



**Reaching,
Restoring,
Raising Up**

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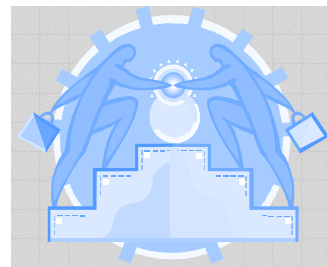
L.I.F.E. Group Questions—Ministry—Shaped to Serve God

Our L.I.F.E. Groups that meet in homes use the following questions from the sermon for discussion and application. To find a group pick up a L.I.F.E. Group brochure in the Welcome Center.

1. Think of some characteristics of a healthy family. Have you ever been in a church that was like that, and what do you think made it that way?
2. Since joining a church is a voluntary commitment, why do you think that commitment is so important to cultivating genuine fellowship with others at Celebration?
3. Of the 3 things you can't get on your own at church (companionship, comfort, counsel) which one is most important to you right now, and why? How can you help bring this to pass?
4. When you begin to serve alongside others, what does it do for your sense of connection with them? As a group, where could you serve in order to build stronger ties with one another?
5. How much a part of your life has making sacrifices for other members of the body become? When is it easiest, and when is it most difficult? Pray with one another for improvement.
6. Talk about anything else that impressed you from the message if you have time.

**You Can Join an ABF Anytime — Find
Yours Below and Join Us!**

**40 Days Classes—Locations,
Times, Descriptions**



ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS
- CONNECTING AROUND THE WORD -

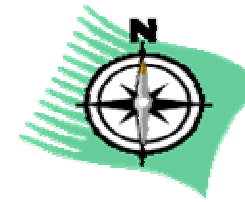
9:00			10:45		
Rm101	40s-50s	Young-Fendley	Rm 101	30s-50s	Bower-Devereaux
Rm 104	40s-50s	Christensen-Hasler	Rm 104	Open	Hixson-Sturgill
Rm 112	30s-40s	Waller-Norwood	Rm 112	Women	Byrum-Gardiner
Rm 201	30s	Hughes-Work	Rm 201	20s	Jones-Norwood
Rm 203	30s	Hughes-Work	Rm 202	30s	Miller-Butler
Rm 203	Singles	Knox-Graham	Rm 203	Singles	Reynolds
Rm 204	30s-40s	Sims-Bentzel	Rm 204	20s	Alexy-Hopkins
Rm 205	20s	Hey-Lux	Rm 205	Open	Regis-Hubbard
Rm 206	40s-50s	McBrayer-Wicks	Rm 206	30s	Heritier-Sharp
Rm 207	40s	Crary-Elswick	Rm 207	Open	Youngman-Byrum
Rm 208	Women	Knox-Anderson	Rm 208	Open	Anderson—Robertson
			3rd Fl/Gym	College	Ayres-Getchell-Hopkins

Feb 8, 2004

40 Days of Purpose

Celebration Fellowship

**Ministry—Shaped for Serving God
(For Next Week)**



Volume 1, Issue 5
February 8, 2004

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As we grow we come to understand that it's really not "all about me". To the contrary we find our greatest fulfillment in life when we give ourselves away in service to God and others. As Jesus said, "he who loses his life for my sake...will find it." The truth is, when we come into a love relationship with Christ we discover that being a servant is not just the best way to do life—it is God's only way for glorifying Him. Because of that God has "shaped" us for service. Each one of us has a unique design that enables

us to do exactly the work that God has called us to do. This design includes our spiritual gifts—the various abilities given by the Holy Spirit at salvation that enable us to build up others in His family. Also, each of us has a special "heart" for ministry, an area about which we are passionate. In addition we have certain human abilities, our own individual personalities, and unique life experiences that make us a perfect fit for a certain ministry. We are responsible to discover our shape through understanding



Real success comes by fulfilling God's purposes for your life.

ourselves, and then by trying various service opportunities. When we accept God's place of service for us, have a genuine servant's heart, and work in His strength, we find that serving others is truly God's purpose for our life.

A Look Back—Fellowship, The Missing Link

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

As the old writer, John Donne, said, "no man is an island" - we were not made to live in isolation, but in relation to others. Since God realized it was not good for man to be alone, He wove relationships into the very fabric of creation. Unfortunately, because of sin, we tend towards isolation and self-centeredness; but when we come to know Christ personally God's ideal is restored. His family, the church, is the most prominent place in which our connection with others is to be on display. We are to love one another on a daily basis, which is what the Bible calls fellowship. It is important to the Father that we exhibit this fellowship—it bears witness to the world that we truly are different because of Christ's sacrifice, it shows His character of love to them, and it prepares us for the activity of eternity. Forever we will be in fellowship with God and His family, so this earth is the place to learn to enjoy one another. Once we

are saved the first step to this is choosing to belong to a particular fellowship, or church, of believers. When we officially join a church, we say to that group of believers that they can count on us, and we expect to be able to depend on them. Without church membership there is always some reluctance to ask for and be asked to help. However, there is another level of fellowship that we must enter—the level of community. This is the level of sharing, when we acknowledge that we hold all things in common ("commun-ity"). We understand that all we have—our time, energy, resources—are to be available to meet others' needs in the body. Unfortunately, we often allow ourselves to become too busy with lesser things, or become afraid to actually connect on this level. We fear having to reveal too much of ourselves, or having to give more of our time than we are willing to give. But we eventu-

