

Discovering My S.H.A.P.E. for Ministry

This handout is modified from Saddleback Church's Class 301 and the teaching of pastor Rick Warren.

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WHAT IS S.H.A.P.E.? You were SHAPED to serve God

God formed every creature on this planet with a special area of expertise. Some animals run, some hop, some swim, some burrow, and some fly. Each has a particular role to play, based on the way it was shaped by God. The same is true with humans. Each of us was uniquely designed, or “shaped,” to do certain things.

Before architects design any new building they first ask, “What will be its purpose? How will it be used?” The intended function always determines the form of the building. Before God created you, He decided what role He wanted you to play on earth. He planned exactly how He wanted you to serve Him, and then He shaped you for those tasks. You are the way you are because you were made for a specific ministry.

Not only did God shape you before your birth, He planned every day of your life to support His shaping process. David continues, “Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.” (Psalm 139:16) This means that nothing that happens in your life is insignificant. God uses all of it to mold you for your ministry to others and shape you for your service to Him.

(The Purpose Driven Life, By Rick Warren)

God never wastes anything. The Bible 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. To help you remember five of these factors, we have created a simple acrostic: S.H.A.P.E. In this discovery book we will look at these five factors and explain how to discover and use your shape for Ministry.

How God Shapes You for Your Ministry

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 Cor. 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 Cor 2:14
2. You can’t *earn or work for* a spiritual gift. Eph 4:7
3. The *Holy Spirit* decides what gifts I get. 1 Cor 12:11
4. I am to *develop* the gifts God gives me. Rom 11:29
5. It’s a sin to *waste* the gifts God gave me. 1 Cor 4:1-2 and Mt 25:14-30
6. Using my gifts *honors* God and *expands* me. John 15:8

Unwrapping My Gifts

God desires you to know the spiritual gift(s) He has chosen for you. "Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened." (Matt. 7:7,8)
Learning more about His gift(s) to us, and the many ways we can use those gifts within the church is a life-long process.

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 12:3-8, 1 Cor. 12:1-11, 27 -31, Eph. 4:11-12, and 1 Peter 4:9-11, and there are other passages that mention or illustrate gifts not included in these lists. One person can have many gifts.

This list can serve as a helpful guideline, giving us ideas about the kinds of gifts God gives...The key is to find the areas in which the Holy Spirit seems to supernaturally empower your service to others.

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

Example: Cindy has the gift of service and expresses this gift in the Children’s Ministry. She helps secure the textbooks, prepares the handouts, and helps with registration. Cindy is willing to serve in any way possible to take the load off the teacher so she can focus on using her speaking gift more effectively. The gift of service edifies the gifts of others, freeing them from temporal tasks to focus on their spiritual gifts.

People with the gift of service often like to work behind the scenes.

UNWRAPPING MY GIFTS

Please remember to record your responses on your S.H.A.P.E. profile.

A SHORT LIST OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS (From I Cor. 12, Eph. 4, Rom. 12)

Rate the following gifts into three groups, A) I'm pretty sure I have this gift, B) I *may* have this gift, and C) I don't think I have this gift

ADMINISTRATION (I Cor. 12) A B C

(This is sometimes called "Organization")

The ability to recognize the gifts of others and recruit them to a ministry.

The ability to organize and manage people, resources, and time for effective ministry.

APOSTLE (I Cor. 12) A B C

The ability to start new churches/ventures and oversee their development.

DISCERNMENT (1 Cor. 12) A B C

The ability to distinguish between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

The ability to detect inconsistencies in another's life and confront in love.

ENCOURAGEMENT (Rom. 12) A B C

(This is sometimes called "Exhortation")

The ability to motivate God's people to apply and act on biblical principles, especially when they are discouraged or wavering in their faith. The ability to bring out the best in others and challenge them to develop their potential.

EVANGELISM (Eph. 4) A B C

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

FAITH I (Cor. 12) A B C

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 (Rom. 12) A B C

The ability to generously contribute material resources and/or money beyond the 10% tithe so that the Body may grow and be strengthened. The ability to manage money so it may be given to support the ministry of others.

HEALING (I Cor. 12) A B C

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 (1 Peter 4:9-10) A B C

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.

