



“Finding My SHAPE For Ministry”

Romans 12:3-8

Icebreaker:

If you had to do without the use of one of your senses for a week, which would you choose?

The Study:

We all know that God wants us to serve him and others. But where should I serve? Pastor Rick Warren says, “Look at your *SHAPE!*” We are “*fearfully and wonderfully made*” Scripture tells us (Ps.139:11). Clues for where we should serve in ministry are found in how God made us. SHAPE is an acronym which points to five areas in our “make-up” which give us insight into where we should “step up”.



1. Pastor Bear challenged us with the thought that up till now, much of the energy and talent of Bridgeway has gone untapped, either because we’ve spent a lot of that energy in being a mobile church, or because we simply weren’t asked to use it. Do you believe that God has put more inside of you that is yet to be discovered and used for his kingdom? Write out a short paragraph of what that “undiscovered country” inside of you might look like? Then share it with others.

Let’s unpack the SHAPE acronym.

S stands for Spiritual Gifts.

2. Read Romans 12:3-8. What are “spiritual gifts”? Come up with a working definition.

3. From the passage we just read, see if you can come up with at least 5 different lessons or truths about spiritual gifts.

4. We can identify more than 20 spiritual gifts in the Bible, but Paul’s list here in Romans is a good sampling. List out the 7 gifts he mentions here. Then circle one of these gifts that you think you might have. (“Prophecy” is the ability to hear a more direct message from God that offers encouragement or edification in a given situation.)

Paul compares the church to a “body” where all the various parts have to work for the body to be healthy. Which of these 7 gifts could the church do without and still be healthy? Lesson?

H stands for Heart.

“Heart” points to areas of our lives that we are passionate about. These are the things that we jump out of bed in the morning to do.

5. Identify 1 to 3 things that you are just *nutso* about.

6. Some Christians grow up with the idea that if they're good at something, God won't use them there because he "wants the glory to go all to him". While it's true that the Lord will certainly stretch us to do things outside our comfort zone, how do you react to the idea that God wants to use you in the precise areas where you have passions and giftedness?

7. So what are some areas of ministry (that may not even exist yet) where you can put your passions to work? Think creatively.

A stands for Abilities.

Abilities are simply things you are able to do, regardless of whether you like to do them or not.

8. It's believed that the average person has 400-600 abilities. (For example, the mere act of writing requires the use of a dozen or more abilities.) So let loose. Someone set a timer for 60 seconds and on "Go!" write out as many of your abilities as you can think of.

9. So what are some areas of ministry (that may not even exist yet) where you can put your abilities to work?

P stands for Personality.

10. Describe some of the personality types we meet in the Bible?

11. Put an "X" in each line of the chart for where you think you are. Describe yourself to the group.

	Strong	Mild	Strong	
Extroverted			Introverted
Thinker			Feeler
Self-Controlled			Self-Expressive
Routine			Variety
Cooperative			Competitive
Leader			Follower
Speaks the truth			in love
Somber			Giddy
Sensory			Intuitive

12. When it comes to God being able to use us, what's a lesson here to always remember about our personalities?

E stands for Experiences.

13. Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. What does this verse say to you?

13. It's mindblowing to think that God can use all the experiences we've been through in our lives:

- Spiritual Experiences * Educational Experiences **
- Family Experiences*
- * Painful experiences * Vocational Experiences*

So think of your life for a moment. Then write out 2 or 3 experiences you've had in your life that might become areas of ministry for you.

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