

SESSION
FIVE



RECOGNIZING MY PERSONALITY

GOD LOVES VARIETY

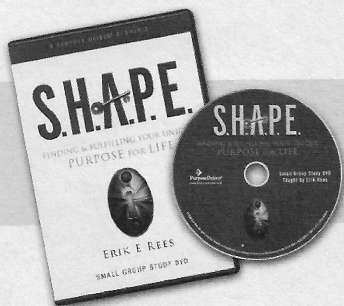
CATCHING UP

- What did you learn through the review of your natural abilities? Did the additional list help you recognize more possibilities? Share one new insight with the group.
- Were you able to meet with your spiritual partner? How did that connection help expand or affirm what God is showing you?
- Now that you've been together a few weeks, take a few minutes to go around the room and affirm in each person something that has blessed the group.

KEY VERSE

God works through different people in different ways, but it is the same God who achieves his purpose through them all.

1 Corinthians 12:6 (PH)



Watch the Session Five video now and fill in the blanks in the outline in this guide. Refer back to the outline during your discussion time

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God loves variety. There is no “wrong” or “right” temperament. God wants to use them all. God doesn’t measure people the way most of us do.

“The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

(1 Samuel 16:7b NIV)

The world places value on externals like prestige, position, and wealth; God places the highest value on less visible aspects of our lives.

The personality you have is God’s _____ to you. He created it and gave it to you to use for his glory.

Personality: The complex of characteristics that distinguishes an individual.

—Webster’s Dictionary

Your personality takes center stage in all areas of your life!

Ideas about Personality Traits

Indisputable truth: God has instilled a _____ in each one of us.

Two broad areas:

- How you _____ to others
- How you _____ to opportunities

Your Kingdom Purpose is all about people, so it is important to discover how you relate to those around you. Because you'll encounter many serving opportunities throughout your life, understanding how you react to various situations helps you make the best choices.

How I Relate to Others

_____ or _____

_____ or _____

_____ or _____

How I Respond to Opportunities

_____ or _____

_____ or _____

_____ or _____

_____ or _____

Give yourself permission to be who God made you to be!

Closing Thought: The key is to determine how you best relate to others and respond to serving opportunities. Think of a few ways to start expressing your personality in ministry this next week.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you think discovering the way God has wired your unique personality will help you fulfill your Kingdom Purpose?

2. Erik asked: “If you had the opportunity to choose the ideal situation that would enable you to make the greatest difference for God, what would it look like?” Respond to that question by thinking back over recent life opportunities. Which brought the greatest sense of fulfillment and purpose?

3. Why do we tend to think of certain personality traits as “wrong” or “right”? How have you seen your personality up to now? Had it occurred to you before this lesson that God has a divine use for your personality—that he intentionally made you the way you are? Share one or two key thoughts with the group.

4. What difference does it make for you to know that God intentionally made you the way you are, whether you are outgoing or reserved, self-expressive or self-controlled, cooperative or competitive? Others may see one trait as preferred, but God made all traits specifically for his deliberate use.

5. How can our personalities bless others in our small group? Take a moment or two to affirm a characteristic in each group member.

LIVING ON PURPOSE

Worship

A life of purpose is how we live, while the purpose of worship is one of the reasons why we live . . . The soil of a worshiping heart is that which allows the seed of faith to grow and produce fruit. Rick Warren has taught me, “Surrender is not the best way to live; it is the only way to live.” So we make it our goal to please God.

—Rick Muchow, *The Worship Answer Book*, pp.119, 122

More than any other quality, our personalities are a reflection of God. He has created us in his image. None of us is exactly like God, but each of us is like God in some way.

1. What role does your personality play in the way you express worship to God?
2. In addition to serving in ministry, what other ways might God want to use your specific personality traits? How is the full surrender of your personality for his use an expression of worship to God? Share with the group a memory of a time God used you, simply because you're—you! How was God glorified through this example?
3. How is our cooperation with God in allowing his Spirit to infuse and use us as he made us an act of worship? Think about steps you can take to make sure you are worshiping God in this way on a regular basis.

PRAYER DIRECTION

Thank God for the personalities he has given each of you. Ask him to help you see where a trait needs to be submitted to the power of his Spirit for change and ask him to show you how to be yourself for his sake. Ask for the power that only comes through a surrendered life of worship.

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PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

Take time this week to evaluate your personality tendencies based on the questions Erik posed during this session. If possible, review your findings with your spiritual partner, or with someone who knows you well, for added insight. Determine how you will use your unique personality traits in ministry. And remember: no answer is right or wrong, better or worse. We're all distinct, just as God made us! And we are made for his purpose.

How I Relate to Others

Circle the words below that BEST describe how you relate to others. You can circle the "X" in the middle if your personality tends to include both traits:

Outgoing ————— X ————— Reserved
Self-expressive ————— X ————— Self-controlled
Cooperative ————— X ————— Competitive

How I Respond to Opportunities

Circle the words below that BEST describe how you respond to serving opportunities. You can circle the "X" in the middle if you tend to embrace opportunities that include both traits:

High Risk ————— X ————— Low Risk
People Driven ————— X ————— Project Driven
Follow ————— X ————— Lead
Team ————— X ————— Solo
Routine ————— X ————— Variety

Now transfer your results to your S.H.A.P.E. Profile on page 68

DIVING DEEPER

Learn more about your natural abilities in chapter 5—
“Personality,” from the book *S.H.A.P.E.: Finding and
Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose for Life*.