LEADERSHIP (Rom. 12) A B C

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 (Rom. 12) A B C

The ability to manifest practical, compassionate, cheerful love toward suffering members of the Body of Christ.

MIRACLES (I Cor. 12) A B C

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

PASTORING (Eph. 4) A B C

(This is sometimes called “Shepherding”)

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.

PRAYING WITH MY SPIRIT (I Cor. 12) A B C

(This is sometimes called “Tongues/Interpretation”)

The ability to pray in a language understood only by God or one who is given the gift of interpretation at that time.

PREACHING (Rom. 12) A B C

(This is sometimes called “Prophecy”)

The ability to 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.

SERVICE (Rom. 12) A B C

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 (Eph. 4) A B C

The ability to educate God’s people by clearly explaining and applying the Bible in a way that causes them to learn. The ability to equip and train other

believers for ministry.

WISDOM (1 Cor. 12) A B C

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 S.H.A.P.E.)

“Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.” Ps. 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.
(The Purpose Driven Life, By Rick Warren)*

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 couldn’t 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

Please remember to record your responses on your S.H.A.P.E. profile.

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.

*Circle the following **Roles** you enjoy fulfilling*

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

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 _____

MONITORING MY HEARTBEAT

Please remember to record your responses on your S.H.A.P.E. profile.

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

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

- Infants/Babies
- Toddlers
- Preschool Children
- Elementary Children
- Jr. High Students
- High School College/Career
- Young Marrieds
- Women
- Men
- Singles
- Single Parents
- Families
- Couples
- Older Adults 60+
- Other _____

*Circle the following **Causes** you feel led to champion!*

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

- Parenting
- Families/Marriage
- At-Risk Children
- Abuse/Violence
- Financial Management
- Divorce Recovery
- Disabilities and/or Support
- Deafness
- Blindness
- Law and/or Justice System
- Sanctity of Life
- Homelessness
- Drug and Alcohol Recovery
- Compulsive Behavior Recovery
- Illness and/or Injury
- Sexuality and/or Gender Issues
- Education
- Evangelism
- World Evangelization
- Fellowship
- Mobilizing People for Ministry
- Worship
- Policy and/or Politics
- Race
- Business and the Economy
- Relief Efforts
- Ethics
- Health and/or Fitness
- Science and/or Technology
- Environment
- International and Global Affairs
- Regional, State or Federal Issues
- Community/ Neighborhood Issues
- Other _____

ABILITIES (“A” in S.H.A.P.E.)

“There are different abilities to perform service.” 1 Cor. 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.

One of the most common excuses people give for not serving is “I just don’t have any abilities to offer.” This is ludicrous. You have dozens, probably hundreds, of untapped, unrecognized, and unused abilities that are lying dormant inside you. Many studies have revealed that the average person possesses from 500 to 700 different skills and abilities—far more than you realize.

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.*

What I’m able to do, God wants me to do. *You are the only person on earth who can use your abilities. No one else can play your role, because they don’t have the unique shape that God has given you. The Bible says that God equips you “with all you need for doing His will.” To discover God’s will for your life, you should seriously examine what you are good at doing and what you’re not good at doing.*

(The Purpose Driven Life, By Rick Warren)

APPLYING MY ABILITIES

Please remember to record your responses on your S.H.A.P.E. profile.

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.

Circle the following Abilities that apply to your life!

1. **Entertaining ability:** To perform, act, speak, sing
2. **Recruiting ability:** to enlist and motivate people to get involved
3. **Interview ability:** to discover what others are really like
4. **Researching ability:** to read, gather information, collect data
5. **Artistic ability:** to create or design
6. **Graphics ability:** to lay out, design, create visual displays or banners
7. **Evaluating ability:** to analyze data and draw conclusions
8. **Planning ability:** to strategize, design and organize programs and events
9. **Managing ability:** to supervise people to accomplish a task or event and coordinate the details
10. **Counseling/Encouraging ability:** to listen, encourage and guide with sensitivity

11. **Athletic ability:** to coach or participate in a sport
12. **Teaching ability:** to explain, train, demonstrate, tutor
13. **Writing ability:** to write articles, letters, books
14. **Linguistic ability:** to speak and write in one or more of the following languages

List the languages here:

15. **Editing ability:** to proofread or rewrite
16. **Promoting ability:** to advertise or promote events and activities
17. **Repairing ability:** to fix, restore, maintain
18. **Hobby related ability:** to work with your hands in the following areas
 - Canning
 - Knitting/Crocheting
 - Woodworking
 - Cooking
 - Gardening
 - Furniture Construction/Repair
 - Sewing
 - Other _____

19. **Feeding ability:** to create meals for large or small groups
20. **Recall ability:** to remember or recall names and faces
21. **Mechanical operating ability:** to operate equipment, tools or machinery
22. **Technical ability:** to operate/repair equipment in the following area(s)
 - Recording Studio
 - Audio/Technical Support
 - Information Systems (Web)
 - Set Up/Tear Down
 - Lighting Technician
 - Video Artist/Technician
 - Media/Tape
 - PowerPoint
 - Other _____

23. **Resourceful ability:** to search out and find inexpensive materials or resources needed
24. **Counting ability:** to work with numbers, data or money
25. **Classifying ability:** to systematize and file books, data, records and materials so they can be retrieved easily
26. **Public Relations ability:** to handle complaints and unhappy people with care and maturity
27. **Welcoming ability:** to convey warmth, develop rapport, make others feel comfortable
28. **Musical ability:** to sing or play a musical instrument
29. **Landscaping ability:** to do gardening and work with plants
30. **Decorating ability:** to beautify a setting for a special event
31. **Other** _____

PERSONALITY (“P” in S.H.A.P.E.)

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.

Like stained glass, our different personalities reflect God’s light in many colors and patterns. This blesses the family of God with depth and variety. It also blesses us personally. It feels good to do what God made you to do. When you minister in a manner consistent with the personality God gave you, you experience fulfillment, satisfaction, and fruitfulness.
(*The Purpose Driven Life*, By Rick Warren)

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 four couplets each with two opposing tendencies.

PLUGGING IN MY PERSONALITY

Please remember to record your responses on your S.H.A.P.E. profile.

Instructions: Circle one or the other

“I tend to...”

Be Extroverted I prefer interacting with many people and gain energy from being part of a variety of activities.	OR	Be Introverted I prefer interacting with only a few people and gain energy from quiet reflective time. I am a good listener.
Be Self-expressive I am more open and verbal about my thoughts and opinions. I enjoy sharing these with other people.	OR	Be Self-controlled I tend to keep my thoughts and opinions to myself.
Prefer Routine I am more comfortable being involved in activities where I clearly know what is expected of me. I like closure and completion before starting something new.	OR	Prefer Variety I am more fulfilled by tasks that change and maybe even have some surprises. Finishing one task before starting another is not crucial.
Be Cooperative	OR	Be Competitive

As I work with others, I easily see their point of view. I like being part of a team effort.	I like a sense of challenge. It increases my effort and helps me overcome the obstacles.
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EXPERIENCES (“E” in S.H.A.P.E.)

“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.

- 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

Please remember to record your responses on your S.H.A.P.E. profile.

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 at the end of each area to write in your unique personal experience.

Circle Your Spiritual Experiences

I. Spiritual Experiences

- Baptized
- Community Outreach
- Cross Cultural Ministry
- Led Someone to Christ
- Member of a Small Group
- Member of SVCC
- Regularly Give Back to God
- Regularly Pray
- Regularly Read the Bible
- Serving in a Ministry
- Other _____

Circle Your Painful Experiences

II. Painful Experiences (I can relate to someone who is/or has gone through...)

- Abortion
- Abuse
- Adoption
- Alcoholism
- Alzheimer's/Dementia
- Annulment of Marriage
- Bankruptcy
- Cancer
- Chronic Pain
- Crisis Pregnancy
- Death/Grief
- Depression
- Divorce
- 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/or Restored Marriage
- Sexual Compulsion
- Suicide of Family Member
- Widowed
- Other _____

Circle Your Educational Experiences

III. Educational Experiences

- High School Diploma
- Associate of Arts Degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- PHD/Doctoral Degree
- Specialized Advanced Training
- Other _____

Circle Your Work Experiences

IV. Work Experiences

- **Agriculture/Animal Husbandry**

- **Automotive**

- Management
- Manufacturing
- Mechanic/Maintenance
- Sales/Marketing
- Other _____

