Embrace Your **Identity in Christ** (NavPress Connect Bible Study, "Identity: Becoming Who God Says I Am")

1) How does the Bible describe you? (Created by God for a purpose, Sinful, Loved, Redeemed… see wk.1 talk)
2) Where do you struggle to see yourself this way? What practical difference does identity make in your life?

Know Your **S.H.A.P.E.** (Erik Rees, “S.H.A.P.E. – Finding and Fulfilling your Unique Purpose for Life”)

- **Spiritual Gifts**
  1) Where have you or others around you seen spiritual gifts active in your life?
  2) Where do you have opportunities to use, develop or discover these Gifts right now?

- **Heart**
  1) What or who do you care about most? What needs do you find yourself getting passionate about?
  2) What cause(s) do you believe God wants you to be involved in? What is your dream for Kingdom impact?

- **Abilities**
  1) What are your top natural abilities?
  2) What opportunities are there for you to use or develop your skills and abilities?

- **Personality**
  1) How do you relate to others? (Outgoing, reserved, self-expressive, self-controlled, cooperative, competitive)
  2) How do you respond to opportunities? (Risk-taker, cautious, independent, team-oriented, follower, leader, people-oriented, task-oriented, driven, laid-back …)

- **Experiences**
  1) What are some of the key positive experience in your life?
  2) What are some of the key negative experiences in your life?
  3) How has God shaped you through these? How could these be used to help others/ advance the Kingdom?
Understand Your CALLING

• Individually
  1) Where do you think God may be calling you to serve Him in the years to come? (May be general or specific – feel free to dream big since God is big!) How can you best be preparing now for that calling?
  2) Where do you believe God would have to serve Him today? (May be in areas of strength or weakness)

• As a Body
  1) What do you believe God’s call is to Grace BFC for the next few years? (What types of ministry should we be doing, where can we as a group uniquely impact the world around us, what is our unique character...)
  2) Where might God be calling you to help, or even lead, so that we can fulfill that calling?

Find Your FIT

  1) As you think about your SHAPE and CALLING, how do you see yourself fitting on a team (Are you a leader, worker, manager, outgoing, behind the scenes, optimist, prayer warrior, encourager, recruiter, dreamer...)
  2) Where specifically do you see yourself fitting in Grace BFC? In your work, neighborhood, other ministries?

Grace BFC Service Opportunities:
  • Please fill out the “Grace Ministry Opportunities” form (return to Pastor Mark)

Going Further:

  1) Bible Study / personal questions and journal on Identity (created, fallen, redeemed), gifts, purpose, meaning in life: “Identity: Becoming What God Wants Us To Be” by NavPress
  2) Further description of and additional questions to help with S.H.A.P.E. analysis: “S.H.A.P.E. – Finding and Fulfiling Your Unique Purpose for Life” by Erik Rees
  3) Personal Assessment with helpful questions / charts on your Experiences, Traits, and Convictions as well as form to get Observations of others: “Discover Your Spiritual Gifts the Network Way” by Bruce Bugbee
  4) Spiritual Gift Inventory: see Mark Bickel, he has several different Spiritual Gift surveys you could take
  5) Helpful books on the topic:
     • “When the Church Was a Family” by Joseph H. Hellerman
     • “What are Spiritual Gifts? Rethinking the Conventional Approach” by Kenneth Berding
     • “What You Do Best in the Body of Christ” by Bruce Bugbee
     • Bible Study series “Pursuing Spiritual Transformation” by Willow Creek (published by Zondervan).
       Especially volumes on “Gifts: The Joy of Serving God” and “Groups: The Life-Giving Power of Community”
  6) Handouts and Teaching Notes for “Who Are You? Where Do You Fit?” at gracebfc.org