Manifestation Gifts (Sign Gifts)** Found in: 1 Corinthians 12:4-10 ☐ WISDOM - The divine enablement to apply spiritual truth effectively to meet a need in a specific situation. ☐ KNOWLEDGE - The divine enablement to bring truth to the body through a revelation or biblical insight. ☐ **FAITH** - The divine enablement to act on God's promises with confidence and unwavering belief in God's ability to fulfill his purposes. ☐ **HEALING** - The divine enablement to be God's means for restoring people to wholeness.

through supernatural interventions which glorify Him.

☐ MIRACLES - The divine enablement to authenticate the ministry and message of God

_	manner for understanding, correction, repentance, or edification. There may be immediate or future implications.
	DISCERNMENT - The divine enablement to distinguish between truth and error, able to discern the spirits, differentiating between good and evil, right and wrong.
	TONGUES - The divine enablement to speak, worship, or pray in a language unknown to the speaker. People with the gift may receive a spontaneous message from God which is made known to His body through the gift of interpretation.
	INTERPRETATION - The divine enablement to make known to the body of Christ the message of the one who is speaking in tongues.
	her Types of Gifts und in: Romans 12:6-8, 1 Peter 4:9-11, 1 Corinthians 12:28, Colossians 1:9-12
	ENCOURAGEMENT - The divine enablement to present truth so as to strengthen, comfort, or urge to action those who are discouraged or wavering in their faith.
	GIVING - The divine enablement to contribute money and resources to the work of The Lord with cheerfulness and liberality. People with this gift do not ask "How much money do I need to give God?' but, "How much money do I need to live on?"
	LEADERSHIP - The divine enablement to cast vision, motivate, and direct people to harmoniously accomplish the purposes of God.
	MERCY - The divine enablement to cheerfully and practically help those who are suffering or are in need, compassion moved to action.
	$\label{eq:hospitality-theorem} \textbf{HOSPITALITY -} \ \ \text{The divine enablement to care for people by providing fellowship, food, and shelter.}$
	HELPS - The divine enablement to accomplish practical and necessary tasks which free-up, support, and meet the needs of others.
	ADMINISTRATION - The divine enablement to understand what makes an organization function, and the special ability to plan and execute procedures that accomplish the goals of the ministry.
	INTERCESSION - The divine enablement to consistently pray on behalf of and for others, seeing frequent and specific results.
	CREATIVE ARTS - The divine enablement to communicate God's truth through a variety of art forms.

Pick what you feel are the 3 strongest, and transfer them to the SHAPE Profile page under the <u>SPIRITUAL GIFTS</u> section.

On the SHAPE Profile page, list the reason why you think you have each of these gifts under, "I feel I have these gifts because:"

LESSON 2: SHAPE - HEART

"But The Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height.... The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but **The Lord looks at the**heart." I Samuel 16:7 NIV

PREPARING MY HEART FOR MINISTRY

Reading: I Samuel 16:1-23 NIV **1.** The calling of God for ministry is a and 1 "The Lord said to Samuel.... 'Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have **chosen** one of his sons to be king." 3 "... You are to anoint for me the one I indicate." 13 "So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on The Spirit of The Lord came powerfully upon David...." **2.** People make choices based on ______ appearance, but God's calling for ministry is based on one's ______. God refused Eliab because of his heart. 6 "...Samuel saw Eliab and thought, 'Surely The Lord's anointed stands here before The Lord.' 7 But The Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. **People look at the outward** appearance, but The Lord looks at the heart." 3. No one can stop God's _____ for my life. David's father overlooked and excluded him from the selection process for king probably because of age and appearance, but God had already selected him to be the future king. God will not rest until He gets you where you need to be. 8 "Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, 'The Lord has not chosen this one either.' ... 10 Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' 11 So he asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' 'There is still the youngest', Jesse answered. He is tending the sheep. Samuel said, 'Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.' 12 So he sent for him and had him brought in....Then The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; this is the one.' 13 "So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on The Spirit of The Lord came powerfully upon David...." **4.** As long as I _____ myself for what God wants to do in my life, no one can stop the plan of God for my life, except ______. 14 "Now The Spirit of The Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from The Lord tormented him. 15 Saul's attendants said to him....16 Let our lord command his servants here

to search for someone who can play the lyre. He will play when the evil spirit from God comes on you and you will feel better. 17 So Saul said to his attendants, 'Find someone who plays well

and bring him to me.' 18 One of the servants answered, 'I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the lyre. He is a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And The Lord is with him.' 19 Then Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, 'Send me your son David, who is with the sheep.' 20 So Jesse sent... his son David to Saul. 21 David came to Saul and entered his service. Saul liked him very much, and David became one of his armor-bearers... 23 Whenever the spirit from God came on Saul, David would take up his lyre and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him."

