

discovering your

SHAPE

PART
8

March 22, 2015 | Wawasee Community Bible Church | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

EXPERIENCE NEEDED

Romans 8:28; 9:20-21; 2 Corinthians 1:2-11

REVIEW: DISCOVERING YOUR "SHAPE"

Spiritual Gifts
Hearth (passions)
Abilities
Personality
Experiences

*God uses your every one of your experiences
—good and bad, pleasant and painful—
to shape you into the person he desires you to be.*

SOME OBSERVATIONS ABOUT "EXPERIENCE"

1. Some experiences are **OUTSIDE MY CONTROL.**
2. Some experiences are **WITHIN MY CONTROL.**
3. In reality, all experiences are **BOTH.**

FIVE AREAS OF EXPERIENCE TO CONSIDER

1. **EDUCATIONAL** Experience

2. **VOCATIONAL** Experience

3. **SPIRITUAL** Experience

4. **MINISTRY** Experience

5. **PAINFUL** Experience

*6. Extra Credit: **“PERSONAL”** Experience...

NEVER FORGET THESE TO THINGS ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES

1. God never **WASTES** an experience—good or bad—when you yield to him.

2. Your experiences—good and bad—may **EXPLAIN** you, but they do not **DEFINE** you.

HOMework



Open Your Group in Prayer. Use the Prayer Guide on the next page for Suggestions.

Go to wawaseebible.com/shape and take some time to work through the SHAPE Resources if you haven't already.

1. Think back to when you were a child... when you would get sick or hurt, what expression of care did you find the most comforting? — If you have your own children, what is/was most comforting to them?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 1:2-11. What do you notice?
3. What's the relationship between God's ability to comfort us and our ability to comfort others (v. 5)?
4. When have you been the recipient of this comfort? How are Christ's and Paul's sufferings related to the Corinthian church?
5. What pressures is Paul facing that would cause him to despair even of life (see 7:5-7 and Acts 19:23-41)?
6. Are there any pressures in your life right now that are causing you to despair?
7. Changing gears... what past experiences do you have? Go through each of the five categories and identify some of your experiences, good and bad.
8. How have you seen God use those experiences to shape you? Read **Romans 9:20-21**. Have you *let* him use those things to shape you, or resisted him?
9. How could you take and use your past experiences (good and bad) to serve others for God's glory, their good, and your joy?

Many of this weeks questions were taken from Zondervan's Serendipity Study Bible.

