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CHURCH

Discovering Your

SHAPE

Spiritual Gifts - Heart - Abilities - Personality - Experiences

Service in Action

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The image features a blue architectural blueprint background with various technical drawings, lines, and text such as 'BATHROOM', 'WALK-IN CLOSET', 'LAUNDRY', and 'MECHANICAL VENTILATION'. The word 'SHAPE' is rendered in large, white, maze-like letters. Below it, the phrase 'Spiritual Gifts - Heart - Abilities - Personality - Experiences' is written in a white cursive font. At the bottom, 'Service in Action' is written in a white sans-serif font, and the 'grace CHURCH' logo is in the bottom right corner.

Devotional Guide

Discover Your S.H.A.P.E.

- **Spiritual Gifts**
 - A set of God-given and Spirit-empowered spiritual abilities given to every believer, according to God's grace, to help them fulfill their God-given personal purpose as part of the body. Only truly regenerated Christians (every one) possess these.
- **Heart**
 - Personal passions/interests/concerns that God has given you so that you can bring Jesus glory on this earth.
- **Abilities**
 - A set of God-given natural talents that God wove into your DNA when He created you for you to use to honor Jesus and serve others. He also gave you these for your own joy and pleasure.
- **Personality**
 - The special way that God wired you to navigate life and interact with others as you seek to fulfill your unique God-given purpose.
- **Experiences**
 - Part of your past – both positive and painful - which God intends to use in great ways in the future.

Accountability Rhythms

We are pulled in many different directions in this life, and Hebrews 12:2 reminds us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. Accountability rhythms, when practiced in community, will give a higher chance of seeing growth and life change on your journey with Jesus. These are not meant to be legalistic or a point of pride but as check points to keep us on the path of following Jesus together. Take some time each week and rank how you did in these seven areas (1 (bad) – 5 (Great)). This works best to be done with someone else on a consistent basis.

- **Prayer**
 - One of the most important elements in any relationship is communication. Prayer is engaging God in a conversation - sharing our heart with Him and spending time listening to His voice, both individually and in community. Jesus gave us a prayer template to help structure our prayers in Matthew 6:5-15.
- **Bible Reading**
 - The Bible is the very Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Through it, we learn His heart and He equips us to live a life pleasing to Him. A daily rhythm of reading, meditating on and applying God's Word is key to growing as a Christ-follower.
- **Worship (Keeping God First)**
 - As a Christ-follower, it is important to set consistent time aside to remember what God has done, to thank Him for it and to reorder your life around Him (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).
- **Confession and Repentance**
 - Jesus' saving grace is once-and-for-all for those who believe and call upon His name (justification). Until we see Jesus face to face, sin is going to be part of our life. With the help of the Spirit, we need to consistently take inventory of our lives, humbly and honestly confess our sin and turn away from our sin toward God in surrender (1 John 1:9). Through Jesus' offer of forgiveness, we receive true freedom.
- **Generosity with Time/Talent/Treasure**
 - We are blessed to be a blessing (Genesis 12:2). Giving demonstrates our dependence on God. We acknowledge that all we own has been given to us by Him. In His generosity towards us, God desires that we are generous with our time, talent and treasure to partner with Him in His work to those in the lives around us.
- **Serve the community/love your neighbor**
 - God has placed you where you are to live through the power of Holy Spirit to love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:39). Your neighbor is anyone you consistently are in proximity with. When we serve the people around us, we impact them and reveal God's glory.
- **Share the gospel through your story**
 - The greatest gift we can ever give someone who doesn't yet know Jesus is an introduction to Him. Sharing your life stories of how Jesus, through the gospel, has/is transforming your life is very powerful. When we tell our stories of transformation, we tell the story of God.

Week 1:

**God's Masterpiece
(Gen. 1-2; Ps. 139; Eph. 2:10)**

**Weekly Bible verse Memorization Challenge:
Ephesians 2:10**

DAY 1

Image of God

To understand what S.H.A.P.E. God has been forming us to be, we first need to start with the fact that we are made in the image of God (Imago Dei). This makes humanity unique from the rest of God's creation. Humanity was created both male and female and is God's representative on this earth. Ancient kings were often seen as bearing the image of their god, but Genesis tells us a different story. Humans are given the job of God's representatives to rule over, care for and enjoy His creation. This is a big responsibility. Being made in the image of God also means we can have a relationship with God. We find ourselves today looking into a broken mirror of God's original creation that has been marred by sin, but it is important to know we are created in the image of God.

Read: Genesis 1:26-27

You may have noticed as you read this passage that in verse 26 God said, "Let us make mankind in our image." Who does the "us" refer to? Many scholars point this to be a reference to the Trinity (One God in three persons Father, Son, Holy Spirit).

Questions:

1. What do you enjoy doing to connect with nature?

2. Answer the question "who are you?"

How much of your answer is about you as an individual, and how much is about the relationships that affect you?

3. How does being made in the image of God change how you see yourself and live each day?

How are you doing at reflecting God to the world around you?

