

SHAPE



SUNRIDGE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

www.SunRidge.org

DISCOVERING YOUR SHAPE FOR LIVING MISSION

Spiritual Gift | Heart | Abilities | Personality | Experiences

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We are excited that you have taken the time to discover more about how God has SHAPED you for LIVING MISSION. We desire that you find a place of service here at SunRidge Community Church that fits the unique way God has created and designed you. Your SHAPE (Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, and Experience) determines your ministry and our prayer is that as you journey through this exercise you will discover more about how you were SHAPED for serving God. Here at SunRidge, every member of our church is to be LIVING MISSION or to say it another way to be a missionary. We believe that as you work through your SHAPE profile you will discover with more clarity how LIVING MISSION could look for you.

As you begin pray and expect God to grant you wisdom, discernment, and understanding. Remember that there are no wrong answers because this is your unique SHAPE! Expect exciting results! We are thrilled to help you find a fulfilling place to serve where you can use your gifts here at SunRidge.

Peace,
Mike Klassen

WHAT IS SHAPE?

Psalm 139:13-16 You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

God says you are “wonderfully complex.” You are a combination of many different factors. By identifying and understanding these factors you can discover God's will for your life. The simple acrostic: S.H.A.P.E. represents the five factors and they will be explained how to discover and use your shape for LIVING MISSION.

HOW GOD SHAPES YOU FOR LIVING MISSION

Whenever God gives us an assignment, He always equips us with what we need to accomplish it. This custom combination of capabilities is called your SHAPE:

Spiritual Gifts | Heart | Abilities | Personality | Experience

Ministry is using what God has uniquely given you to uniquely serve Him and the needs of others. The above five factors will help you determine where you can best serve Him with joy, fulfillment, and fruitfulness. Discovering your set of spiritual gift(s), heartfelt passions, abilities, personality, and life experiences will help you understand how God has designed you to uniquely serve.

God takes ordinary people and accomplishes extraordinary things through them!

SPIRITUAL GIFTS (“S” IN SHAPE)

“The Holy Spirit displays God’s power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church.” 1 Corinthians 12:7

Many of us have heard of spiritual gifts, but we are not quite sure we understand them. A spiritual gift is a special ability, given by the Holy Spirit to every believer at their conversion, to be used to minister to others and therefore build up the Body of Christ. Although spiritual gifts are given when the Holy Spirit enters new believers, their use and purpose need to be understood and developed as we grow spiritually.

**A SPIRITUAL GIFT IS MUCH LIKE A MUSCLE;
THE MORE YOU USE IT, THE STRONGER IT BECOMES.**

A FEW TRUTHS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. Only believers have spiritual gifts. *1 Corinthians 2:14*
2. You can’t earn or work for a spiritual gift. *Ephesians 4:7*
3. The Holy Spirit decides what gifts I get. *1 Corinthians 12:11*
4. I’m to discover, develop & deploy the gifts God gives me. *Rom.11:29*
5. It’s a sin to waste the gifts God gave me. *1 Corinthians 4:1-2*
6. Using my gifts honors God and expands me. *Matt.25:14-30, Jn 15:8*

DISCOVERING MY GIFT

God desires you to know the spiritual gift(s) He has chosen for you. Learning more about His gift(s) to us, and the many ways we can use those gifts is a life-long process. The Bible gives three major lists of gifts that are found in Romans 12:3-8, 1 Cor. 12:1-11, 27-31, and Eph. 4:11-12 (some include 1 Peter 4:9-11). One person can have many gifts. This list can serve as a helpful guideline, giving us ideas about the kinds of gifts God gives.

Instructions: As you read through this list, prayerfully consider if the definition for each of the gifts describes you. Remember, you can have more than one gift, but everyone has at least one.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Administration *Acts 15*

YES MAYBE NO

The ability to recognize the gifts of others and recruit them to a ministry area. The ability to organize and manage people, resources, and time for effective ministry. The ability to coordinate many details and execute the plans of leadership.

