

Teamcreekside

Discovering Your Ministry Potential:

S.H.A.P.E. Workshop



First and Last Name: _____

Today's Date: _____

Part 1: Beginning with the Basics

A **Christian** disciple is a person who **believes in Jesus Christ** as one's personal **Lord and Savior** and **follows His teachings** (Mark 12:30).

*By God's grace, or undeserved gift, faith alone leads to salvation; service does not lead to salvation.

Creekside Christian Church defines a **disciple** as, **"Someone who continuously LEARNS to LIVE and LOVE like Jesus and LEADS others to do the same."**

We are called to love God and others (Mark 12:31 and Mark 10:45). Indeed, **"love" is a verb**—an action word—**something we do**.

Since all Christians are being transformed into Christ's image—the ultimate humble servant—all Christians are called to serve.

There is a need for servants at all levels of commitment and spiritual growth.

Serving in ministry enhances our spiritual growth as we learn more about God, better see His activity in our world, and join Him in His good work.

If you're waiting
on God, do what
waiters do:
serve.



Break free of your comfort zone and do something, touch someone, give something, help someone, pray for someone, serve someone, be the gift for someone.

You can't be a world changer until you serve.

Ann Voskamp (# The Broken Way)

To serve means to perform duties or services (for another person or organization). **Service is primarily about others, yet also benefits us in several ways** (Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs), allowing us to . . .

- [find community.](#)
- [make a difference.](#)
- [have fun.](#)
- [find purpose.](#)
- [be obedient to God.](#)

Ministry goes beyond serving. (Ephesians 2:10 & 3:20, NIV and Luke 1:37, ESV).

Ministry is the **power of the Holy Spirit working in and through us** as we serve others for our (plural) good and for God's glory, mainly in His church.

How do we reach our potential?

Reaching our potential in any area of our lives involves

1. [dedication](#)
2. [commitment](#)
3. [regular practice](#)

Tapping into our ministry potential—how far we can go with God—begins with drawing near to God through [daily prayer](#) , [daily personal Bible Study](#), [and regular participation](#) within a **church community**.

***The more we know God, the more we come to know ourselves, who He created us to be.**

Key Concepts from Henry T. Blackaby's Experiencing God

1. Relationship is most important to God.

The more we are able to understand God's great love for us, the more we will want to serve Him.

*"When you offer yourself to God as His servant, He first expects to shape you into the instrument of His choosing. **He will always work in-you before He works through-you.**"*

*If memories of hurts burden you, take this season of life to heal you! Conveniently located on Creekside's campus, Creekside Counseling & Coaching helps individuals, families, and couples repair, recover, and thrive:

<https://creeksideeg.com/counseling/contact-us/>

2. It's not about what we can do, it's about what God wants to do through us.

"The truth is that God can do anything He pleases through an ordinary person who is fully dedicated to Him."

"Rather than focusing on what our church is doing for us, we ought to be asking what God is seeking to do in our church through us."

3. When serving, keep checking in; don't hang up on God.

"Some would define a servant like this: 'A servant is one who finds out what his master wants him to do, and then he does it.' The human concept of a servant is that a servant goes to the master and says, 'Master, what do you want me to do?' The master tells him, and the servant goes off BY HIMSELF and does it. That is not the biblical concept of a servant of God. Being a servant of God is different from being a servant of a human master. A servant of a human-master works FOR his master. God, however, works THROUGH His servants."

The results of serving in the ministry for which we've been shaped:

Fulfillment and Effectiveness

*If you desire a deeper exploration of the basics, sign up for 1:1 Discipleship

<https://www.creeksideeg.com/pathway/> under Grow.

Part 2: How has God Shaped Me for Ministry Service?

Christians are all custom-blends of
Spiritual Gifts, **H**eart (Passion), **A**bilities, **P**ersonality, & **E**xperiences.

*When we become aware of our design, we can more effectively join God in His good work for our (plural) good and for His glory.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS: Special abilities given by the Holy Spirit to every believer at their conversion, to be used to minister to and build up the Body of Christ.

(1 Corinthians 7:7, NLT)

Gift of Administration

Definition: In Greek, the term refers to a captain of a ship and carries the idea of someone who **guides and directs a group of people toward a goal or destination**. Administration is the desire and ability to coordinate the activities of others for the achievement of common goals; task and detail oriented.

Scripture references/examples: 1 Corinthians 12:28

Cautions: Be careful of being too task-oriented and remember the people you are working with and for, and the purpose for which you are doing it.

