

## S.H.A.P.E. – Abilities

### ABOUT THIS WEEK

This week in our S.H.A.P.E. series, your group will consider how knowing your God has given you abilities to serve in his kingdom.

#### ITEMS NEEDED

- Prayer Journal       Bibles       Pens       Paper for Each Person

#### 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 (5-10 MIN)

*Briefly welcome everyone and say:* We're going to look at how our abilities may be used to serve the kingdom of God. To begin let's go around the group and answer:

#### WHAT IS ONE HIDDEN TALENT THAT YOU HAVE?

*Say:* Well, hidden talents are one thing, but today we'll see how we're called to live out our abilities in service to the kingdom of God today.

### OPENING PRAYER (1 MIN)

*Say:* But first, can someone start us off with a brief prayer for our time together?

### SCRIPTURE DISCOVERY (15 - 20 MIN)

*After the prayer say:* To begin our conversation today let's go around—

#### WHAT ARE THREE ABILITIES YOU HAVE?

#### TO BE FAIR, WHAT IS ONE THING YOU TRIED THAT YOU WERE TERRIBLE AT? (FOR INSTANCE, PINTEREST FAILS!)

*After a discussion, ask:* Maybe it goes without saying, but God not only wants us to enjoy our abilities, he wants to use them for his kingdom.

#### CAN I GET SOMEONE TO READ EXODUS 31:1-6 ALOUD FOR US?

#### WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU ABOUT BEZALEL'S ABILITIES?

*After a discussion, say:* If God is please when we use our abilities that he's given us, it stands to reason he could also be disappointed. In our next reading, a "talent" is actually a unit of

money but, coincidentally, can be used as a metaphor for anything God gives us; including our actual talents.

### **CAN SOMEONE READ MATTHEW 25:14-29 ALOUD FOR US?**

### **DO YOU THINK THE MASTER IS TOO HARSH ON THE SERVANT WHO BURIES HIS TALENTS? WHY OR WHY NOT?**

### **ABILITIES DISCOVERY (15 - 20 MIN)**

Say: One application from that reading is that our abilities are important to God and God's kingdom. Martin Luther is attributed to saying, "Being a Christian shoemaker doesn't necessarily mean putting little crosses on your shoes, but also by making the best shoes you can."

### **CAN SOMEONE READ COLOSSIANS 3:23-24 ALOUD FOR US?**

### **WHEN YOU HEAR THAT PASSAGE, WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU?**

*After a discussion, say:* Let's apply this verse, then. Earlier we shared three of our abilities—

### **HOW COULD YOU USE ONE OF THOSE ABILITIES FOR THE GOOD, GROWTH, OR GLORY OF GOD'S KINGDOM?**

**NOTE:** Allow plenty of time for discussion. The goal is to create interest in discovering where our abilities are and how they may be directed to serve God's kingdom.

Thinking about those who are dis-abled makes you realize you have a lot more ability than you realize. It's as former NFL coach Bill Parcells once said, "The best ability is availability."

### **WHAT KIND OF SERVICE IN GOD'S KINGDOM DOESN'T REQUIRE MUCH ABILITY?**

### **RESPOND IN FAITH (7 – 10 MIN)**

Say: Maybe it goes without saying, but we should be reminded that using your abilities from God doesn't save you. And it doesn't make you need less of God's grace than others. We were un-able to save ourselves, as it says in Romans 5:6, "*Christ died for us when we were un-able to help ourselves.*"

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS TO SHARE (2-3 MIN)**

Upcoming events at St. Mark include –

- Worship in the Round - Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM
- Prayer Night - Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM
- Ash Wednesday Worship – 12:00 PM and 6:30 PM, Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>

### **CLOSING PRAYER (7-10 MIN)**

Say: Are there any prayer requests today? *Please write them in your group prayer journal.*

*After prayer requests have been taken, say:* In our prayers let's include a prayer of thanks for one special ability God has given each of us. Take a moment to share what ability you would like to include in our prayer time.

*Hosts, after receiving prayer requests, lead the group in prayer.*