Apostle *Romans 15:20*

YES MAYBE NO

The ability to start new Churches and oversee their development. Today we call these people “Church Planters”! They have a real pioneering spirit (God’s entrepreneurs)

Arts & Crafts *Exodus 31:3-11*

YES MAYBE NO

The ability to build, maintain, or beautify the place of worship for God’s glory. The ability to express worship through a variety of art forms

Discernment *1 John 2 & 3*

YES MAYBE NO

The ability to distinguish right from wrong, truth from error, and to give an immediate evaluation based on God’s Word. The ability to discern whether the sources of an experience is Satan, self, or God’s Spirit.

Encouragement/Exhortation *Acts 14:22*

YES MAYBE NO

The ability to motivate people through words of comfort, consolation, encouragement and counsel in such a way that they feel helped, and that brings out the best in them, helping them to develop to their potential.

Evangelism *Acts 8:26-40*

YES MAYBE NO

The ability to communicate the good news of Jesus to unbelievers in a positive, non-threatening way. The ability to sense opportunities to share Christ and lead people to respond with faith.

Faith *Acts 16:9, 10, 18; 18:9-11; 27:21-26* **YES** **MAYBE** **NO**

The ability to trust God for what cannot be seen and to act on God's promise, regardless of what the circumstances indicate. The willingness to risk failure in pursuit of a God given vision, expecting God to handle the obstacles.

Giving *II Corinthians 8:1-7* **YES** **MAYBE** **NO**

The ability to earn, manage, and generously contribute money and/or material resources beyond a normal tithe, so that the Body may grow and be strengthened.

Healing *James 5:14-16* **YES** **MAYBE** **NO**

The ability to pray in faith specifically for people who need physical, emotional, or spiritual healing and see God answer. The ability to sense when God is prompting you to pray this kind of prayer.

Hospitality *I Peter 4:9-10* **YES** **MAYBE** **NO**

The ability to make others, especially strangers, feel warmly welcomed, accepted, and comfortable in the church family. The ability to coordinate factors that promote fellowship.

Intercession *Colossians 1:9-12* **YES** **MAYBE** **NO**

The ability to pray for needs of others in the church family, over extended periods of time. The ability to persist in prayer and not be discouraged until the answer arrives.

Interpretation *1 Corinthians 12:8-10* **YES** **MAYBE** **NO**

The ability to make known to the body of Christ the message of one speaking in tongues. They understand an unlearned language and communicate that message to the church family.

Knowledge *I Corinthians 2 & 4* **YES** **MAYBE** **NO**

The ability to bring truth to the body through a revelation or biblical insight. They can discover, collect, analyze, and organize information that is vital to individual believers or the entire Church family. The ability to comprehend a large amount of information and provide it when needed for decision making.

Leadership *Romans 8:12, Acts 13:1-3, 15* **YES** **MAYBE** **NO**

The ability to clarify and communicate the purpose and direction (vision) of a ministry in a way that attracts others to get involved. The ability to motivate others by example to work together in accomplishing a ministry goal.

Mercy *Luke 10:30-37* **YES** **MAYBE** **NO**

The ability to detect hurt and empathize with those who are suffering in the church family. The ability to provide compassionate and cheerful support to those experiencing distress, crisis or pain.

Miracles *1 Corinthians 12* **YES** **MAYBE** **NO**

The ability to pray in faith specifically for God's supernatural intervention into an impossible situation and to see God answer. The ability to sense when God is prompting you to pray this kind of prayer.

Missions *I Cor 9:19-23, Acts 13:2-3* **YES** **MAYBE** **NO**

The ability to "become all things to all people that I might win some for Christ," adapting to a different culture in order to reach unbelievers and help believers from that culture.

Music *Psalms 150* **YES** **MAYBE** **NO**

The ability to celebrate God's presence through music, and to lead the church family in worship.

Pastoring (“Shepherding”) / *Peter 4:9-10* **YES** **MAYBE** **NO**

The ability to care for the spiritual needs of a group of believers and equip them for ministry. The ability to nurture a small group in spiritual growth and assume responsibility for their welfare.

Prophet / Prophecy / *1 Cor. 14:1-5* **YES** **MAYBE** **NO**

The ability to proclaim the Word of God fearlessly with a view to strengthen, encourage, and comfort believers and convince unbelievers. Able to reveal truth in a timely and relevant manner.