	• He	God with h	is harp.
	The Bible says	Γhe Lord was with him.	
	I should be a wo	orshipper of God in private	before I can be used in public.
		his	of playing the harp even when no one
	noticed.		
	• He	and	his skills as a shepherd.
		ne was tending the sheep e	even before he was anointed king; he was a p.
	God was prepar	ring David to lead people a	nd He used sheep to train him.
Wh	at was the result o	f his preparation?	
	id did not do any vant.	thing magnificent, but h	is characteristics were noticed by Saul's
	will open the eyes	of people who need to see	you.
	-	• •	you. n and brought him to the palace.
	• David's	made room for hin	
God	• David's	made room for hin	n and brought him to the palace. and brings him before great men."
God	• David's	made room for hin n's gift makes room for him Proverbs	n and brought him to the palace. and brings him before great men." 18:16 NASB
God	 David's	made room for hin n's gift makes room for him Proverbs 2 s is dependent on me: of	n and brought him to the palace. and brings him before great men." 18:16 NASB
God	 David's	made room for him n's gift makes room for him Proverbs 2 s is dependent on me: of attitudes a	n and brought him to the palace. and brings him before great men." 18:16 NASB for God.

WHAT SHAPE IS MY HEART IN?

4 "Delight yourself in The Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to The Lord, Trust also in Him, and He will do it." Psalms 37: 4-5 NASB

There is a faculty in every person's innermost being which Scripture often calls the **heart**.

The Bible uses the term "heart" to represent the center of my motivation, desires, and inclinations – My Passion. Passions have to do with emotions, and therefore can be a tremendous motivator.

•	The pre-Christian is frequently deceived by the condition and desire of the heart because
	the heart is and before we accept
	Christ and is therefore a to
	"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:9 NKJV
	5 "Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires 6 The mind governed by the flesh is death 7 The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God." Romans 8:5-8 NIV
•	The Christian has a heart and a new to obey God's Word
	and to do His will and is therefore ato
	26 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws." Ezekiel 36:26-27 NIV
	17 "But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. 18 You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness." Romans 6:17-18 NIV
Le	et's Take a Spiritual EKG (Heart Checkup)
M	y heart is my passion center that determines
1.	Why I the things I do
	34"For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. 35 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him" Matthew 12:34-35 NIV

• As a believer, it is my responsibility to manage what is deposited in my heart.

- What I store in my heart determines what words will come out of my mouth.

 18 "But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander." Matthew 15:18-19 NIV
- I must use the Word of God as the defense mechanism to protect my heart.

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

Psalm 119:11 NIV

2. Why I _____ the way I do

• God knows the true condition of my heart. He knows the secrets and hidden motives of my heart.

"For the Word of God... judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

Hebrews 4:12 NIV

"And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve Him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for **The Lord searches every heart** and **understands every desire** and **every thought**..." I Chronicles 28:9 NIV

23 "Search me [thoroughly], O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! 24

And see if there is any wicked or hurtful way in me...."

Psalm 139:23-24 AMP

3. Why I _____ the way I do

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you **do** flows from it." Proverbs 4:23 NIV

"For as he thinks in his heart, so is he" Proverbs 23:7 NKJV

Reflecting on My Passions

If you are like most people, you have never taken time to sort out and identify the things you are good at and motivated to accomplish. Think about some accomplishments since childhood.

Think About...

- > Accomplishments at home, school, work, etc.
- ➤ Things you **enjoyed** doing.
- ➤ Things you believe you **did well.**
 - o Forget what other people have said, either positive or negative.