Suggestions for using/developing this gift:

Project/Organizational Leader, Committee Chairperson.

Gift of Evangelism

Definition: In Greek, the term means “one who **brings good news**”. We are all called to evangelize, but those with the Gift of Evangelism have an extra desire and ability to effectively communicate the Gospel.

Scripture references/examples: Acts 8:5; Acts 21:8

Cautions: Don't forget follow-up. Evangelists can tend to think the job is done when somebody accepts Christ. Develop your evangelism skills. Seek to understand the people you are reaching and vary your approach.

Suggestions for using/developing this gift:

Share your faith with individuals/groups. Read [Becoming a Contagious Christian](#).

Gift of Exhortation/Encouragement

Definition: The desire and ability to **encourage and admonish** others to apply scripture in daily living; encouraging and strengthening those who may waiver in their faith, “the velvet brick”.

Scripture references/examples: Acts 4:36

Cautions: Exhorters be careful of giving advice without listening or wanting to fix everything. Practice sensitivity.

Suggestions for using/developing this gift:

Counselor, Pastor, Small Group/Bible Study Leader, 1:1 Discipleship Mentor, Speaker.

Gift of Giving

Definition: The desire and ability to **meet** individual and church **needs by giving material possessions** out of the overflow of blessings God has given them.

Scripture references/examples: Acts 9:36, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Cautions: Give effectively—not indiscriminately. Put time into determining the best use of the resources you give. Be careful of giving to be seen by people (Matthew 6:2-3).

Suggestions for using/developing this gift:

Give! Learn how to make money so that you have more to give!

Gift of Mercy

Definition: The Greek term means to be **patient and compassionate toward those who are suffering**. Mercy is the desire and ability to identify with and comfort those who are in distress often over extended periods of time.

Scripture references/examples: Acts 2:44-45, Romans 12:15, Galatians 6:2

Cautions: People with mercy may focus more on people’s physical/emotional problems than their spiritual problems (overlooking the role sin is playing in their lives). Must remember that people’s ultimate need is for salvation in Christ.

Suggestions for using/developing this gift:

Counselor, doctor, nurse, chaplain, hospital visitor, pastoral care.

Gift of Shepherding/Pastoring

Definition: Shepherds are called and gifted to **care for the spiritual well-being of a local body of God's people**. Shepherding is the desire and ability to guide, feed and protect a flock of Christ-followers.

Scripture references/examples: Acts 20:28-31; 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Cautions: Be careful of boundaries with people—shepherds can tend to spread themselves too thin and think that everyone's spiritual health depends on them. Learn particularly how to deal with difficult or needy people.

Suggestions for using/developing this gift:

Pastor, Small Group/Bible Study Leader, Sunday School Teacher.

Gift of Prophecy

Definition: The Greek term refers to the ability to **receive a divinely inspired message and deliver it to others in the church**. Prophecy is the desire and ability to proclaim the word of God with conviction and authority.

Scripture references/examples: 1 Corinthians 14:3

Cautions: Be careful of becoming proud of your persuasiveness or more dependent on your ability to speak than on the power of the Holy Spirit.

Suggestions for using/developing this gift:

Preach, speak at rescue missions, initiate evangelism.

Gift of Service/Helps

Definition: The Greek terms mean to help in love within the community. Service is the desire and ability to **meet practical, physical needs** and covers a **wide range of activities**. They are content with serving in the background knowing that their contribution will bless the church, display the love of Christ to the world, and bring glory to God.

Scripture references/examples: Acts 6:1-7

Cautions: Be careful of being like Martha and losing sight of the big picture (Luke 10:40-24). Don't look down on your gift – look how important it was considered in Acts 6.

Suggestions for using/developing this gift:

There are countless needs in and out of the church—start volunteering. Para-church organizations in the community could be explored.

Gift of Teaching

Definition: The desire and ability to **study, grasp, and explain the meaning of God's Word**.

Teachers love to study Scripture to better know God and to then make Him known to others; they take great joy and satisfaction in seeing others learn and apply the truth of God's Word to their lives.

Scripture references/examples: Acts 18:26-28

Cautions: Don't be trying to teach people all the time. Practice listening skills. Practice humility in your teaching. The gift of teaching IS NOT the gift of always being right! Remember that "teachers are judged with greater strictness" (James 3:1). Be careful about what you teach.

Suggestions for using/developing this gift:

Teaching Pastor, Sunday School Teacher, Bible Study Leader. Practice discipline and exhaustive Bible study; write down what you learn. Listen to teachers you respect.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS: What am I gifted to do?