4. In what ways is human life different than animals and plant life in God's creation?

5. Read Colossians 1:15-20. How does God the Son fit into creation?

DAY 2

Humanity's Role

As we ponder our S.H.A.P.E and continue our study of God's Masterpiece today, we are going to look at what humanity's role is and what God's purpose is for us while on earth. Yesterday, we looked at Gen. 1:26-27 and we saw that God created humans male and female in the Image of God. This is an amazing truth because we can know that we are not an accident but rather we were created - and we were created with a purpose.

Read: Gen. 1:28-31, Eph. 2:10

In Gen. 1:28-31, we read of the blessing that God is giving to His greatest creation - humanity. In this blessing, we see God give 5 different commandments to His creation. The first two deal with marriage and the family and the last 3 have to do with our job as humans to rule over the rest of creation. We can summarize these commandments as an instruction to fill the earth and to take care of all creation. If we add Eph. 2:10 to this as well, we see that part of our purpose while here on earth as God's Creation is to do the good works He has prepared for us. While doing good work is part of our role, there is another part to our role that we find we Matt. 22:36-40.

Read: Matt. 22:36-40

We read in this passage the two greatest commandments that Jesus gives us (referencing Deuteronomy) where we are told to love God and love our neighbor. All of us are going to fulfill our God-given roles in different ways, but here we read that everything we do and say hangs on these two commandments: to love God and love our neighbor. Our role as a part of humanity is to love God and obey what He commands.

Questions:

1. What are the 5 commandments given to us in Gen 1:28?
2. How can you take care of God's creation?

Why is it important to take care of God's creation?

3. In what ways do you struggle to love God and love people?

How do those two things work together?

4. How do you think God is using you right now to fulfill what He has called us to do?
5. Write out a prayer from this devotional.

DAY 3

Gender

The topic of gender is a very big conversation right now. What we know from Genesis 1 is that God created two (and only two) genders which are male and female (Genesis 1:27). God formed the first man Adam from the dust and breathed the breath of life into Him and named him Adam (Genesis 2:7). There was an issue of Adam being alone (Gen. 2:18) because he lacked an equal to be in relationship with. God's answer to Adam's lack was to create Eve as Adam's wife and helper (Gen. 2:19-25). Eve was created from Adam's rib which illustrates that she belongs alongside him in partnership, not behind him in denigration or in front of him in domination. Male and female are both created by God and are different but are equal in dignity, value, and worth by the fact that they are equally made in the image of God.

We read in Psalm 139:13-18 that God created you and knew you from the beginning in your mother's womb. God created and formed you which makes you unique, and you are made in the image of God. You are born a biological male or female. I believe that since we are not God, we are not able to change our gender. You may feel that you don't fit in the stereotypes that many have given for a male or a female and that is ok, but your identity should not be found in your gender but in who your Creator says you are.

Read: Genesis 2:15-23, Psalms 139:13-18

Questions:

1. How have you seen gender roles played out in healthy ways and in unhealthy ways?
2. Eve is described as Adam's "helper." What does that mean and what does it not mean? (Of the 8 times "helper" is used in the Bible, seven times it refers to God - for example, Psalm 46:1)
3. Genesis 2:24-25 describe the foundation for marriage. What four ingredients of marriage are stated in these two verses?

Ephesians 5:22-33 expands the theology of marriage.

How can husbands and wives apply these verses in today's culture?

How does marriage serve as an object lesson for our relationship with Christ?

4. How do you connect with and speak truth in love to someone you personally know who is struggling with gender dysphoria? (Hint: Listen first)

DAY 4

Broken Masterpiece

Read: Genesis 3

We are God's Masterpiece, made in the image of God to love Him and bring glory to Him through how He has prescribed us to live according to Scripture and the commandments He has given. Most of the time, we can't help but feel like we are broken and cannot do what He asks of us. This feeling of brokenness and that something is missing occurs as soon as Adam and Eve eat the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. In verse 7, their eyes are opened, and they both realize their nakedness and seek to cover themselves. As we continue on in this passage, we see the feelings of shame and guilt enter and we see brokenness enter the world. We then see God curse the serpent, women, and men because of their disobedience to Him. These curses promise our lives to be ones that now involve brokenness as a result of sin entering the world. So if you are feeling broken, it is because you are a broken masterpiece that needs to be saved.

Read: Romans 3:23

As we read Romans 3:23, we notice that it is not just *some*, but it is all of us who have sinned and as a result we fall short of the glory of God. Ultimately, our brokenness is an effect of living in a world that has been tainted by sin.

Questions:

1. As we read these passages, it is clear that sin is the reason for our brokenness, so what is sin? Define sin in your own words.
2. Take a moment and think about what things in your life you struggle with that separate you from God.
3. How does sin leave us feeling? Does it make us feel good about ourselves or do we feel more like Adam and Eve?
4. In this passage as we discussed, God curses humanity. What are the implications of Adam and Eve's disobedience?

What are the implications of our disobedience?