NOTES

Next, read through the list below and check off the top 3 impressions concerning yourself. You should be able to support your choice with examples from your history of achievements.

RO	LE: I LOVE TO	
	DESIGN AND DEVELOP - I love to make something out of nothing. I enjoy getting something started from scratch.	☐ INFLUENCE - I love to convert people to my way of thinking. I enjoy shaping the attitudes and behaviors of others.
	PIONEER - I love to test out and try new concepts. I am not afraid to risk failure.	☐ PERFORM - I love to be on stage and receive the attention of others. I enjoy being in the limelight.
	ORGANIZE - I love to bring order out of chaos. I enjoy organizing something that is already started.	☐ IMPROVE - I love to make things better. I enjoy taking something that someone else has designed or started and
	OPERATE/MAINTAIN - I love to efficiently maintain some things that is	improve it.
	already organized.	☐ LEAD AND BE IN CHARGE - I love to lead the way, oversee and supervise. I
	SERVE OR HELP - I love to assist others in their responsibility. I enjoy helping others succeed.	enjoy determining how things will be done.
	ACQUIRE AND POSSESS - I love to shop, collect, or obtain things. I enjoy getting the highest quality for the best price.	☐ PERSEVERE - I love to see things to completion. I enjoy persisting at something until it is finished.
		☐ FOLLOW THE RULES - I love to operate
	EXCEL - I love to be the best and make my team the best. I enjoy setting and attaining the highest standard.	by policies and procedures. I enjoy meeting the expectations of an organization or boss.
	REPAIR - I love to fix what is broken or change what is out of date.	□ PREVAIL - I love to fight for what is right and oppose what is wrong. I enjoy overcoming injustice.

PEOPLE: I LOVE TO BE/WORK WITH...

	Below is a list of people groups. Read through the list and check the 3 groups that you would like to most help.					
	Infants Teen Moms		Empty Nesters Elderly			
	Divorced		Poor			
	Career Women		Youth			
	Parents		College students			
	Unemployed		Singles			
	Prisoners		Refugees			
	Children		Homeless			
	Single Parents		Disabled			
	Widowed		Hospitalized			
	Young Marrieds		•			
	Other:					
Bel	USE: I GET EXCITED ABOUT ow is a list of issues and causes. Read through tongly about.	the l	list and check the 3 causes that you feel			
	Environment		Addictions			
	Discipleship		Reaching the Lost			
	Violence		Poverty			
	Education		Hunger			
	Economic		Homosexuality			
	Health Care		Politics			
	Abortion		Racism			
	Church		International			
	Child Care		Technology			
	Child Care AIDS		Technology Family			
			9.			

Now transfer the top 3, in each category, to your SHAPE profile under the $\underline{\textit{HEART}}$ section.

LESSON 3: SHAPE - ABILITIES

"There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to all for their particular service." 1 Corinthians 12:6 GNT

Spiritual Gift: A special ability given by the Holy Spirit to every believer at their conversion, to be used to minister to others, and therefore extend and deepen the ministry of The Lord Jesus Christ on earth.

Skill: Learned or acquired knowledge that is put into practice, enabling me to do something well.

<u>Natural Ability:</u> Competence to exercise a skill, or wisdom to put it into practice. It can be inborn or developed through practice. If it's inborn we call that talent.

Natural abilities can also be empowered by The Holy Spirit to be used for ministry.

UNDERSTANDING SKILLS AND ABILITIES

•	God will anoint me with,, and and to operate my skills and abilities with excellence beyond my natural abilities.
	"I (God) have given him skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of work" Exodus 31:3 NCV
•	God gives skills and abilities in all kinds of crafts and arts, not only in leadership type roles. Are you using your skills and abilities with the right attitude and for the right reasons?
•	Whatever you do, do it unto The goal of a Christian is to take what God has given you and develop it to a high level of excellence. Be your best for God.
	"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of The Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God The Father through Him." Colossians 3:17 NIV

Let's look again at David's life in 1 Samuel 16:14-23.

What were some of the things that David did while waiting?