- **Business**

- Administrative Support
- Advertising/Marketing
- Chemicals
- Consulting
- Construction/Building
- Financial Services
- Food/Restaurant Services
- Manufacturing
- Personal Care Products/Services
- Personnel/Human Relations
- Project/Area Management
- Product Receiving/Delivery
- Property Management
- Public Relations
- Purchasing
- Real Estate
- Recruiting/Head Hunting
- Sales/Retail
- Service/Customer Relations
- Sewing
- Small Business Owner
- Other _____

- **Creative Arts**

- Architecture
- Advertising
- Computer Arts
- Fashion
- Fine Arts
- Graphic Design
- Illustration
- Industrial Design
- Interior Architecture & Design
- Motion Pictures & Television
- Photographer

- **Computer**

- Consulting
- Data Entry/Management
- Graphics
- Hardware
- Info Systems/Tech Support
- Printing
- Software
- Web Based
- Other _____

- **Engineering**

- **Entertainment**

- Actor/Actress
- Banquets/Events
- Hotel Services
- Media (Radio, Video, Film, etc.)
- Resorts/Theme Parks
- Other _____

• **The Field of Education**

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian/Religion • Counseling • History • Languages • Manual Arts/Vocational Skills • Mathematics • Music • Physical Education/Coaching • Preschool/Elementary Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jr. High/HS Education • Sciences • Social Sciences • Special Education • Specialist • Technology/Communication • Training • Other _____ |
|--|--|

• **Homemaker**

• **Medical**

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative/Support Services • Chiropractic • Dental • Dermatology • General • Geriatrics • Internal • Mental Health • Nursing • Nutrition • Speech Pathology • Surgery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obstetrics/Gynecology • Ophthalmology/Optomety • Orthodontics • Pathology • Pediatrics • Pharmacology • Physical/Occupational Therapy • Podiatry • Sales/Service |
|---|--|

• Other _____

• **Military**

- Air Force
- Army
- Coast Guard
- Marines
- Navy
- Other _____

• **Public/Civil Services**

- Fire protection

- Government Services
 - Immigration Services
 - Internal Revenue Service
 - Investigation
 - Law Enforcement/Security
 - Policy/Permit
 - Postal Services
 - Social/Community Services
 - Transportation
 - Other _____
- Retired
- Student
- Tax/Legal/Court Services
 - o Attorney
 - o Certified Public Accountant
 - o Court Services
 - o Paralegal
 - o Prisoner Services (Bail, Parole)
 - o Other _____
- Transportation
 - Airline Attendant
 - Airline Pilot
 - Air Traffic Control
 - Bus/Truck/Automobile Driver
 - Railroad
 - Travel Agency/Services
 - Other _____
- Utilities
 - Cable Television
 - Gas/Electric
 - Phone
 - Service/Sales/Mgmt./Install
 - Water
 - Other _____
- Vocational Ministry
 - Administrator
 - Director
 - Pastor

V. Ministry Experiences

• I have worked with...(Age/Life stage)

- College/Career
- Couples
- Elementary Students
- Family
- High School Students
- Infants/Babies
- Junior High Students
- Men
- Preschool Students
- Senior Adults
- Single Adults
- Young Marrieds
- Women
- Other _____

• Ministry Roles/Functions

- Administrative Support
- Baking/Cooking
- Baptism
- Bible Teacher
- Camp Counselor
- Career Missions/World Impact
- Children's Ministry
- Choir
- Church Life (Weddings, Funerals, Anniversaries, etc.)
- Cleaning/Maintenance/Repair
- Communications/Tech/Graphics
- Communion
- Deaf Ministry
- Disciple/Mentor
- Discussion/Table Leader
- Drama
- Food Preparation/Café
- Facilities Oversight
- Financial Counselor
- Greeter/Usher
- Hosting
- Hospital Care
- In Home Care/Senior Ministry
- Lay Counselor
- Library
- Media/Tape
- Musician
- Prayer Team
- Prison Ministry
- Program/Event Coordinator
- Retreat Planning
- Security
- Set Up/Tear Down
- Small Group Leader
- Speaker/Trainer
- Technical/AV Support
- Traffic
- Van/Bus/Truck Driver
- Writing
- Worship Leader
- Other _____

DETERMINING MY AVAILABILITY...