DAY 5

Hope

Read: Ephesians 2:1-10

There is much hope found in Ephesians 2:1-10. Paul reminds Christ-followers about how all people are dead in acts of disobedience and sin (vs. 1). He attributes this life marked by sin to two factors in verse 2. The influence of this world, which is the present fallen creation, and rebellion against God. The second influence which Paul brings up is the “ruler of the kingdom of the air” which is Satan being at work with those who are disobedient. Before we can point our finger and say we are not responsible for sin, verse 3 puts the blame on our rebellious nature with its corrupt desires and thinking. But thank goodness, God in His love and mercy through the power of the resurrection transfers Christ-followers from death to life. This does not take us out of the current struggle of this world but gives us hope for our future (vs. 5-6). Saying yes to Jesus and coming from death to life is a gift of God, that does not make doing good (works) unimportant, but good works are not the reason for your salvation. As Christ-followers, verse 10 should be a great encouragement to us.

Questions:

- 1, What is one item that you have on display in your home or office, about which you are happy to tell people?
2. Just based on these verses, how would you define “grace?”
3. Take some time to remember what God has saved you from.
4. What does verse 10 tell us about our purpose and what are the implications?

What can we learn about the direction of our life?

Accountability Rhythms Week 1

Prayer	1	2	3	4	5
Bible Reading	1	2	3	4	5
Worship	1	2	3	4	5
Confession and Repentance	1	2	3	4	5
Generosity	1	2	3	4	5
Serving & Loving your neighbor	1	2	3	4	5
Sharing the Gospel	1	2	3	4	5

Week 2:

**Gifted for the Common Good
(1 Corinthians 12:1-11)**

**Weekly Bible verse Memorization Challenge:
1 Peter 4:10**

DAY 1

Spiritual Gifts Test

Today you will be taking a Spiritual Gifts Test to help guide you in finding what your gifts might be and in what ways you can best serve the church.

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:1-6

In the first 3 verses, Paul begins by telling us that the only way someone can truly proclaim Jesus as Lord is by the work of the Holy Spirit and no one speaking by the Spirit curses God. We then see that Paul in vv.4-6 tells us that this same Spirit is the one who has given us different Spiritual Gifts that we can use. We also read that while there are different gifts given to different people, they are all from the same God who is at work in us.

Take the time to take the test on the next pages. Talk about the results in Life Group or with a trusted friend.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS SURVEY

DIRECTIONS

This is not a test, so there are no wrong answers. The *Spiritual Gifts Survey* consists of 80 statements. Some items reflect concrete actions; other items are descriptive traits; and still others are statements of belief.

- Select the one response you feel best characterizes yourself and place that number in the blank provided. Record your answer in the blank beside each item.
- Do not spend too much time on any one item. Remember, it is not a test. Usually your immediate response is best.
- Please give an answer for each item. Do not skip any items.
- Do not ask others how they are answering or how they think you should answer.
- Work at your own pace.

Your response choices are:

- 5—Highly characteristic of me/definitely true for me
 - 4—Most of the time this would describe me/be true for me
 - 3—Frequently characteristic of me/true for me—about 50 percent of the time
 - 2—Occasionally characteristic of me/true for me—about 25 percent of the time
 - 1—Not at all characteristic of me/definitely untrue for me
-

- _____ 1. I have the ability to organize ideas, resources, time, and people effectively.
 - _____ 2. I am willing to study and prepare for the task of teaching.
 - _____ 3. I am able to relate the truths of God to specific situations.
 - _____ 4. I have a God-given ability to help others grow in their faith.
 - _____ 5. I possess a special ability to communicate the truth of salvation.
 - _____ 6. I have the ability to make critical decisions when necessary.
 - _____ 7. I am sensitive to the hurts of people.
 - _____ 8. I experience joy in meeting needs through sharing possessions.
 - _____ 9. I enjoy studying.
 - _____ 10. I have delivered God's message of warning and judgment.
 - _____ 11. I am able to sense the true motivation of persons and movements.
 - _____ 12. I have a special ability to trust God in difficult situations.
 - _____ 13. I have a strong desire to contribute to the establishment of new churches.
 - _____ 14. I take action to meet physical and practical needs rather than merely talking about or planning to help.
 - _____ 15. I enjoy entertaining guests in my home.
 - _____ 16. I can adapt my guidance to fit the maturity of those working with me.
 - _____ 17. I can delegate and assign meaningful work.
-