- 1. He worshipped God with his harp
- 2. He developed his gift of playing the harp
- 3. He refined and practiced his skills as a shepherd

Sometimes God gives me skills and abilities before He gives me a position. I need to develop that skill to do it well when the time comes. God used David's abilities to get him in the palace.

Promotion comes from God not man as we can see in David's life. Lots of times people can see the skills and abilities in me before I am aware of them myself.

"A man's gift [given in love or courtesy] makes room for him And brings him before great men." Proverbs 18:16 AMP

lif	•	of my ficart. Omy 1	an stop the work of God in my
•	My skills and abilities are		
		ting on someone else, so	I
	myself to others.		
•	Gifting complements me - it's se giftings are related to things I have		Many times my skills, abilities and rently doing.
<u>E</u> 2	XAMPLES FROM THE BIBLE		
	aroughout Scripture, God's people had low and record the abilities and/or w		skills and abilities. Read the verses
Ge	enesis 13:2 (Abram)		
Ex	xodus 17:9, 13 (Joshua)		
Ju	dges 4:4 (Deborah)		
Ru	nth 4:13 (Ruth)		
15	Samuel 16:11-12 (David)		
Nε	ehemiah1:11 (Nehemiah)		

Amos 7:14 (Amos)
Amos' gift was a spiritual gift (supernatural empowerment) - he didn't have any special training,
education, or upbringing, he simply obeyed God's call to "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."
Luke 5:27 (Matthew or Levi)
Colossians 4:14 (Luke)
Acts 16:14 (Lydia)
Mark 1:16-20 (Peter, Andrew, James, John)
So what is my current vocation?
What other jobs or skills have I experienced with satisfaction?
God is working in me, I need to beto God andto be used by Him. In submitting myself and my talents/skills to God, I will be used mightily for Him.

FIVE MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT ABILITIES (Skills and Talents)

- 1. MYTH: People aren't born with abilities. All abilities must be learned by experience.
- 2. MYTH: Those skills which must be learned, are learned primarily in the classroom.
- 3. MYTH: If you have certain abilities, you will be very aware that you have them.
- 4. MYTH: Skills that I use at work are only usable in that environment. I couldn't use them in ministry.
- 5. MYTH: Most people only have a few abilities.

One of the most common excuses people give for not getting involved in ministry is, "I just don't have any abilities to offer." Nothing could be further from the truth. The key is *matching* your abilities with the right ministry!

APPLYING MY ABILITIES

Consider your lists from the last lesson. Think of the actions that needed to be taken to complete those achievements.

Now review the list on the next page and check 6 abilities you feel you have.

NOTES

26 SPECIALIZED ABILITIES

Entertaining ability: to perform, act, dance, speak		Editing ability: to proofread or rewrite	
Recruiting ability: to enlist and motivate people to get involved		Repairing ability: to fix, restore, maintain	
Interview ability: to discover what		Feeding ability: to create meals for large or small groups	
Researching ability: to read, gather		Recall ability: to remember or recall names and faces	
information, collect data Artistic ability: to conceptualize, picture,		Mechanical operating ability: to operate equipment, tools or machinery	
draw, paint, photograph, or make renderings		Resourceful ability: to search out and find inexpensive materials or resources	
Graphics ability: to lay out, design, create visual displays or banners		needed	
Evaluating ability: to analyze data and draw conclusions	_	Counting ability: to work with numbers, data or money	
Planning ability: to strategize, design and organize programs and events		Classifying ability: to systematize and file books, data, records and materials so they can be retrieved easily	
Managing ability: to supervise people to accomplish a task or event and coordinate the details involved		Public Relations ability: to handle complaints and unhappy customers with care and courtesy	
Counseling ability: to listen, encourage and guide with sensitivity		Welcoming ability: to convey warmth, develop rapport, making others feel comfortable	
Teaching ability: to explain, train, demonstrate, tutor		Composing ability: to write music or lyrics	
Promoting ability: to advertise or promote events and activities		Landscaping ability: to do gardening and work with plants	
Writing ability: to write articles, letters, books		Decorating ability: to beautify a setting for special events	

Transfer 6 to your SHAPE Profile under the <u>ABILITIES</u> section.

