

**Discovering**  
**My *SHAPE***  
**For Ministry**  
**CLASS 301**



**OAK GROVE**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

# WELCOME TO DISCOVERING MY SHAPE (CLASS 301)

## THE PURPOSE FOR THIS CLASS:

*"(God) has given... pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so the body of Christ may be built up." Ephesians 4: 11-12*

The Bible says:

\* The Pastors are the \_\_\_\_\_

\* The People are the \_\_\_\_\_

## THE PRINCIPLE UNDERGIRDING THIS CLASS:

MY MINISTRY IS DETERMINED BY MY \_\_\_\_\_!

What God made me to *BE* determines what He intends for me to *DO*. I will understand the **purpose** I was created for when I understand the kind of **person** I am. God is consistent in His plan for each of our lives. He would not give us inborn talents and temperaments, spiritual gifts, and all sorts of life experiences and then not use them!

## THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS:

THAT I WILL \_\_\_\_\_ MY UNIQUE DESIGN (S.H.A.P.E.) FOR  
MINISTRY AND COMMIT TO \_\_\_\_\_ AND  
\_\_\_\_\_ MY GOD-GIVEN GIFTS AND ABILITIES IN SERVING  
GOD AND OTHERS THROUGH MY CHURCH FAMILY.

## THE CHURCH IS A BODY (1 CORINTHIANS 12)

1. We are called to represent Christ \_\_\_\_\_.
2. We should be known for our \_\_\_\_\_.
3. We are \_\_\_\_\_ to one another.
4. The problems in most churches:
  - a. We do not see how we are responsible to each other.
  - b. The church expects people to be like transformers (able to do any and all jobs effectively). In other words, we have positions and we try to force people to conform to our positions rather than creating roles that fit people's shape.

## HOW TO DISCOVER MY MINISTRY (ROMANS 12:1-8)

### STEP 1: DEDICATE \_\_\_\_\_

*"I urge you... to offer yourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God -- which is your spiritual worship." (vs. 1)*

### STEP 2: ELIMINATE \_\_\_\_\_

*"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (vs. 2)*

### STEP 3: EVALUATE \_\_\_\_\_

*"Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you." (vs.3)*

### STEP 4: COOPERATE \_\_\_\_\_

*"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one Body and each member belongs to all the others." (vs. 5)*

*"Each of us is a part of the one Body of Christ... The eye can never say to the hand, 'I don't need you.' The head cannot say to the feet. 'I don't need you.' And some of the parts that seem weakest and least important are really the most necessary! ... So God put the body together in such a way that extra honor and care are given to those parts that might otherwise seem less important." 1 Corinthians 12:13, 21-22, 24b (LB)*

Implications from Paul's Anatomy Lesson (see also 1 Corinthians 12:1-31):

- \* Every member is a minister in Christ's body.
- \* Every member has a different function.
- \* Every member's ministry is important.
- \* Every member belongs to the others.

### STEP 5: ACTIVATE \_\_\_\_\_

*"We have different gifts, according to the grace God has given us...prophecy...serving...teaching...encouraging...contributing...leadership...showing mercy...."*  
Romans 12:6-8

## DISCOVERING HOW GOD HAS SHAPED ME FOR MINISTRY

*"Your hands formed and shaped me..." Job 10:8a*

God has been molding and shaping you for ministry since you were born. In fact, God started uniquely shaping even before you were born!

1. I was \_\_\_\_\_ for a purpose.
2. I am \_\_\_\_\_!
3. I am \_\_\_\_\_.

In Ministry...Function follows Form!

**MY S.H.A.P.E. WILL DETERMINE MY MINISTRY**

**S** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT AM I GIFTED TO DO?**

**H** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT DO I LOVE TO DO?**

**A** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT NATURAL TALENTS AND SKILLS DO I HAVE?**

**P** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHERE DOES MY PERSONALITY BEST SUIT ME TO SERVE?**

**E** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?**

Your ministry will be most effective and fulfilling when you are using your GIFTS and ABILITIES in the area of your HEART'S DESIRE in a way that best expresses your PERSONALITY and EXPERIENCE!

