



DISCUSSION GUIDE

GIFTED, Part 2: Discovering Your SHAPE for ministry

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Have you ever taken a personality assessment? What kind? Was it helpful in affirming what kind of personality you have?

What “personality” is difficult for you to work with? Why?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

What idea, context, Scripture do you think could have been expanded on, or included in the message?

Below is a simple “personality assessment”. As a group share how you tend to be “wired”

Being with people can either drain you (introverted) or energize you (extroverted)

Extroverted

Introverted

1 2 3 4 5 | 5 4 3 2 1

What energizes you in how you structure your time?

Routine

Variety

1 2 3 4 5 | 5 4 3 2 1

What manner of expression are you most comfortable with?

Self- Controlled

Self-Expressive

1 2 3 4 5 | 5 4 3 2 1

When doing a task, or completing a project, how are you motivated to do it?

Cooperative

Competitive

1 2 3 4 5 | 5 4 3 2 1

In what way has God “made” your personality that could be a benefit in serving others? What places have you served or worked that was not a right “match” for your personality?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [2 Corinthians 1:3-11]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

How did Paul describe God? (1:3)

Why do you think Paul began his letter by praising God? (1:3)

What does God do when we are troubled? (1:4)

How does God involve Himself in our troubles? (1:4-5)

What did Paul's distress produce for the Corinthians? (1:6)

In what way is patient endurance produced in Christians? (1:6)

Why did Paul tell the Corinthians about the hardships he had endured? (1:8)

Why did Paul despair? (1:8)

How did Paul's confidence in God enable him to rise above his despair? (1:8-10)

For what reason did Paul endure suffering? (1:9)

How did the Corinthians help Paul through his hardships? (1:11)

What was the gracious favor Paul anticipated? (1:11)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

How does God want us to help one another in difficult circumstances?

How have painful experiences shaped you?

How have other Christians helped you through difficult circumstances?

Out of your painful experiences, how may God use those to move you to help others?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves as a result of what we have been learning?

How can we share this with others?

How can we pray for each other?