

# S.H.A.P.E. – WEEK 1 OVERVIEW

## ABOUT THIS WEEK

This week we will be introducing our S.H.A.P.E. series and looking at how God creates us for a unique purpose.

### ITEMS NEEDED

- Prayer Journal
- Bibles
- Pens

### CHECKLIST BEFORE YOUR GROUP ARRIVES

- Pray for the meeting
- Print & Read Discussion Guide
- Clean meeting room
- Clean bathroom
- Refreshments (Optional)
- Front door cracked open

## OPENING (7-10 MIN)

*Briefly welcome everyone and say:* To get started today we're going to be a bit silly, let's go around and answer:

### **IF YOU WERE A FRUIT OR VEGETABLE WHICH ONE WOULD YOU BE AND WHY? WHAT SIMILARITIES OR DIFFERENCES DID YOU NOTICE IN YOUR GROUP?**

*Say:* Today we're not talking about food, we're talking about an idea of how God makes each of us unique and for a specific purpose. It's all part of our new series S.H.A.P.E., where you're going to discover your Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, and Experiences.

## OPENING PRAYER (1 MIN)

*Say:* Before we begin our discussion today, can someone start us off with a brief prayer for our time together?

## GOD'S MASTERPIECE (20-30 MIN)

*After the prayer Say:* We're to look at two Bible passages to help us wrap our heads around the topic.

### **CAN SOMEONE READ PSALM 139:14 ALOUD FOR US AND SOMEONE ELSE READ EPHESIANS 2:10?**

### **WHAT SIMILARITIES DO YOU SEE IN THESE VERSES?**

### **WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD'S MASTERPIECES IN CREATION? (NIAGARA FALLS, GRAND CANYON, ETC.)**

### **HOW DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL TO KNOW THAT GOD ALSO SEES YOU AS A MASTERPIECE?**

**NOTE:** Be patient. This question takes some thought and people may be somewhat reticent to respond. After waiting a bit, if there are no responses consider sharing your response .

## WHY IS IT HARD FOR YOU TO BELIEVE YOU ARE GOD'S MASTERPIECE?

*After a discussion, say:* That's our own opinion of ourselves, but let's get an outside opinion of ourselves. Let's go in a circle and answer—

## WHAT'S SOMETHING YOU APPRECIATE ABOUT THE PERSON ON YOUR RIGHT?

### YOUR NEXT STEP (15-20 MIN)

*Say:* In the coming weeks we're going to look at your specific Spiritual Gifts, your heart and what you care about, your abilities, your personality, and your experiences. But with today being an overview discussion, let's go in a circle and answer—

## ON A SCALE OF 1 TO 4, WITH 1 BEING *NOT AT ALL* AND 4 BEING *EXTREMELY*, HOW MUCH DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE LIVING OUT GOD'S UNIQUE PURPOSE FOR YOU, AND WHY?

*After a discussion, say:* The interesting thing about living out your purpose is you can try to figure it out by trial and error, but the only way to truly know who you are made to be is to talk to the Designer. And in this series, we're going to do just that for all 5 areas of your S.H.A.P.E.

## ONE MORE VERSE FOR TODAY. CAN SOMEONE READ ISAIAH 64:8 ALOUD FOR US?

## TAKE A MINUTE TO BRAINSTORM—WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU FROM THIS VERSE?

*After a discussion, say:* If you look again at this verse, you'll notice it's a prayer. So, we'll get to our closing prayer in just a second. But to end our discussion for week 1 of SHAPE, and to lean into God's intent for who we are, let's say these words together with a big ol' *AMEN* afterwards:

**You, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Amen.**

*After praying, say:* May God answer that prayer for us in this series.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS (1 MIN)

- Speaking of your unique shape—Do you play an instrument or sing, or have you thought about joining the St Mark Praise team? Grab your instrument of choice and join us for an informal night of worship together on January 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM!

### PRAYERS (5-7 MIN)

*Say:* For our prayer time today, as we continue to fill out our journal, are there any prayer requests?

*Write your group's prayer requests in your journal. After you finish, begin by praying for your Small Group's prayer requests, then close with a prayer on today's topic.*