- _____ 18. I have an ability and desire to teach.
- _____ 19. I am usually able to analyze a situation correctly.
- _____ 20. I have a natural tendency to encourage others.
- _____ 21. I am willing to take the initiative in helping other Christians grow in their faith.
- _____ 22. I have an acute awareness of the emotions of other people, such as loneliness, pain, fear, and anger.
- _____ 23. I am a cheerful giver.
- _____ 24. I spend time digging into facts.
- _____ 25. I feel that I have a message from God to deliver to others.
- _____ 26. I can recognize when a person is genuine/honest.
- _____ 27. I am a person of vision (a clear mental portrait of a preferable future given by God). I am able to communicate vision in such a way that others commit to making the vision a reality.
- _____ 28. I am willing to yield to God's will rather than question and waver.
- _____ 29. I would like to be more active in getting the gospel to people in other lands.
- _____ 30. It makes me happy to do things for people in need.
- _____ 31. I am successful in getting a group to do its work joyfully.
- _____ 32. I am able to make strangers feel at ease.
- _____ 33. I have the ability to plan learning approaches.
- _____ 34. I can identify those who need encouragement.
- _____ 35. I have trained Christians to be more obedient disciples of Christ.
- _____ 36. I am willing to do whatever it takes to see others come to Christ.
- _____ 37. I am attracted to people who are hurting.
- _____ 38. I am a generous giver.
- _____ 39. I am able to discover new truths.
- _____ 40. I have spiritual insights from Scripture concerning issues and people that compel me to speak out.
- _____ 41. I can sense when a person is acting in accord with God's will.
- _____ 42. I can trust in God even when things look dark.
- _____ 43. I can determine where God wants a group to go and help it get there.
- _____ 44. I have a strong desire to take the gospel to places where it has never been heard.
- _____ 45. I enjoy reaching out to new people in my church and community.
- _____ 46. I am sensitive to the needs of people.
- _____ 47. I have been able to make effective and efficient plans for accomplishing the goals of a group.

- _____ 48. I often am consulted when fellow Christians are struggling to make difficult decisions.
- _____ 49. I think about how I can comfort and encourage others in my congregation.
- _____ 50. I am able to give spiritual direction to others.
- _____ 51. I am able to present the gospel to lost persons in such a way that they accept the Lord and His salvation.
- _____ 52. I possess an unusual capacity to understand the feelings of those in distress.
- _____ 53. I have a strong sense of stewardship based on the recognition that God owns all things.
- _____ 54. I have delivered to other persons messages that have come directly from God.
- _____ 55. I can sense when a person is acting under God's leadership.
- _____ 56. I try to be in God's will continually and be available for His use.
- _____ 57. I feel that I should take the gospel to people who have different beliefs from me.
- _____ 58. I have an acute awareness of the physical needs of others.
- _____ 59. I am skilled in setting forth positive and precise steps of action.
- _____ 60. I like to meet visitors at church and make them feel welcome.
- _____ 61. I explain Scripture in such a way that others understand it.
- _____ 62. I can usually see spiritual solutions to problems.
- _____ 63. I welcome opportunities to help people who need comfort, consolation, encouragement, and counseling.
- _____ 64. I feel at ease in sharing Christ with nonbelievers.
- _____ 65. I can influence others to perform to their highest God-given potential.
- _____ 66. I recognize the signs of stress and distress in others.
- _____ 67. I desire to give generously and unpretentiously to worthwhile projects and ministries.
- _____ 68. I can organize facts into meaningful relationships.
- _____ 69. God gives me messages to deliver to His people.
- _____ 70. I am able to sense whether people are being honest when they tell of their religious experiences.
- _____ 71. I enjoy presenting the gospel to persons of other cultures and backgrounds.
- _____ 72. I enjoy doing little things that help people.
- _____ 73. I can give a clear, uncomplicated presentation.
- _____ 74. I have been able to apply biblical truth to the specific needs of my church.
- _____ 75. God has used me to encourage others to live Christlike lives.
- _____ 76. I have sensed the need to help other people become more effective in their ministries.

- _____ 77. I like to talk about Jesus to those who do not know Him.
- _____ 78. I have the ability to make strangers feel comfortable in my home.
- _____ 79. I have a wide range of study resources and know how to secure information.
- _____ 80. I feel assured that a situation will change for the glory of God even when the situation seem impossible.

