

SHAPE

DISCOVER WHO GOD MADE YOU TO BE 🌈

Small Group Discussion Questions
SHAPE: The Big Picture
Pastor Scott Farmer
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Opening Remarks:

"Give me a picture representing the people of the San Ramon Valley. Who are they? What do they want?" Bill Pearce, a CPC elder and a marketing professor at Cal asked our pastoral team as we seek to describe people God wants us to love in Christ. I gave a pic of a gated house: Security, accomplishment, family, comfort.

"Think of a picture representing Community Presbyterian Church. Who are they? What do they want? Who are we? What do we want?"

How would you answer that?

Warm it up:

Read together CPC's vision prayer:

"Lord, by 2020 may CPC be a transformed, intergenerational community, passionate about living as Christ's disciples with a contagious zeal for people meeting Christ and radically expressing God's compassion and generosity."

note: This is a prayer to God from weakness, not a proud pronouncement of how well we're doing! Can you believe this matters to God? And that we fall short? Do you want God to work these things into your life? into our life together?

When you look at the five themes of that prayer [life transforming, inter-generational, gospel sharing, compassionate, generous] to which are you most drawn? Which offers the greatest challenge or holds the least attraction for you?

Talk it over: [Let's seek to understand these prayer themes]

1) Regarding "Transformed", read Romans 12:1-2.

What does a "renewed mind" look like? "Transformed" from what to what? Describe the transformation which the gospel brings. How would that look in an individual, in our church community?

2) Regarding "Intergenerational community", read Psalm 145:4. Describe a picture of a community where "each generation commends your works to another." How does your picture match your present experience? Your experience as part of a church?

3] Regarding "Gospel Sharing", read II Corinthians 5: 20.

Tell a story where you've seen this "appeal" "imploring" on Christ's behalf rise out of contagious affection for Christ. Tell a story of when you were attracted to Christ because of one of his ambassadors.

4] Regarding "expressing God's compassion", read Matthew 25:40.

Do you think God is compassionate? Why or why not? How is acting "for the least of these my brothers and sisters" doing something for Jesus? Have you seen this in action? Done this? Are you more attracted or repelled to this part of the prayer?

5] Regarding "expressing God's generosity", read II Corinthians 8:7.

Why is "giving" considered a "grace"? Paint a word picture about someone you know who exhibits this grace. Paint a picture about a community who exhibit this grace.

Work it out:

Several people who read our prayer feel "overwhelmed" by it. Imagine why they do.

Get into pairs for a brief role playing conversation. One person be the "overwhelmed". The other explain "a better way".

Can you honestly pray the CPC Vision prayer? Do you want it in your own life? In our life together? Can you trust God to accomplish his picture rather than get overwhelmed as if it all depended on your exhausting effort?

What one personal step could you take to act in the direction of your prayers?

Pray it through:

Pray for each other with insights gained during your discussion. Close by praying our Vision prayer.