Service / *Acts 6:1-7* **YES** **MAYBE** **NO**

The ability to recognize unmet needs in the church family, and take the initiative to provide practical assistance quickly, cheerfully, and without a need for recognition.

Teaching / *1 Cor. 14:3* **YES** **MAYBE** **NO**

The ability to understand, clearly explain, and apply the word of God causing greater Christ likeness in the lives of the listeners. They publicly communicate God’s Word in an inspired way that convinces unbelievers, and both challenges and comforts believers. The ability to persuasively declare God’s will.

Tongues / *1 Cor. 14:13-15* **YES** **MAYBE** **NO**

The ability to speak, worship, or pray in a language understood only by God or one who is given the gift of interpretation. People with this gift experience an intimacy with God which inspires them to edify others.

Wisdom / *Prov. 8* **YES** **MAYBE** **NO**

The ability to understand God’s perspective on life situations and share those insights in a simple, understandable way. The ability to explain what to do and how to do it.

HEART (“H” in SHAPE)

“Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.”

Psalm 37:4

The Bible uses the term “heart” to describe the bundle of desires, hopes, interests, ambitions, dreams, and affections you have. Your heart represents the source of all your motivations - what you love to do and what you care about most. Even today we still use the word in this way when we say, “I love you with all my heart.”

The Bible says, “As a face is reflected in water, so the heart reflects the person.” Your heart reveals the real you - what you truly are, not what others think you are or what circumstances force you to be. Your heart determines why you say the things you do, why you feel the way you do, and why you act the way you do.

In the same way, God has given each of us a unique emotional “heartbeat” that races when we think about the subjects, activities, or circumstances that interest us. We instinctively care about some things and not about others. These are clues as to where you should be serving.

Another word for heart is passion. Passions are desires or purposes that bring us joy. There are certain subjects you feel passionate about and others you could not care less about. Some experiences turn you on and capture your attention while others turn you off or bore you to tears. These reveal the nature of your heart.

Please consider the three ways in which your heart or passion is directed:

- A passion for a role (what you like to do);
- A passion for specific people (whom you like to help); and
- A passion for a cause (what you would like to see changed).

MONITORING MY HEARTBEAT

Instructions: Circle or check the items that best describe you. If none of the words on the list fit you, feel free to add your own on the "other" line at the bottom of the page.

1. My Passion for a Role: I love to...

Circle the following Roles you enjoy fulfilling

DESIGN/DEVELOP - I love to make something out of nothing.
I enjoy getting something started from scratch.

PIONEER - I love to test and try out new concepts.
I am not afraid to risk failure.

ORGANIZE - I love to bring order out of chaos.
I enjoy organizing something that is already started.

OPERATE/MAINTAIN - I love to efficiently maintain something that is already organized.

SERVE/HELP - I love to assist others in their responsibilities.
I enjoy helping others succeed.

ACQUIRE/POSSESS - I love to shop, collect, or obtain things.
I enjoy getting the highest quality for the best price.

EXCEL - I love to be the best and make my team the best.
I enjoy setting and attaining the highest standard.

INFLUENCE - I love to convert people to my way of thinking. I enjoy shaping the attitudes and behavior of others.

PERFORM - I love to be on stage and receive the attention of others. I enjoy being in the limelight.

IMPROVE - I love to make things better. I enjoy taking something that someone else has designed or started and improve it.

REPAIR - I love to fix what is broken or change what is out of date.

LEAD/BE IN CHARGE - I love to lead the way, oversee and supervise. I enjoy determining how things will be done.

PERSEVERE - I love to see things to completion. I enjoy persisting at something until it is finished.

FOLLOW THE RULES - I love to operate by policies and procedures. I enjoy meeting the expectations of an organization or boss.

PREVAIL - I love to fight for what is right and oppose what is wrong. I enjoy overcoming injustice.

OTHER: _____

2. My Passion for People: I love to be or work with...

Circle the following People on whom you feel you can make the greatest impact.

Infants/Babies | Toddlers | Preschool Children
Elementary Children | Middle School Students | High School Students | Young Adults | Women | Men | Families | Couples

OTHER: _____

3. My Passion for a Cause: I get excited about...

Circle the following Causes you feel led to champion!