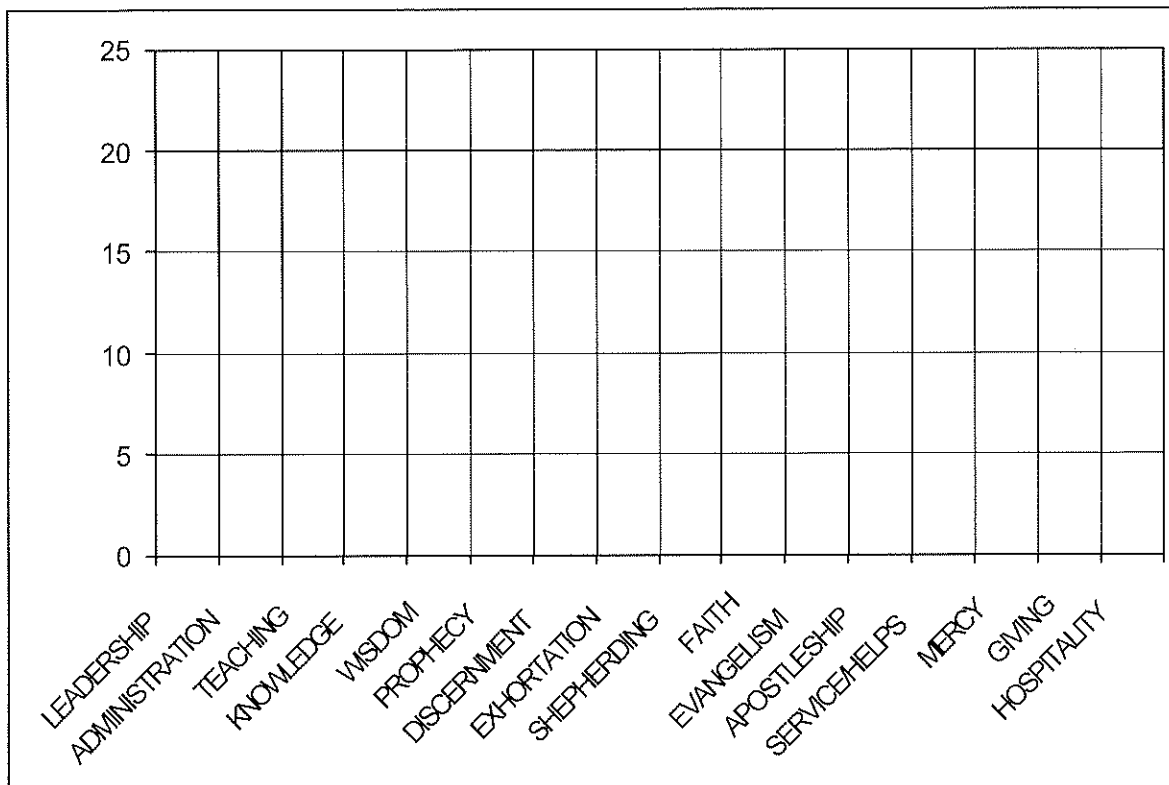
SCORING YOUR SURVEY

Follow these directions to figure your score for each spiritual gift.

1. Place in each box your numerical response (1-5) to the item number which is indicated below the box.
2. For each gift, add the numbers in the boxes and put the total in the TOTAL box.

LEADERSHIP	+	+	+	+	=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	TOTAL
Item 6	Item 16	Item 27	Item 43	Item 65		
ADMINISTRATION	+	+	+	+	=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	TOTAL
Item 1	Item 17	Item 31	Item 47	Item 59		
TEACHING	+	+	+	+	=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	TOTAL
Item 2	Item 18	Item 33	Item 61	Item 73		
KNOWLEDGE	+	+	+	+	=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	TOTAL
Item 9	Item 24	Item 39	Item 68	Item 79		
WISDOM	+	+	+	+	=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	TOTAL
Item 3	Item 19	Item 48	Item 62	Item 74		
PROPHECY	+	+	+	+	=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	TOTAL
Item 10	Item 25	Item 40	Item 54	Item 69		
DISCERNMENT	+	+	+	+	=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	TOTAL
Item 11	Item 26	Item 41	Item 55	Item 70		
EXHORTATION	+	+	+	+	=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	TOTAL
Item 20	Item 34	Item 49	Item 63	Item 75		
SHEPHERDING	+	+	+	+	=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	TOTAL
Item 4	Item 21	Item 35	Item 50	Item 76		
FAITH	+	+	+	+	=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	TOTAL
Item 12	Item 28	Item 42	Item 56	Item 80		
EVANGELISM	+	+	+	+	=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	TOTAL
Item 5	Item 36	Item 51	Item 64	Item 77		
APOSTLESHIP	+	+	+	+	=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	TOTAL
Item 13	Item 29	Item 44	Item 57	Item 71		
SERVICE/HELPS	+	+	+	+	=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	TOTAL
Item 14	Item 30	Item 46	Item 58	Item 72		
MERCY	+	+	+	+	=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	TOTAL
Item 7	Item 22	Item 37	Item 52	Item 66		
GIVING	+	+	+	+	=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	TOTAL
Item 8	Item 23	Item 38	Item 53	Item 67		
HOSPITALITY	+	+	+	+	=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	TOTAL
Item 15	Item 32	Item 45	Item 60	Item 78		

GRAPHING YOUR PROFILE



1. For each gift place a mark across the bar at the point that corresponds to your TOTAL for that gift.
2. For each gift shade the bar below the mark that you have drawn.
3. The resultant graph gives a picture of your gifts. Gifts for which the bars are tall are the ones in which you appear to be strongest. Gifts for which the bars are very short are the ones in which you appear not to be strong.

Now that you have completed the survey, thoughtfully answer the following questions.

The gifts I have begun to discover in my life are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

- After prayer and worship, I am beginning to sense that God wants me to use my spiritual gifts to serve Christ's body by _____.
- I am not sure yet how God wants me to use my gifts to serve others. But I am committed to prayer and worship, seeking wisdom and opportunities to use the gifts I have received from God.

Ask God to help you know how He has gifted you for service and how you can begin to use this gift in ministry to others.

DAY 2

What Are the Spiritual Gifts?