*Paul's S.H.A.P.E.--Spiritual Gifts

**My S.H.A.P.E.--Spiritual Gifts

SIX TRUTHS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. Every Christian has at least one spiritual gift. (1 Peter 4:10)
2. No one receives all the gifts. (1 Corinthians 12:27-30)
3. No single gift is given to everyone. (1 Corinthians 12:29-30)
4. You can't choose a spiritual gift. (Ephesians 4:7)
5. The Holy Spirit decides which gifts I get. (1 Corinthians 12:11)
6. I am to exercise the gifts God gives me. (1 Timothy 4:14)

THE PURPOSE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. To benefit others. (1 Peter 4:10-11, MSG; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, ESV).

*"A spiritual gift is given to each of us **so we can help each other**. . . . All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it."* (1 Corinthians 12:13, 27, MSG)

2. To produce unity and maturity in our church family. (Ephesians 4:11-16 MSG)

CAUTIONS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- a. Don't confuse gifts with natural talents. **Oftentimes, our spiritual gifts actually align with our natural weaknesses, forcing us to rely on His power at work in us.** (2 Corinthians 12:9, Isaiah 40:29, Philippians 4:19).
- b. Don't confuse gifts with the Fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23)
 "Fruit" shows my Maturity. "Gifts" show my Ministry.
- c. Don't confuse gifts with Christian roles or ministry jobs.
- d. Don't expect others to serve the way you do and have similar results.
- e. Don't feel my gift makes me superior to others. (1 Corinthians 12:21)
- f. Don't feel my gift makes me inferior to others. (1 Corinthians 12:22)
- g. Realize that using my gifts without love is worthless! (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

MINISTRY SERVICE

My primary ministry commitment should be in the area where I am gifted.

My secondary ministry may involve serving in any other area of the Body when I am needed.

HOW TO DISCOVER YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT(S)

- A. Prayer
- B. Bible Study
- C. Desire
- D. Analysis (Spiritual Gifts Survey)
- E. Experience
- F. Fulfillment
- G. Confirmation
- H. Fruit

HEART/MINISTRY PASSION: A God-given desire to meet a particular need.

IMPLICATIONS OF VARYING MINISTRY PASSIONS

- You can't care about every need equally.
- Don't expect or demand that others conform to your passion.
**A special danger for compliant personalities: People who have a hard time saying "no" often get recruited into an area of someone else's passion and end up feeling trapped or unfulfilled in that ministry.
(If this sounds like you, read the book Boundaries by Cloud and Townsend.)

DISCOVERING YOUR MINISTRY PASSION

- A. What age group or type of people do you love to work with?
- B. Do you feel special empathy or sympathy for a certain need?
- C. Is there a ministry that keeps coming to your mind again and again?

HEART: What do I love to do?

*Paul's Heart

**My Heart

ABILITIES: Various natural talents and skills that God distributes to all people for the benefit of humanity.

ABOUT ABILITIES

1. People are born with abilities, things they can easily do.
2. Skills can be learned anywhere—at home, at school, in the neighborhood, etc.
3. People are not always aware of the abilities they have. (You might want to ask family, friends, and coworkers what they see as your abilities.)
4. Abilities that I use at work or home are often also useful in ministry.
5. Most people have many abilities.

ABILITIES: What natural talents and skills do I have?

*Paul's Abilities

**My Abilities

PERSONALITY: Where does my personality best suit me to serve?

1. How we relate to others:

- **Introverted:** Persons who are introverted enjoy being with other people, but they find that being with others drains emotional energy from them, and they have to have a certain amount of solitude to “recharge.”
- **Extraverted:** Persons who are extraverted receive emotional energy from being with other people, and they find that solitude drains energy from them. Extraverts can enjoy solitude, but they must have time with other people to “recharge.”

2. How we take in information:

- **Intuitive:** Persons whose preference is for intuition often describe themselves as “innovative.” Intuitive persons like metaphor and imagery, and often understand complex ideas rather suddenly, “as a whole,” without knowing exactly how they know. Intuitive persons tend to be more interested in what “might be” than in what “is.”
- **Sensing:** Persons whose preference is for sensing often describe themselves as “practical.” Sensing persons gather information bit by bit, and they focus on facts, data, and experience. Sensing persons tend to be more interested in what “is” than in what “might be.”

3. How we make decisions:

- **Thinking:** Persons who make decisions based on “thinking” focus more on facts, data, rules, and procedures than on how decisions will affect people.
- **Feeling:** Persons who make decisions based on “feeling” focus more on how a decision will affect other people than on facts, data, rules, and procedures.