LESSON 4: SHAPE - PERSONALITY

13 "For You formed my **inward parts**; You covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them." Psalms 139:13-16 NKJV

T

HRI	EE THINGS ABOUT PERSONALITY
1.	It is God given
	God doesn't create junk. God made me on
	"I am fearfully and wonderfully made" Psalm 139:13-14 NIV
	• Personality should not be used as an excuse to indulge my "negative" side or my moods.
2.	There is no right or wrong personality
	• It's not always a matter of right and wrong, but of preference.
	• Know who I am in Christ. A healthy self-esteem comes from knowing who Christ says am.
	• I should be apleaser, not apleaser.
	 My behavior should be adjusted by the Word of God, not people.
	 Personality answers "How should I serve?" When I am in my "sweet spot", two things will happen: I will just
L	et's Try This Exercise
In	the box below, write your name:
N	ow write your name with your opposite hand:

What Happened?

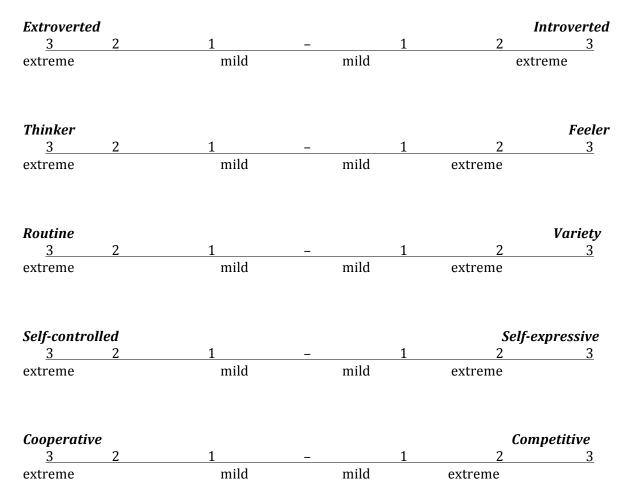
When you tried to do something that was not *natural* to you...

- You felt uncomfortable.
- It took extra time and effort.
- You still did a lousy job at it!

The same things are true when we try to minister in areas that are not suited to our personality. God has wired you in a unique way. He loves variety - just look around! And there is no "right" or "wrong" temperament. We need opposites to balance the church.

How Do I See Myself?

Circle the side of the scale in each category that you feel most closely represents you.



Now record your response on your SHAPE profile under the *PERSONALITY* section.

NOTES

PERSONALITY INVENTORIES

The following are two simple assessments and are only meant to stimulate initial thinking about **YOU** as a unique personality.

Personality Assessment #1

Directions: Check every word or phrase in each section that describes a consistent character trait of yours. Count the total number circled in each category and fill in the number in the blank provided.

P	Takes Charge Determined Decision Maker Enterprising Enjoys Challenges	Bold Purposeful Firm Goal Driven Adventurous	Self-reliant Assertive Leader Competitive
	"Let's do it now!"		Total:
T	Deliberate Detailed Predictable Precise Factual	Discerning Reserved Inquisitive Orderly Scheduled	Controlled Analytical Practical Persistent
	"How was it done in the past?"	Total:	:
S	Takes Risks Likes Variety Energetic Group Oriented Avoid Details	Fun-loving Motivator Creative Promoter Optimistic	Visionary Enjoys Change Very Verbal Mixes Easily
	"Trust me! It'll work out!"		Total:
J	Loyal Sympathetic Avoids Conflict Patient Deep Relationships	Adaptable Even Keel Nurturing Dislikes Change Good Listener	Non-demanding Thoughtful Enjoys Routine Tolerant
	"Let's keep things the way they	are" Total:	!

What does all this mean? Well the four letters stand for four basic personality types. In fact, everyone is a combination of all four types, but most of us have a set of traits that are more dominant.

Which letter was your most dominant?

Personality Assessment #2

Directions: Check every word or phrase in each section that describes you the best. Count the total number circled in each category and fill in the number in the blank provided.

