**FAMILY LIFE CHURCH OF THE VALLEY**

**LIFE GROUP- RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

**TITLE:** S. H. A. P.E- FINDING AND FULFILLING YOUR UNIQUE PURPOSE FOR LIFE

**SESSION TWO:** UNWRAPPING MY SPIRITUAL GIFTS – GOD’S GIFTS ARE THE KEY TO KINGDOM PURPOSES

**KEY VERSE:** God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God's generosity can flow through you.

 **1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)**
**UNWRAPPING MY SPIRITUAL GIFTS:**

Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.

 **1 Corinthians 12:1(NIV)**

God's gifts are the key to the Kingdom Purpose he has set aside just for us.

In order to serve effectively, we need to understand the nature of spiritual gifts.

**WHAT SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE NOT:**

1. Your spiritual gifts are not your personality traits. (Your personality can provide a natural vehicle for expressing your gifts)

2. Your spiritual gifts are not your natural talents.

3. Your spiritual gifts are not the same as the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5).

**A SPIRITUAL GIFT IS:**
•A God-given \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to every believer at conversion by the Holy Spirit
* To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God's love
* To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the body of Christ

God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God’s generosity can flow through you.

 **1 Peter 4:10(NLT)**

**WHY DOES GOD GIVE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?**

A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church.

 **1 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT)**

Spiritual gifts are not for you or about you. They are for the specific of purpose of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the body of Christ——the church.

Every believer receives them.

. . . each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

 **1 Corinthians 7:7b (TNIV)**

God has given you a gift! If you're a believer, the Bible says you have the Spirit living in you, and gifts to use for his glory.

**THE KEY TO DISCOVERING YOUR GIFTS IS TWO-FOLD:**

1. Determine what gifts you think you may have.

2. Serve in various roles to see which ones bring the greatest fulfillment for you and the greatest results for God.

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Allow Scripture to guide you to those gifts that are uniquely yours. Ask God to reveal how he wants you to use your gifts to accomplish his work in the World.

Many people discover their gifts as they minister to others. The more you serve, the more clearly you will see your gifts.

The ultimate goal is using your gifts to love and bless others.

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

 **1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NIV)**

Are you serving to benefit others -or yourself?

**THREE COMMON TRAPS:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

God's Word says that all parts of the body are needed.

The eye can never say to the hand, “I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, i don’t need you," "in fact, some of the parts that seem weakest and least important are really the most necessary.

 **1 Corinthians 12:21-22 (NLT)**

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Encourage everyone to be who God created them to be.

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3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Lack of position is not necessarily a lack of a gift.

Don't wait for God to fill in all the blanks before you start serving. Your group is a great place to begin!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. While all spiritual gifts are given variously by God to be useful for building up the body of Christ and for reaching the world with his message of hope, why do you think Paul tells us, in 1Corinthians 13, that love is greater than these gifts? Explain.

2. Why is it important for us to learn to recognize our spiritual gifts? How is a spiritual gift different from a personality trait, a talent, or a characteristic? If you’re not sure, this is a great opportunity to clarify your understanding with your group.

3. What can we do to avoid the traps Erik talked about: comparison, projection, and rejection? Which do you see yourself most easily falling into?

4. Do you already know your spiritual gifts? If so, share them with the group and how you've been using them in ministry.

5. Discuss how God might want to use your spiritual gifts to benefit the others members of your group. Is there a way you can serve one another??