It does not take great *ability*; it takes great *availability* for God to make an impact with your life!

You have begun the SHAPE discovery process. You have examined your spiritual gifts, your heart's desires, your natural abilities, your personality bent and your life experiences. Now you need to consider how you are going to use the way God has shaped you to serve others in the world around you.

Real servants make themselves available to serve. They want to be ready to jump into service when called on. Much like a soldier, a servant must always be standing by for duty: *“No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him.”* 2 Timothy 2:4 (NASB) If you only serve when it's convenient for you, you should rethink your priorities. Real servants do what's needed, even when it's inconvenient. Are you available to God anytime?

As you think about committing time to serve, ask yourself the following questions:

- 1. Are you making service a priority?**
- 2. In your current season of life, how much time do you think you can give?**

Please remember to indicate your availability on your SHAPE profile.

Please select the amount of time you could serve per week:

- 1-2 hours
- 3-5 hours
- 6 + hours

Please select your best time during the week:

- Weekday
- Weeknight
- Weekend

“Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves Me.” John 12:26 NIV

MY NEXT STEP

Congratulations! You have completed the first step in 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 ministry!

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms” 1 Peter 4:10

We have highlighted some ways below to help you take the **Next Step** in finding a fulfilling place of service.

You will find some ways to continue the discovery process, learn how to get started in ministry, and how to continue to demonstrate your SHAPE.

Have You Scheduled Your S.H.A.P.E. Discovery Session?

S.H.A.P.E. Discovery Session – Now that you have completed C.L.A.S.S. 301, please remember to schedule your follow-up S.H.A.P.E. Discovery Session so you can talk one-on-one with a Ministry Team representative about your S.H.A.P.E. Profile. They will help connect you with a ministry where God can use you to make a lasting impact. The last page of this booklet will address what you can expect in a S.H.A.P.E. discovery session.

Ways to Start Serving

<https://www.kennethmd.com/ways-to-start-using-your-design-to-serve-others/>

Note, Dr. Acha has a mnemonic similar to SHAPE that he prefers to use. It’s called DESIGN. It’s a little bit more comprehensive. But for the purpose of knowing what ways to start serving, consider them exactly the same.

5 Ways to S.T.A.R.T. to Deepen Your S.H.A.P.E.

Study – We have found these books to be helpful in the development of one’s SHAPE.

- 19 Gifts of the Spirit, by Leslie B. Flynn
- Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church Grow, by C. Peter Wagner
- Half-Time, by Bob Buford
- Power of Uniqueness, by Arthur F. Miller Jr. with William Hendricks

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.

Analyze – 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.

Request input from others - Ask others what gifts they see in you.

Take training – Explore the different classes and resources that Saddleback offers to enhance your ministry.

S.H.A.P.E. Discovery Session FAQ's

What to Expect!

Where: S.H.A.P.E. Discovery Sessions are held primarily at the primary ministry location (ask your team leader).

When: S.H.A.P.E. Discovery Sessions are offered at various times of the day and week.

Who: Your S.H.A.P.E. Discovery Session is facilitated by a trained SHAPE Guide who will depend on the Holy Spirit to guide your time as the three of you start to explore service opportunities around you to serve. We only allow women to meet with women and men to meet with men. SHAPE Guides are volunteers.

What: During your S.H.A.P.E. Discovery Session your S.H.A.P.E. Guide will...

- Meet you in the at a pre-arranged location.
- Show you around the office if you would like.
- Open your session in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to guide the two of you.
- Be confidential.
- Review your S.H.A.P.E. Profile starting with your experiences and ending with your spiritual gifts.
- Talk about other responsibilities you have in life to see if the time is right for you to serve. We have found over the years people fall into one of four areas:

1. Ready to serve
2. Need time to heal...spiritually or emotionally
3. Already serving
4. Want to start a new ministry

- Help you find 2-3 service opportunities that fit your S.H.A.P.E., if you are ready to start serving.
- Ask you to contact the selected ministries and start serving as soon as possible.
- Answer any questions you may have.
- Close your time in prayer.

How Long: The average S.H.A.P.E. Discovery Session lasts 1 hour. Please do your best to be on time so you and your S.H.A.P.E. Guide can have enough time to explore service opportunities around you.