**SUCCESS IS DOING WHAT GOD MADE ME TO DO!**

## **SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

### **WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS: A Condensed Overview**

*"Now about spiritual gifts I do not want you to be ignorant."* 1 Cor. 12:1

**A SPIRITUAL GIFT:** Is a special ability, given by the Holy Spirit to every believer at their conversion, to be used to minister to others and therefore build up the Body of Christ

### **10 TRUTHS**

1. Every Christian has at least \_\_\_\_\_ gift. 1 Cor. 7:7
2. No one receives \_\_\_\_\_ the gifts. 1 Cor. 12:27-30
3. No single gift is given to \_\_\_\_\_. 1 Cor. 12:29-30
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ decides what gifts I get. 1 Cor. 12:11
5. I am to \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ the gifts God gives me. 1 Tim. 4:14
6. It's a sin to \_\_\_\_\_ the gifts God gave me. Mt. 25:14-30
7. Using my gifts \_\_\_\_\_ God and \_\_\_\_\_ me. John 15:8
8. Spiritual gifts are not the same as the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit. Gal 5:22-23
9. Gifts practiced without \_\_\_\_\_ are worthless. 1 Cor. 13
10. Your lack of \_\_\_\_\_ in a certain area does not negate your responsibility

to help in a time of \_\_\_\_\_.

## HOW TO DISCOVER YOUR GIFT

1. Take a \_\_\_\_\_ test.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. This is more important!
3. \_\_\_\_\_ other people.

## IT'S EASIER TO DISCOVER YOUR GIFT THROUGH MINISTRY THAN TO DISCOVER YOUR MINISTRY THROUGH YOUR GIFT!!!!

## UNWRAPPING MY GIFTS

The Bible does not lock us into tight restrictions as to the number of spiritual gifts, or even their definitions. The four major lists of gifts are found in Romans 12:-8, 1 Cor. 12:1-11, 27-31, Eph. 4:11-12, and 1 Peter 4:9-11, but there are other passages that mention or illustrate gifts not included in these lists. As you read through this list, check off your initial impression concerning yourself. Remember you can have many gifts.

### ADMINISTRATION

The ability to coordinate activities, visualize the final result, organize people and projects to reach a goal. Having the ability to delegate to others, as well as, inspire and encourage workers to attain a common goal.

### APOSTLESHIP

The "missionary gift." Having the ability to adapt to a trans-cultural ministry and relate to different kinds of people. Also, this person may have the gift of church planting or at least a passion for church planting.

### PREACHING ("Prophecy")

Having the ability to publicly communicate God's word in an inspired way that convinces the unbeliever that both challenges and comforts believers. The ability to persuasively declare God's will.

### EVANGELISM

Having the ability to communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ to unbelievers in a positive; non-threatening way. Having the ability to sense opportunities to share Christ and lead people to respond with faith.

### FAITH

This is a person who has the vision of what needs to be done and the belief that God will do the impossible. This is not the faith needed for salvation but a special faith for a special project or need.

### TEACHING

Having the ability to educate God's people by clearly explaining and applying the Bible in a way that causes them to learn. The ability to equip and train other believers for ministry.

## **ENCOURAGEMENT**

The ability to motivate God's people to apply and **act on** Biblical principles, especially when they are discouraged or wavering in their faith. The ability to bring out the best in others and challenge them to develop their potential.

## **WISDOM**

The ability to understand God's perspective on life situations and share those insights in a simple, understandable way. The ability to explain what to do and how to do it.

## **DISCERNMENT**

The ability to distinguish right from wrong, truth from error, and to give an immediate evaluation based on God's Word. The ability to discern whether the source of an experience is Satan, self, or God's Spirit.

## **KNOWLEDGE**

The ability to discover, collect, analyze, and organize information that is vital to individual believers or the entire church family. The ability to comprehend a large amount of information and provide it when needed for effective decision-making.

## **HELP / SERVICE (Acts 6:1-7)**

The ability to recognize unmet needs in the church family, and take the initiative to provide practical assistance quickly, cheerfully, and without a need for recognition.

## **MERCY (Luke 10:30-37)**

The ability to detect hurt and empathize with those who are suffering. The ability to provide compassionate and cheerful support to those experiencing distress, crisis, or pain.

## **HOSPITALITY (1 Peter 4:9-10)**

The ability to make others, especially strangers, feel warmly welcomed, accepted, and comfortable in the church family. The ability to coordinate factors that promote fellowship.