The "T" Personality

Diplomatic	Polite	Reasonable	Hard Working	Thorough
Orderly	High Self-expectations	Conscientious	Disciplined	Accurate
Analytical	Hesitant	Rejects Lack of Quality	Pessimistic	Reserved
Factual	Detailed	Calculated	Curious	High Standards
Collect Data	Recognize Authority	Discerning	Scheduled	

"Let's do it right" Total "T" Score: _____

The "A" Personality

Problem Solver	Takes Charge	Impatient	Demanding	Direct
Enjoys Challenges	Goal Driven	Competitive	Risk Taker	Assertive
Value Results	Reject Inaction	Confident	Task Oriented	Spontaneous
Dominant	Bored Easily	Variety	Freedom to Act	Decisive
Persistent	Poor Listener	Success	Independent	

"Let's get it done" Total "A" Score: _____

The "P" Personality

Optimistic	Expressive	Fun-loving	Entertaining	Giving
Value Recognition	Avoid Isolation	Influential	Wholehearted	Creative
Group Oriented	Dreamers	Enjoy Change	Motivator	Avoid Details
Over-selling	Energetic	Promoter	Like Variety	People Helpers
Over Committed	Articulate	Lack Follow-through	Intuitive	

"Let's make it fun and exciting" Total "P" Score: _____

The "S" Personality

Cooperative	Serene	Loyal	Polite	Lack Confidence
Value Relationships	Sympathetic	Supportive	Agreeable	Consistent
Good Listener	Self-controlled	Resist Change	Procrastinator	Indecisive
Avoid Conflict	Tolerant	Enjoy Routine	Long-suffering	Team Player
Warm/Agreeable	Difficult to say 'no'	Family Oriented	Kind	

"You can depend on me" Total "S" Score: _____

The four letters represent for four basic personality types. Everyone has a primary and secondary personality.

Which letter is your primary (most dominant)? Which letter is your secondary?

LESSON 5: SHAPE - EXPERIENCES

"And we know that in ALL things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28 NIV

"Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel." Philippians 1:12 NIV

GOD NEVER WASTES A HURT!

One of the most overlooked factors in determining the ministry God has for me is my past experience, particularly my hurts and problems I've overcome with God's help. Since our greatest life messages come out of our weaknesses, not our strengths, we should pay close attention to what we've learned in the "school of hard knocks".

3 "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, The Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NIV

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF IMPERFECT PEOPLE GOD USED

Sarah was		(Genesis 16	r)	
Jacob was a	and a		(Genesis 27)	
Leah was considere	ed the		(Gen	esis 29)
Joseph was	(Gene	esis 37)		
Moses	and was a		. (Exodus 2 & 4)	
Miriam was a	(Num	ibers 12)		
Gideon was	and		(Judges 6 & '	7)
Samson was a		(Judges 15 &	k 16)	
Rahab was a		(Joshua 2)		
Jeremiah (Jeremiah	1) and Timothy v	vere too	(1 Ti	mothy 4)
David was an		and a		(2 Samuel 11)
Elijah was		(1 Kings 19))	
Jonah fro	m God. (Jonah 1)			
Naomi was a	(Ruth	າ 1)		

Job was	and lost all his	(Job 1)
Peter	Christ (3 times) and had a	(Mark 14, John 18)
The Disciples	while prayir	ng. (Mark 14)
Martha was a	(Luke 10)	
Zacchaeus was too _	(Luke 19)	
Thomas was a	(John 20)	
Paul (previously kno (Acts 7 & 9)	own as Saul) was too	and was a
Lazarus was	(John 11)	
God wants	to be open to ministering to p	eople who are going through what _

"...My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

2 Corinthians 12:9 NIV

already been through, as I have allowed God to bring me through it.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10 NIV

The experiences below contribute to who I am today, and God has used them to shape me according to His purpose.

- My Spiritual Experiences Meaningful decisions/times with God
- My Painful Experiences Problems, hurts, trials-that have taught me
- My Educational Experiences What were my favorite subjects in school
- My Work Experiences What jobs have I held
- My Ministry Experiences How have I served in the past

NOTES

As you look over the "experience" word lists for each area, ask God to help you identify the ones that describe you and your experiences. Check the ones that apply to your life in each of the 5 areas. If necessary, use the "other" line at the end of each area to write in your unique personal experience.

