



DISCOVER WHO GOD MADE YOU TO BE 🌈

“Experiences That Shape You”

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God uses our experiences to teach us to trust Him, to build our character, and to accomplish His purposes as we allow Him to use our experiences to minister to others. Since our greatest life message comes out of our weakness, not our strengths, we need to take a good look at our painful experiences and what our trials have taught us. God never wastes a hurt or bad experience. Along with these tough times are other experiences to draw on: vocational experiences, family experiences, educational experiences, spiritual experiences (meaningful times with God) and ways we have ministered in the past.

## SHAPE STUDY QUESTIONS

Open in prayer

*Key Verse: “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28*

Imagine yourself walking down a long hallway. On the walls are paintings that reflect the life-shaping moments in your life. On one side are portraits of experiences that brought you excitement, achievement, and fulfillment. On the other side hang pictures of experiences that caused pain, frustration, and remorse.

Walking slowly down that hallway, looking carefully at each painting, is an important step toward understanding who God has created you to be and discovering the purpose He has set aside just for you.



In the frames above, write or draw some of the memories, recollections, or thoughts you have about the experiences of your life – both positive and painful.

1. As you look back, where can you see God present with you?
2. How did God help you – or how could God have helped you, if you had let Him?
3. What experiences have shaped your life?
4. What life experiences have placed you in a position to help others?

#### PUT IT INTO PRATICE

5. Where will you begin your 90 day test drive? – at home, work , church, or the ministry of your choice.
6. How could your salvation experience be a springboard for ministry? How might God want to use your testimony to reach others?
7. How do you think you will know when you are exactly where God wants you?
8. What have you learned as a result of this series that has helped settle any questions about God's purpose in your life? What do you plan to do? To help you with this I recommend you write your story in less than 100 words.

## PRAYER DIRECTION

Thank God for the work God is doing in your life, and for showing you the many reasons God has for making you exactly who you are today. Ask God to reveal to you through whatever circumstances you are experiencing, a way God can use it for service, either now or in the future. Acknowledge it as your SHAPE.

This week, and from now on, be sure you are using your SHAPE in these life areas:

1. In your home, through regular deposits of love
2. In the workplace, by serving others
3. In ministry

May God clarify, simplify, and illuminate the purpose for which God has uniquely SHAPed you as you walk with Christ every day of your life.