“Spiritual Gifts are any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church.” (Wayne Grudem). Spiritual gifts are God-given and Spirit-empowered to every Christ-follower according to God’s grace to fulfill His purposes. Read these passages that have lists of the Spiritual Gifts: Rom. 12:1-6; 1 Cor. 12; Eph. 4:1-16. If you would like to do a deeper study in the gifts, Tony Livigni has a good video series: <https://www.gracechurches.org/e4/spiritualgifts/>

- **Leadership:** The spiritual capability to instill vision, to motivate, and to direct people to accomplish the work of the ministry. (Rom. 12:8; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:6-9).
- **Administration:** The spiritual capability to understand what makes an organization function, and the special ability to plan and execute procedures and increase the church’s organizational effectiveness. A person with this gift understands the practical steps that need to be taken in order to realize a given objective. (Read : 1 Cor. 12:28; 14:40)
- **Teaching:** This is not just simply teaching in a general sense; this is a God-given gift to read, study and interpret the Bible and then communicate it into the minds and hearts of others. (Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11).
- **Knowledge:** The divine empowerment to accumulate and analyze information effectively. A person with this gift enjoys studying, doing research, and digging for nuggets of truth. (1 Cor. 12:8; Mark 12:29-30)
- **Wisdom:** The capability to apply spiritual knowledge effectively. “The ability to judge correctly and to follow the best course of action, based on knowledge and understanding.” (*New Illustrated Bible Dictionary*). A person with this gift enjoys skillfully applying Biblical knowledge to a variety of life situations. (1 Cor. 1:18-25; 12:8; Eph. 1:17).
- **Prophecy:** The spiritual capability to proclaim God’s truth with power and clarity in a timely and culturally sensitive fashion for correction, repentance, or edification. This gift today is forth telling (which proclaims or ‘utter forth’ the truth already known) with is different than the office of Prophet who would foretell (which foresees what will happen). A person with this gift has an amazing ability to understand biblical truth, to apply it to the events and nuances of culture, and to communicate in a timely manner.
- **Discernment:** The spiritual capability to distinguish between truth and error, and to identify deception in character and in relationships. Discernment is a keen sense of insight that enables someone to recognize potential or actual problems in relationships, imbalance in teaching, the presence of demonic activity, or misuse of Scripture. (1 Cor. 12:10)
- **Exhortation/Encouragement:** The spiritual capability to assure, strengthen, and reassure those who are discouraged or wavering in faith. A person with this gift urges others to apply Biblical truth in their lives; it is not just a gift of friendliness and backslapping. (Rom. 12:8; Acts 11:21-24)
- **Shepherding:** The spiritual leadership capability to guide, care for and nurture individuals or groups in the body of Christ as they grow in faith. Shepherding is a spiritual gift. Not all “Pastors” as we understand them have the gift of “pastor” or “shepherd,” but the church needs people who have this gift. (Eph. 4:11-13; 1 Peter 5:4)
- **Faith:** The spiritual capability to trust God’s will and act on it with unwavering belief in His ability. A person with this gift lives in constant awareness of the reality of the supernatural as well as the natural. (1 Cor. 12:8-9)

- **Evangelism:** The spiritual leadership gifting in which a person has the capability to effectively communicate the message of the Gospel to non-Christians. A person with this gift has a strong desire to turn conversations to spiritual matters and has an instinctive ability to do this. (Eph. 4:11-12)
- **Apostleship:** The office of Apostle is different from the gift of apostleship. The gift of apostleship is the spiritual leadership gifting that enables a servant to start kingdom initiatives and oversee their development. Likened to modern day missionaries and visionaries, a person with this gift has a heart and vision to see the gospel spread to people in different cultural settings who have not yet heard of, or who have been disillusioned about the Gospel.(1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11-12)
- **Service/Helps:** The spiritual value to the accomplishment of practical and necessary tasks that support the body of Christ. A person with this gift sees the spiritual value of and finds God's purposes in the practical aspects of ministry and living. (Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28; 1 Pet. 4:11).
- **Mercy:** The capability to minister cheerfully and appropriately to people who are suffering. A person with this gift enjoys serving alongside hurting people. (Rom. 12:8)
- **Giving:** The spiritual capability to contribute money and material resources to the work of the Lord with cheerfulness and liberality. God has given the person with this gift the ability to give well beyond normal levels, either through wealth or faith. (Rom. 12:8; 2 Cor. 8:9).
- **Hospitality:** The ability to care for people by providing fellowship, food and lodging. (1 Peter 4:9-10; Rom. 12:13; Luke 10:38)
- **Intercession:** The God-given ability to consistently pray on behalf of and for others, seeing frequent specific results. (Rom. 8:26-27; Col. 1:9-12; Col. 4:12-13)

DAY 3

Pentecost

As we study Spiritual Gifts, it is important for us to know how they came to be. For us to do this we need to look at Luke 24:45-49 and Acts 1:5 as Jesus explains to the disciples that He is going to ascend to heaven, but He will send what the Father has promised.