Sp	iritual Experiences (Meaningfu	l de	cisions/times with God)		
	ck 2: Baptism Community Outreach Cross Culture Ministry Led someone to Christ		Member of Small Group Attending Bethlehem Regularly Pray Regularly read the Bible		Serving in a Ministry Other
Pa	inful Experiences (Problems, h	urts	s, trials-that have taught you)		
00000000000	Abortion Abuse Adoption Alcoholism Alzheimer's/Dementia Annulment of Marriage Bankruptcy Cancer Chronic Pain Crisis Pregnancy Death/Grief Depression Divorce	00 000 0	Drug abuse/Addiction Eating Disorder Extended Court Proceedings Extended Depression Extended Job Loss Extended Physical Illness/Injury Handicapped/Disabled Homeless Military Wartime Service Miscarriage Orphaned		Prison Recovery Program Remarried Separated and Restored Marriage Separated and not yet Restored Marriage Sexual Compulsion Suicide of Family Member Widowed Other
Ed	ucational Experiences (What w	vere	e your favorite subjects in school)	
	High School Diploma Associates Degree Bachelor's Degree		Master's Degree PHD/Doctoral Degree Vocational Training	<u> </u>	Specialized Advance Training Other

Work Experiences (What jobs have you held)

Pi	ck 3:				
	Accounting		Customer Service		Nursing
	Acting		Dental		Nutrition
	Administration		Design		Personal Care/Services
	Advertising/Marketing		Doctor		Photographer
	Agriculture		Fashion		Physical Therapist
	Architecture		Financial Services		Property Management
	Attorney		Hotel Management		Public/Civil Service
	Automotive		Human Resources		Real Estate
	Business		Interior Design		Retail
	Chiropractic		Law Enforcement		Sales
	Computers		Manufacturing		Security
	Construction		Media		Transportation
	Consulting		Medical		Utility
	Counseling		Military		Other
	nistry Experience (How have yo	ou s	erved in the past)		
	Baptism		Families		Preschool
	Bible Teacher		Greeter/Usher		Seniors
	Camp Counselor	_	High School Students		Single Adults
_	Children's Ministry	_	Hospital Care	_	Small Group Leader
	Choir		Hospitality	_	Usher
_	Church Administration	_	Infants/Babies	ā	Van Driver
ā	Cleaning/Maintenance		Junior High Students	_	Visitation
	College/Career	_	Media/Sound	_	Women
_	Communion	_	Men	<u> </u>	Worship Leader
ā	Cooking	ā	Mentor	ā	Writing
ā	Couples	ā	Missions		Young Adults
	Drama		Musician		Young Marrieds
	Elementary Students		Preach		Other

Now transfer your selections in each category, to your SHAPE Profile under the <u>EXPERIENCES</u> section.

Appendix

Appendix A: Personality Types - Four Disciples of Jesus

The four letters: P, T, S and J stand for four basic personality types, represented by four of Jesus' disciples: Paul, Thomas, Simon Peter and John.

Everyone is a combination of all four types, but most of us have a set of traits that are dominant. What was your most dominant trait? Compare with the summary below.

P Paul, as a dogmatic, domineering, driving, demanding doer, is a good example of the 'P' personality. Before he was controlled by The Spirit he was persecuting Christians (Acts 22:4, 20) and afterwards was being persecuted (I Corinthians 1: 8-9). Without the control of The Spirit, he was out to destroy people and churches. Under the control of The Spirit, he was able to help people, start new churches, and write most of the New Testament. It was the same type personality that helped him move onward and upward in both causes.

Thomas is the "T' personality who wants to get all the facts and analyze them before making any decisions. These people are very detailed and are seldom wrong because they are so careful. "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nail, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." There can never be too many supporting facts; one is not enough. But The Lord did not put Thomas down, He gave him the opportunity to analyze the data and then make his decision (John 20: 24-28).

S Simon Peter is the typical 'S' type personality – impetuous, quick to speak and act then realizing he had erred. Think of his boast about being willing to die for The Lord then denying Him three times (Matthew 26: 74-75). But when The Spirit filled all the disciples at Pentecost, it was Peter who rose to speak boldly before the multitudes (Acts 2). Just because you have failed in a situation does not mean you are a failure as a person. This personality types does not usually do well at detail, and note that Peter even dictated one of the two short letters that we have in the New Testament (1 Peter 5:12).