4. How we structure our lives:

- **Controlled:** “Controlled” persons tend to prefer outcomes to processes. They’re interested in structure, in meeting deadlines, in closure, in moving on to the next thing. Controlled persons tend to like checklists and plans.
- **Spontaneous:** “Spontaneous” persons tend to prefer processes to outcomes. They’re more interested in “going with the flow” and “seeing what happens” than in making schedules and meeting deadlines. Spontaneous persons tend to lose their checklists and plans, but this doesn’t bother them.

PERSONALITY: Where does my personality best suit me to serve?

*Paul’s Personality

**My Personality

EXPERIENCES: What life experiences have prepared me to serve others?

- *SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES*
- *PAINFUL EXPERIENCES*
- *EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES*
- *MINISTRY EXPERIENCES*

EXPERIENCES: What life experiences have prepared me to serve others?

*Paul's Experiences

**My Experiences

ATTITUDES AND OBSERVATIONS REGARDING MINISTRY

HELPFUL ATTITUDES

- We are all important and needed. (1 Corinthians 12:21; Ephesians 4:16)
- We are to serve freely out of gratitude. (Mark 10:45; 1 John 4:19)
- We are to serve in God's strength and for His glory, not our own.
(1 Peter 4:10-11)

UNHELPFUL ATTITUDES

- "I refuse all ministry involvement not related to my gifts or abilities."
- "I will serve only when I feel really inspired by God."
- "I quit; ministry is too discouraging, and I'm not appreciated."
- "I am not going to serve because somebody else will do it."

RANDOM THOUGHTS

- It's normal to be afraid the first time we try something new.
- Focus and flourish in one area—at least for starters.
- All ministries have highs and lows.
- Prayer needs to permeate everything we do.
- People are people; we may all disappoint each other from time to time.
- There is great joy in being unleashed and empowered for ministry.

*Paul's S.H.A.P.E.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS: What am I gifted to do? (2 Timothy 1:11, NLT)

1. **Preacher (Shepherd)**
2. **Apostle**
3. **Teacher**

HEART: What needs do I have a God-given desire to meet?

I love to preach the gospel.

I have a desire to meet the needs of Gentiles. (Galatians 2:8, ESV)

A ministry that keeps coming to mind is going on journeys to reach the lost.

- I prefer to work with adults.

ABILITIES: What natural talents and skills do I have?

My natural talents and skills include: **tentmaker, analytical thinker, persuasive speaker, easily connect with other adults**. (Acts 18:2-4, ESV)

PERSONALITY: Where does my personality best suit me to serve?

I'm extremely zealous. (Galatians 1:13-14, ESV)

Extroverted, Intuitive, Thinking, Controlled

EXPERIENCES: What life experiences have prepared me to serve others?

- **MY SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES:**
 - Conversion on the Damascus Road (Acts 9:1-20)
 - Three years maturing in Arabia (Galatians 1:18)
- **MY PAINFUL EXPERIENCES**
 - labors, imprisonments, beatings, lashes, stoned, shipwrecked, frequent journeys, dangers, hardship, sleepless, hunger & thirst, cold and exposure.”
(2 Corinthians 11:23-27, ESV)
 - “a thorn . . . in the flesh” (2 Corinthians 12:7, ESV)
- **MY EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES**
 - educated at the feet of Gamaliel (Acts 22:3, ESV)
- **MY MINISTRY EXPERIENCES**
 - Read the Book of Acts!

****MY S.H.A.P.E. WILL DETERMINE MY MINISTRY**

(acronym by Pastor Rick Warren, author of The Purpose Driven Life)

SPIRITUAL GIFTS: What am I gifted to do?

1. _____ Score: _____

2. _____ Score: _____

3. _____ Score: _____

HEART: What do I love to do? What needs do I have a God-given desire to meet?

I love to _____

I have a desire to meet the needs of _____

A ministry that keeps coming to mind is _____

- ☐ I prefer to work with adults.
- ☐ I prefer to work with children.

ABILITIES: What natural talents and skills do I have?

My natural talents and skills include: _____

PERSONALITY: Where does my personality best suit me to serve?

Introverted _____ Extroverted

Intuitive _____ Sensing

Thinking _____ Feeling

Controlled _____ Spontaneous

EXPERIENCES: What life experiences have prepared me to serve others?

- ***MY SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES:***

- ***MY PAINFUL EXPERIENCES***

- ***MY EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES***

- ***MY MINISTRY EXPERIENCES***