Parenting | Families/Marriage | At-Risk Children
Abuse/Violence | Financial Management | Divorce Recovery
Law and/or Justice System | Homelessness
Drug and Alcohol Recovery | Illness and/or Injury | Education
Sexuality and/or Gender Issues | Evangelism Mobilizing People for Ministry | Worship | Economy Relief Efforts
Community/Neighborhood Issues

OTHER: _____

ABILITIES (“A” in SHAPE)

“There are different abilities to perform service.” 1 Corinthians 12:6

Your abilities are the natural talents with which you were born. All of our abilities come from God. The Bible says, “God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well.” Since your natural abilities are from God, they are just as important as your spiritual gifts. The only difference is that you were given them at birth.

Every ability can be used for God’s glory. Paul said, “Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” The Bible is filled with examples of different abilities that God uses for his glory.

The Bible says, “There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to all for their particular service.” God has a place in His church where your specialties can shine and you can make a difference. It’s up to you to find that place.

APPLYING MY ABILITIES

Instructions: Circle the abilities that best describe you below. If none of the words on the list fits you, feel free to add your own on the “other” line.

Entertaining ability: to perform, act, speak, sing

Recruiting ability: to enlist and motivate people to get involved

Interview ability: to discover what others are really like

Researching ability: to read, gather information, collect data

Artistic ability: to create or design

Graphics ability: to lay out, design, create visual displays or banners

Evaluating ability: to analyze data and draw conclusions

Planning ability: to strategize, design & organize programs & events

Managing ability: to organize people to accomplish a task or event.

Encouraging ability: to listen, encourage and guide with sensitivity

Athletic ability: to coach or participate in a sport

Teaching ability: to explain, train, demonstrate, tutor

Writing ability: to write articles, letters, books

Linguistic ability: to speak and write in one or more languages

OTHER: _____

PERSONALITY (“P” in SHAPE)

Your personality will affect how and where you use your spiritual gifts and abilities. For instance, two people may have the same gift of evangelism, but if one is introverted and the other is extroverted, that gift will be expressed in different ways.

Woodworkers know that it’s easier to work with the grain rather than against it. In the same way, when you are forced to minister in a manner that is “out of character” for your temperament, it creates tension and discomfort, requires extra effort and energy, and produces less than the best results. This is why mimicking someone else’s ministry never works. You don’t have their personality. Besides, God made you to be you! You can learn from the examples of others, but you must filter what you learn through your own shape.

It’s obvious that God has not used a cookie cutter to stamp out people in a process of uniformity. He loves variety; just look around. And there is not a “right” or “wrong” temperament. We need opposites to balance the church. The personality traits listed below are grouped in five couplets each with two opposing tendencies.

EXPERIENCES (“E” in SHAPE)

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28

You have been shaped by your experiences in life, most of which were beyond your control. God allowed them for His purpose of molding you. In determining your shape for serving God, you should examine at least five kinds of experiences from your past.

MY PERSONALITY *circle number on scale*

EXTROVERTED INTROVERTED
3 - - - 2 - - - 1 - - - 0 - - - 1 - - - 2 - - - 3
extreme mild mild extreme

THINKER FEELER
3 - - - 2 - - - 1 - - - 0 - - - 1 - - - 2 - - - 3
extreme mild mild extreme

ROUTINE VARIETY
3 - - - 2 - - - 1 - - - 0 - - - 1 - - - 2 - - - 3
extreme mild mild extreme

SELF-CONTROLLED SELF-EXPRESSIVE
3 - - - 2 - - - 1 - - - 0 - - - 1 - - - 2 - - - 3
extreme mild mild extreme

COOPERATIVE COMPETITIVE
3 - - - 2 - - - 1 - - - 0 - - - 1 - - - 2 - - - 3
extreme mild mild extreme

Ministry experiences:

How have you served God in the past?

Work experiences:

What jobs have you been most effective in and enjoyed most?

Educational experiences:

What were your favorite subjects in school?

Spiritual experiences:

What have been your most meaningful times with God?

Painful experiences:

From what problems, hurts, thorns, and trials have you learned?