John is a good example of the quiet, unassuming, supportive personality of the 'J'. He refers to himself as "the other disciple" in his gospel and focuses all the glory, honor, and praise on Jesus and the other disciples, He was the only disciple not to die a martyr's death. Maybe he was so nice, quiet, and unassuming that he was banished to Patmos instead of being put to death. But he wasn't perfect, for a careful reading of the gospels reveals that while Peter denied the Master openly three times, John stood in silence.

Note: These Biblical character insights have been adapted from "Positive Personality Profiles" by Dr. Robert Rohm.

Appendix B: Personality Types - Understanding Myself

The "T" Personality - The Thinker ("Let's do it right")

They enjoy proven methods and tasks that are completed with attention to high quality. They value high quality and getting things done correctly. They are diplomatic, tactful, logical, hard-working and thorough. They are able to focus on details. They can struggle with decision-making and perfectionism. They tend to have high expectations of both themselves and others.

The "A" Personality - The Achiever ("Let's get it done")

They enjoy difficult challenges. They value results but reject inaction. They are confident, direct, persistent, productive and good problem solvers. They are more oriented toward tasks than relationships and they can struggle with being too impulsive, too dominant or getting bored too easily. They tend to be detached and independent and struggle with being a good listener.

The "P" Personality - The Promoter ("Let's make it fun and exciting")

They enjoy involvement in influencing others toward an exciting goal or a worthwhile cause. They are relational, optimistic, expressive, fun loving and often entertaining in nature. They value recognition and approval and tend to avoid isolation. They can struggle with organization and a disciplined lifestyle. They tend to focus on the future and often want to rush to the next exciting challenge before the present task is complete.

The "S" Personality - The Supporter ("You can depend on me")

They enjoy participation and close relationships with a select group of friends. They avoid conflict. They struggle with saying "no" when asked to take on responsibility. They are oriented toward people and maintaining a good environment. They are warm, friendly and good listeners. They are cooperative, calm, patient and loyal. They can struggle with accepting changes and a lack of confidence. They value good relationships and appreciation and often have higher expectations of themselves than they do of others.

SHAPE PROFILE

Da	ate					
Na	ame	E-Mail Address				
Ad	ldress	City		State	_ Zip	
Pro	eferred Phone Number ()					
Ar	e you currently in Ministry? Yes No	If Yes, where?				
Ar	e you currently involved in a Small Group	? ☐ Yes ☐ No Pri	mary Langua	ige		
Š	Spiritual Gifts I think I have (from the lis	t in workbook):				
2	1 2.			3		
SPIRITUAL GIFTS	I feel I may have these gifts because: 1. 2.					
	3.					
	1. What I have a heart for, or what motiv					
				3		
RT	People: I love to be/work with 1. Cause: I get excited about 1					
HEARI	Cause: I get excited about 1		Z	ა		
Т	2. If I knew I couldn't fail, this is what I v	vould attempt to do fo	or God with n	ny life:		
	1. I feel I have these specialized abilities	s (from list in workbo	ok)			
	•	•				
IIES	•	•				
ABILI	•	•				
AB	2. What abilities have you developed or	are trying to develop) <u>:</u>			
		and aryang to accomp	•			
	1. This is how I see myself (select one f	or each):				
TY	Extroverted orIntro	verted Th	ninker or	Feeler	Routine orVariet	
ALI	Self-Cont	rolled orSelf-Ex	pressive	Cooperative or C	Competitive	
O				a separation of the	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
PERSONALITY	What would others say about you?					

My SPIRITUAL Experiences includes (from list in workbook)
•
My PAINFUL Experiences include (from list in workbook) (These are the kind of trials or problems I could relate to and encourage a fellow Christian that is going through) • •
My EDUCATIONAL Experiences include (from list in workbook)
• • •
My WORK Experiences include (from list in workbook)
•
My current vocation is:
What jobs have brought you the greatest fulfillment?
My MINISTRY Experiences include (from list in workbook)
•
•
I am interested in serving in the following ministry:
Choice #1
Chaire #2