## **PASTORING / "Shepherding" (1 Peter 5:2-4)**

The ability to care for the spiritual needs of a group of believers and equip them for ministry. The ability to nurture a small group in spiritual growth and assume responsibility for their welfare.

## **GIVING (2 Corinthians 8:1-7)**

The ability to generously contribute material resources and/or money beyond the 10% tithe so that the Body may grow and be strengthened. The ability to earn and manage money so it may be given to support the ministry of others.

## **Why are the gifts of healing, interpretation, miracles and tongues not included here?**

They are not included because their presence in the life of a believer is self-evident.

\*\*\*Turn to the first part of the assessment section and take the spiritual gifts test.

# MONITORING MY HEARTBEAT

## Definition: "HEART"

- a. "The organ that pumps your blood"
- b. "Your emotional constitution or disposition"
- c. "The vital force or driving impulse"

The Bible uses the term "heart" to represent the center of your: motivation, desires, inclinations.  
*"Delight yourself in the Lord & He will give you the desires of your heart."* (Psalm 37:4)

## My heart determines...

### \* Why I say the things I do

*"...out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks"* Matthew. 12:34

### \* Why I feel the way I do

*"The Word of God...examines the thoughts & motives of the heart."* Hebrews 4:12

### \* Why I act the way I do

*"Guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life."* Proverb 4:23

## MY HEART IS THE REAL ME!

\*\*\*Turn to the second section of the assessment section and take a "Spiritual E.K.G."

# APPLYING MY ABILITIES

One of the most common excuses people give for not getting involved in ministry is, "I just don't have any abilities to offer." Nothing could be further from the truth. The key is *matching* your abilities with the right ministry!

## FIVE MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT ABILITIES

### 1. MYTH: People aren't born with skills. All skills must be learned by experience.

This simply is not true. There are a number of skills which seem to be inborn & develop very early in infancy. If people say, "He just seems to have a natural talent for it", it's probably true.

### 2. MYTH: Those skills which must be learned are earned primarily in the classroom.

Actually some of your most basic skills were learned at home, "in the street", or somewhere outside the classroom.

### 3. MYTH: If you have certain abilities, you will be very aware that you have them.

Again, that is not true. You're probably using a number of talents or skills that you are not even aware of. You need some process of skill identification.

### 4. MYTH: Skills that I use at work are only usable in that environment. I couldn't use them in ministry.

Hopefully, by the end of this class, you'll see the fallacy of that idea. Be creative.

### 5. MYTH: Most people only have a few abilities. The truth is that many national studies have proven that the average person possesses five hundred to seven hundred different skills.

God delights in willing hearts. The issue is not whether or not you are gifted; the issue is whether or not you are available to be used.

## **The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25)**

***The greater danger for most of us is not that our aim is too***

***& we miss it but that it is too***

***and we reach it. ~Michelangelo***

Most of us just settle for \_\_\_\_\_, especially in our service to God. We give our best in different areas of our lives (work, staying in shape, keeping a nice house, etc), but we often give God our leftovers. What would it look like for you to give God your best in everything? What would it look like to use your abilities in His service?

\*\*\*Take time to fill out the third section of the assessment (your abilities).

## **PLUGGING-IN YOUR PERSONALITY**

God has wired your temperament in a unique way. This factor is very important in matching you to the right ministry. It's obvious that God has not used a cookie cutter to stamp out people in a process of uniformity. He loves variety -- just look around! And there is no "right" or "wrong" temperament. We need opposites to balance the church.

Think of different people in Scripture and their unique personalities and the way that God used them. A good example is Peter. A typical "type A" personality – bold, almost arrogant, a leader, great faith, always saying what everyone else is thinking – and look how God used his unique personality to lead the early church.

\*\*\*Take time to fill out the fourth section of the assessment (your personality)

## **EXAMINING MY EXPERIENCES**

*"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*

*"Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel!" Philippians 1:12*

One of the most overlooked factors in determining the ministry God has for me is my past experience, particularly my hurts and problems I've overcome with God's help. Since our greatest life messages come out of our weaknesses, not our strengths, we should pay close attention to what we've learned in the "school of hard knocks".