ally find that we must have communion—we must have others for companionship, comfort and counsel. Once we enter relationships like this we are able to cooperate with each other, and to accept the responsibility of serving others' needs. This cooperation results in a synergy that leads to greater productivity, protection and increased power and ability. This is how the church should look—it should be the greatest example of teamwork on the face of the earth. The final level of fellowship, though, is the one to which we are ultimately called—the level of commitment. Without the willingness to genuinely and voluntarily make sacrifices for others in the body, we will never fully appreciate the love that Christ had and has for us. When we begin to fellowship through sacrifice we begin to "re"-incarnate Christ on this earth. We become Christ to others, and experience the joy of true fellowship.

Reading Guide for Days 29-35—Ministry

Begin each day asking God for understanding, and for how to apply what you discover to your life that day.

Notes

Day 29—Accepting Your Assignment

- 1. Of the reasons listed (pp227-231) for why "service is not optional", which one motivates you the most, and why?
2. On p231 it says "impression without expression causes depression". Write down a time in your life when you found this to be true.

Day 30—Shaped for Serving God

- 3. What 2 problems often accompany spiritual gifts (p237), and have you experienced either one of these?
4. Have you discovered what you are passionate about (pp238-239)? How could you serve God through that?

Day 31—Understanding Your Shape

- 5. Write down 2 or 3 things that you have the ability to do well. Think of a place where that could benefit the church.
6. Look at the list on p246 and pinpoint some experiences that make you unique. How could these experiences help someone else?

Day 32—Using What God Gave You

- 7. Why should you never compare your ministry "shape" to someone else's (p253-4)? How has this caused you frustration in the past?
8. If you have not discovered your place of service, list 2 or 3 places where you could "test the waters".

Day 33—How Real Servants Act

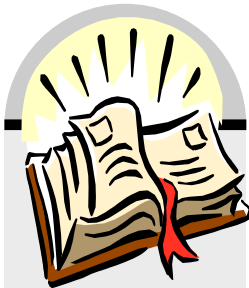
- 9. Why is it true that your shape reveals your ministry, but your servant's heart reveals your maturity (p258)? What does it require to be a servant (p254)?
10. From the qualities of true servants listed on pp258-262), which one do you need to work on most right now?

Day 34—Thinking Like a Servant

- 11. Think of an area in which you are serving right now. How can seeing this as a stewardship (pp266-268) help you become more effective in your service?
12. Has your service ever led you to feel "less than"? How can a good understanding of your identity in Christ help you overcome that tendency (pp269-270)?

Day 35—God's Power in Your Weakness

- 13. What is the definition of a "weakness" (p273), and what is one that you have identified about yourself?
14. What benefit can weaknesses have in our life if handled the right way (pp274-275)? Which of these approaches do you need God to help you with now (pp273-277)?



"Spiritual maturity is never an end in itself. Maturity is for ministry—we grow up in order to give out."

Table Discussion Questions for Feb 15

Connect

- 1. Share with the group how your week went, and how you well you were able to work on the area of growth you identified last week in the Purpose Driven Health Plan.
2. Talk about one area of service in the church (or somewhere else) you have enjoyed, and one you didn't. What made the difference?
3. Review memory verse (1 Peter 4:10). After repeating it share something God has taught you this week through it.

Video Outline

See Luke 10:30-37

A. Three Attitudes Towards People in Need

- 1. _____
2. _____
3. Treat others how I want _____

B. Four Steps to Serving the Needs of People the Way Jesus Would

- 1. _____ the needs of people around me.—1 Corinthians 10:24
2. _____ with people's pain.—2 Corinthians 1:4
3. _____ the moment and meet the need.—Proverbs 3:27, 28
4. _____ whatever it takes.—Galatians 6:10

Grow

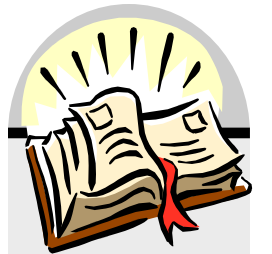
- 1. Why, in your opinion, do many people walk right by opportunities to serve others?
2. To be a servant you must move against your fears. What personal fears keep you from serving others or meeting needs in your church family?
3. With which of the four steps to serving the needs of people the way Jesus would (see outline above) do you most identify? Why do you think that is so?
4. Do you feel you have a particular weakness that has always kept you "on the sidelines"? Based on this week's reading, what are some ways to deal with these weaknesses that we all have?
5. What is one thing from your reading this week that God impressed you with?

Serve & Share

- 1. Take a minute to fill out your "Shaped for Serving God" form. Briefly share them with your table and let them respond with ideas of areas in the church where those gifts or talents could be effectively used.
2. Think together about some ministry project that you could do as a group.
3. Talk about how the group feels about staying together on Sunday mornings after the 40 Days of Purpose is over—and discuss any personal obstacles to continuing on.

Worship

- 1. Share how God has answered prayer for you this week, then update your Prayer and Praise sheet.
2. Pray around the table for the needs on the sheet (it's okay to pass if you feel the need to do so).



Memory Verse

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others...."
1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)