Read: Acts 2

In Acts 2, we see the day of Pentecost which marks the coming of the Holy Spirit and the use of Spiritual Gifts. While we can spend much time disputing different gifts and how they work and exist in today's world, I want us to focus on a few key things here in this passage. We are first going to look deeper into v.4 and focus on two words used in this verse: filled and enabled. Focusing on these two words, we understand firstly that the Holy Spirit is dwelling within each Christ-follower. He does not come and go but rather is with us throughout our lives. Secondly, we understand that the Holy Spirit is the one who allows us to be able perform our spiritual gifts which means these are not something that we possess apart from God but something that we possess as a result of knowing God and having a relationship with Him. Along with this, we can observe from the passage that the Holy Spirit is powerful and penetrating - calling unbelievers to repentance in Christ. Lastly from this passage as a whole, we should see this chapter and the day of Pentecost as a day to celebrate. For further study on Pentecost and the reason to celebrate go to <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/a-pentecost-to-celebrate>.

Questions:

1. In your own words, explain why the Day of Pentecost is important:

2. What are the three reasons that we are given to celebrate in the article?

Do you agree with these reasons?

3. How does studying this chapter give us a better understanding of the Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts?

4. Write out a prayer giving thanks to the Holy Spirit for His work in our lives

DAY 4

Some Gifts Ceased?

There are different views on what are called “miraculous” or “signs” gifts. These gifts would be speaking and interpretation of tongues, healing and performing miracles. We can’t put God in a box in what He can do. Grace Church (in our Bylaws) teaches that sign gifts or miracles, healings, tongues and the interpretation of tongues were intended to confirm the ministry and message of the Apostles (Mark 16:17-20; Heb. 2:3-4). Additional written and oral revelation from God, the phenomenon of speaking in tongues through the Holy Spirit, the interpretation of tongues and miraculous healing through men like the Apostles ended with the completion of the New Testament (2 Cor. 12:12; Rev. 22:18-19). We believe every Christian should be filled with the Spirit for effective service and worship, and this filling is evidenced by a walk of obedience and submission to one another in love, not by any necessary special signs. Got Questions link: <https://www.gotquestions.org/cessationism.html>

Read: 1 Corinthians 13:8-15

Questions:

1. What have been your experiences with miraculous signs and gifts?
2. Why will some gifts pass away but love will not pass away?
3. What are other ways we put God in a box?
4. What are ways you can still serve Jesus with someone who has different views than you on miraculous gifts?

DAY 5

Why Are Gifts Important?

Most of us know that gifts are important but why are they important, why were we given these gifts? Think about the gifts you give someone at Christmas, birthdays, etc. Why do you give those gifts? You give them with a meaning behind them; you might be like me and tend to give things that someone can use in their everyday life, or you might give someone a gift that has sentimental value. The point is the gifts that we give have a purpose behind them, and the same can be said for the gifts that have been given to us by God.

Read: 1 Peter 4:10-11

In these two verses, we see what we should do with whatever gift we have received. We see that we should use our gifts to serve others and be good stewards of God's grace. We should do this so that God may receive the glory and praise. The gifts that we are given are not for us - they are not for our glory but rather they are given to us for the purpose of serving and glorifying God so that more may know Him.

Questions:

1, In your own words, explain why gifts are important. How are they to be used?

2. How are you currently using your gifts?

In what other ways can you potentially use your gifts?

3. Do you find yourself at times using your gifts for your glory rather than God's? How can you remind yourself that it is not about you but about God?

Write down a few practical things you can do to remind yourself that it is about God.

4. Write out a prayer asking God to use you and your gift for His glory and Kingdom.

Accountability Rhythms Week 2

Prayer	1	2	3	4	5
Bible Reading	1	2	3	4	5
Worship	1	2	3	4	5
Confession and Repentance	1	2	3	4	5
Generosity	1	2	3	4	5
Serving & Loving your neighbor	1	2	3	4	5
Sharing the Gospel	1	2	3	4	5

Week 3:

**No Spare Parts
(1 Corinthians 12:12-31)**

**Weekly Bible verse Memorization Challenge:
Ephesians 4:16**

DAY 1

Different but Unified

Today we are going to look at the truth that God has made us different but called us to be unified. I don't have to try too hard to convince you that we are all a little different. This whole study so far has been about how God has created us unique. But now we are going to turn our focus to the truth - that we may be different, but we need to be united under Jesus. Unity is something that takes work and starts with humility and some patience. In the church, God has given leaders to equip or prepare the saints to do works of service and build up the body of Christ so that Christ-followers will no longer be trapped in the immaturity of infancy but begin to grow up towards maturity in the likeness of Christ. The whole body's growth ultimately comes from Christ, but the body grows as each part does its apportioned building work in love.

Read: Ephesians 4:1-16

Questions:

1. Why does unity require so much effort?
2. Eph. 4:4-16 focuses on unity.
What do we learn about unity from these verses?

How does the Gospel bring diverse people together in unity, and what does this look like?

3. In Eph. 4:1-3, Paul urges the Ephesians, and us, to "Live a life worthy of the calling you received."
What were the four aspects Paul gives of this "Walk worthy in community" life?

What does it mean to walk worthy of your calling?

What does this walk look like for you personally?