**GOD NEVER WASTES A \_\_\_\_\_!**

Think about Joseph: after all that his brothers did to him he was able to say, "you intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."



**Most of us are just too consumed with a desire for comfort, safety and security that we miss out on what God can do through pain and adversity. We are often not willing to take risks and make sacrifices for the glory of God.**

HE WANTS YOU TO BE OPEN TO MINISTERING TO PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING THROUGH WHAT YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN THROUGH!

\*\*\*Take time to complete section five (my experiences)

## **Serving Through Oak Grove: A brief Philosophy of Ministry**

### **WE BELIEVE...**

#### **ABOUT MINISTRY**

- \* Salvation in Jesus Christ automatically includes a call to ministry. Every believer is created, saved, called, gifted, authorized, and commanded to minister.
- \* Form follows form in ministry. How God made me determines what He intends for me to do. God has uniquely shaped each individual for a specific ministry.
- \* God has given all His children gifts that can be developed and used in ministry. Everyone is a "10" in some area. Everyone has something to offer. Developing and using your gifts is an act of good stewardship and of worship.
- \* You discover your gifts through ministry, instead of discovering your ministry by identifying your gifts.
- \* The evidence of the right match between my *"shape"* and my ministry is fruitfulness and fulfillment.
- \* Membership & maturity are prerequisites to ministry. Therefore we desire every person involved in ministry at Oak Grove, especially in a leadership role to go through 101, 201 & this class.

#### **ABOUT THE BODY OF CHRIST**

- \* God intends for ministry to be performed through the context of the local church. Membership includes a commitment to ministry.
- \* The Holy Spirit has provided our church body with all the spiritually gifted people needed to do everything He wants done. Our task is to discover, enlist, train, & support these people in ministry.
- \* The mobilization of every member as a minister is the key to balanced growth of the church.
- \* The greater good of the whole body must always take priority over the needs of any single ministry. There is no place for turfism in God's family.

## **ABOUT THE ROLE OF PASTORS**

- \* The equipping of the members for ministry is the number one priority of the pastoral staff. The people are the ministers and the pastors are the administrators (Ephesians 4:11-12)
- \* Every member deserves assistance in discovering a meaningful place of service.

## **ABOUT ACCOUNTABILITY**

- \* We become what we are committed to. Therefore we encourage growth in commitment to Christ and His Church.
- \* Everything rises or falls on leadership. No ministry can exceed the commitment of those leading it.

## **ON DIVERSITY OF MINISTRY**

- \* We have unity without uniformity. We believe diversity in ministries simply illustrates the unique giftedness of individuals.
- \* Every ministry must fill one or more of the basic purposes of the church.
- \* Ministries have life-cycles. If a ministry isn't meeting a need anymore, it needs to be given a decent burial.
- \* Most ministries require one year commitment but we allow people to change ministries gracefully, without guilt. We don't lock people in permanently.
- \* Your *primary* ministry commitment should be in the area where you're gifted. Your *secondary* ministry includes serving in any other area of the body where you are needed.
- \* You are not ready for ministry until you are willing to serve *anywhere*.

## **ABOUT PERFORMANCE**

- \* We expect excellence in ministry, not perfection. Excellence is our desire because that is what God deserves.
- \* We encourage creativity and innovation in ministry, which assumes mistakes, will be made. "No mistakes" means you're not growing or trying anything new. We have no "failures" in ministry, only "experiments that didn't work!"
- \* A failed project does not mean a failed person. There are no "wrong" people, only "right" people in the wrong ministry.

# MY MINISTRY COVENANT

I commit to...

- \* Discover my unique *shape* for ministry and serve in the area that best expresses what God made me to be.
- \* Prepare for ministry by participating in any training required either before I begin to serve or during my time of service.
- \* Demonstrate a servant's heart by serving in secondary ministries as the Body needs me.
- \* Cooperate with other ministries and place the greater good of the whole Body over the needs of my ministry.

\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Pastor

## **Go On To Home Base!**

An Overview of C.L.A.S.S

100 Level Seminars:

To lead people to Christ and membership at Oak Grove

200 Level Seminars:

To grow people to spiritual maturity

300 Level Seminars:

To equip people with the skills they need for ministry

400 Level Seminars:

To enlist people to the worldwide mission of sharing Christ