It is this last category, painful experiences, that God uses the most to prepare you for ministry. God never wastes a hurt! In fact, your greatest ministry will most likely come out of your greatest hurt. Who could better minister to the parents of a Down syndrome child than another couple who have a child afflicted in the same way? Who could better help an alcoholic recover than someone who fought that demon and found freedom? Who could better comfort a wife whose husband has left her for an affair than a woman who went through that agony herself?

God allows you to go through painful experiences to equip you for ministry to others. The Bible says, “He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When others are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.” (2 Cor. 1:4) If you really desire to be used by God, you must understand a powerful truth: The very experiences that you have resented or regretted most in life - the ones you’ve wanted to hide and forget - are the experiences God wants to use to help others. They are your ministry!

EXAMINING MY EXPERIENCES

Instructions: As you look over the “experience” word list for each of these areas, ask God to help you identify which ones describe you and your experiences. Circle all the areas that apply to your life in each of the 5 areas. If necessary, use the “other” line to write in your unique personal experience.

I. Spiritual Experiences *Circle Your Spiritual Experiences*

Baptized | Community Outreach | Cross Cultural Ministry | Led Someone to Jesus | Part of a Small Group | Member of SRCC Regularly Give Back to God | Regularly Pray | Regularly Read the Bible | Serving in a Ministry

OTHER: _____

II. Painful Experiences *Circle Your Painful Experiences*

I can relate to someone who is/or has gone through...

Abortion | Abuse | Adoption | Alcoholism | Bankruptcy | Cancer | Chronic Pain | Crisis Pregnancy | Death/Grief | Depression | Divorce | Drug Abuse/Addiction | Eating Disorder | Job Loss | Physical Illness/Injury | Handicapped/Disabled | Homeless | Miscarriage | Orphaned | Prison | Recovery Program | Remarried | Sexual Addiction | Suicide of Family Member | Widowed |

OTHER: _____

III. Educational Experiences *Circle Your Educational Experiences*

High School Diploma | Bachelor Degree | Masters Degree | PHD/Doctoral Degree | Specialized Advanced Training | Trade School/Journeyman

OTHER: _____

IV. Work Experiences *Circle Your Work Experiences*

Agriculture Orchard | Winery

Automotive Management | Mechanic | Sales

Business Administrative | Advertising | Construction | Financial

Food/Restaurant | Real Estate | Sales/Retail

Small Business Owner

Computer Data Entry | Graphics | Hardware | Software | Web

Education Christian/Religion | Counseling | Languages | Math

| Music | Physical Education/Coaching | Preschool/Elementary

Education | Jr. High/HS Education

Homemaker

Medical Administrative | Chiropractic | Dental | General

Mental Health

Public/Civil Services Fire protection | Government Services

Police

Retired | Student | OTHER: _____

V. Ministry Experiences *Circle 1 to 3 of Your Ministry Experiences*

I have worked with...

Infants/Babies | Preschoolers | Elementary Students | Middle

School Students | High School Students | Young Adults | Adults

Men | Women | OTHER: _____

Ministry Roles

Administrative | Baking/Cooking | Bible Teacher | Children’s

Ministry | Cleaning/Maintenance/Repair | Financial Counselor

Greeter/Usher | Media | Musician | Prayer Team | Small Group

Leader | OTHER: _____

— NEXT STEPS —

1. FILL IN THE SHAPE PROFILE

Spiritual Gifts

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Heart

1. Role: _____
2. People: _____
3. Cause: _____

Abilities

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Personality

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Experiences

1. Spiritual: _____
2. Painful: _____
3. Educational: _____
4. Work: _____
5. Ministry: _____

2. TAKE TIME

Take the time to pray, journal and reflect on the way God has SHAPED you and how every aspect of your SHAPE interrelates. God often uses your entire SHAPE to be expressed in an area of service.

3. TRIAL AND ERROR

Then comes the time to do some 'Trial and Error' - Experiment with different areas of service. It is easier to discover your gift through ministry than to discover your ministry through your gift. We encourage you to try a few ministries and see what fits and what does not, and then stay committed to what fits your SHAPE.

Congratulations! You have completed the SHAPE discovery process. Thank you for taking the time to begin to discover how "You Were SHAPED for serving God". Hopefully God has revealed, clarified, or affirmed something to you about your SHAPE today.

***You are a gift and God has amazing things
in store for you in LIVING MISSION!***