What do you need to do to both keep pushing yourself in Christ and resting in Christ?

4. What are some ways we can better keep and improve unity at Grace Church Lexington?

DAY 2

Why Do You Serve?

Today we are going to take a deeper look into the reason why we serve. We live in a world today that seems to be promoting more and more that the reason behind our actions should be for our own glory so that people might know us more. As Christians, we know that is not what the Bible tells us; it tells us the opposite of that.

Read: Matthew 5:13-16

In this passage, we are called the salt of the earth. Salt has many uses, but if we think back to Biblical times salt was most often used as a purifying agent. So being called 'salt' means that we are supposed to be, as Christians, the ones who bring purity to a corrupt world. That is an amazing task, but as we read on, we see that we ourselves can become impure living lives that lead to more destruction, and we are no longer good for anything other than to be thrown on the ground. We must strive to live pure lives so that we can bring purity to a broken world. This passage doesn't end there though - we see that we are also called the light of the world. We are not to be hiding this light, but rather we should be a light in the world so that others may see God in our works and bring glory to Him.

Questions:

1. According to this passage, why do we serve?

2. What things in your life keep you from being a "pure salt" that is good for preserving?

What can you do to remove or change those things in your life?

3. In what ways can you be the "salt of the earth" in our community?

4. What does it mean to shine your light?

What can you do to be a light in the community and to the people around you?

DAY 3

Not Ashamed

I have heard it said that “there is no win in comparison.” As we have been looking at how God has created us, we sometimes compare ourselves to others and look at how they are gifted. You may think, “I wish I could do what they can do,” or “I’m not as good as them so I’m not going to try.” God has gifted each of His followers for the season He has put us in, and our job is to use those gifts for His glory and the betterment of our world.

Read: 2 Timothy 1:6-10

In this passage, we read of Paul encouraging Timothy to fan into flame the gift which God has given to him. The gift Paul is talking about is clearly from the Spirit, but it appears that there is a physical step which Timothy needs to take to fully use this gift. The Spirit doesn’t take a timid person and turn them into a powerful personality but will always give us what we need in the time we need it. He will give us the Spirit of power, love and self-discipline, but we have to choose to be obedient when He calls us.

Questions:

1. What part of your S.H.A.P.E. have you been hiding because you don’t feel adequate when compared to others?
2. Have you been living in fear instead of fanning into flame of what God has been calling you to do?
3. Do you feel like you are using your S.H.A.P.E. right now to serve God?

DAY 4

Growing in Gifts

You might think to yourself that sometimes you are doing a great job serving and using your gifts, but there are other times when you have no idea what you are doing and you are not sure how to use your gift or even what it is. We all feel this way, but it is important for us to remind ourselves that this life is a process and day 5,000 of your walk with Christ is going to look much different than the first day of your walk with Christ. This process is called Sanctification - as we continue to grow in Christ and our gifts. Throughout this process, we are going to experience many ups and downs.

Read: Romans 12:1-2

We see in this passage to present ourselves as a living sacrifice so that we might be renewed by Christ and to not be conformed to this world. This passage ends with telling us by doing this we will know God's will. This should serve as an encouragement that the more we devote ourselves to Christ in being more like Him the more we know about Him and what He wants from us. This is a great example of sanctification and how it affects us and the use of our gifts.

Questions:

1. What are some low moments in your walk with Christ?

What are some high moments in your walk with Christ?

2. How have you seen yourself changed by these different experiences?

How have they prepared you for ministry and using your gifts?

3. How can you strive to be more like Christ each day so that you may grow?

4. Write a prayer thanking God for what He has done and will continue to do in you and through you while asking for Him to help and allowing you to continue to be sanctified.

DAY 5

How to Serve

There are many different ways to serve here at Grace Church and to serve in the community around you. The body of Christ is hurt when you do not use your gifts the way God has called you to serve. We need to be aware of limitations but can't use those as an excuse to hide behind. We also need to know that different seasons in our life come with different uses of gifts. Where are you serving today?

Read: Rom. 12:3-8

Paul reminds us in this passage again about the importance of humility and unity. We are reminded in this passage to be careful not to measure or compare ourselves against other believers. This is why Paul uses the picture of the body again in showing the importance of all the body working together.

Questions:

1. Where are you currently serving at Grace Church?

Do you feel like you are using your gifts?

If you are not serving, why not?

2. Are you in a season in which you need to stop doing something in order to use your gift more effectively?

3. Who would be a trusted person to ask what they see in your life to help you find your serving gifts are?

- Ways to Serve at Grace

- First Impressions Team (Greeters, Coffee, Information Desk)
- Building and Grounds Team
- Kids Zone (Birth-5th Grade)
- Impact (6th-12th Grade)
- Praise Team
- Media Team
- Life Group (Host, Leader)
- Financial Team
- Hospitality (Dinners, Funerals, Events, etc.)
- YMCA Outreach (Bible stories, morning coffee service, etc.)
- Events (Kids Zone Camp, Wiffleball, Easter Eggsperience, etc.)

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