



# SESSION #3 MAXIMIZING YOUR STRENGTHS

Adult Midweek Bible Study - **Buhler Mennonite Church** - 18 September 2024

**A. Checking In:** Last week we talked about the skill of **knowing what matters the most** and we focused on figuring out our values, where they come from, and how we live them. *How did what you learned last session help you know and live out your values this last week?*

*"Before I shaped you in the womb, I knew all about you.  
Before you saw the light of day, I had holy plans for you."*

JEREMIAH 1:5 (MSG)

*You made my whole being; you formed me in my mother's body.  
I praise you, because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way ...  
You saw my bones being formed as I took shape in my mother's body.  
When I was put together there, you saw my body as it was formed.  
All the days planned for me were written in your book before I was one day old.*

PSALM 139:13-16 (NCV)

**The Five Elements God Uses to "SHAPE" Your Life:**  
**S**-Spiritual Gifts; **H**-Heart; **A**-Abilities; **P**-Personality; **E**-Experiences

----- **GOD WAS:** -----  
God was \_\_\_\_\_ in my birth.

**B. How Do I Maximize My God-Given SHAPE?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ my SHAPE

----- **BY:** -----  
\_\_\_\_\_ my past.

*You have experienced many things. Were all those experiences wasted?*

GALATIANS 3:4 (ICB)

*Everyone should examine their own conduct; then they will be able to take the measure of their own worth; with no need to compare themselves with others.*

GALATIANS 6:4 (KNOX)

<p>----- <b>BY:</b> -----</p> <p>_____ with different tasks.</p>
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**2. \_\_\_\_\_ my SHAPE**

<p>-- <b>BARRIERS TO FULFILLING MY SHAPE:</b> --</p> <p>_____ and _____</p>
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*Who do you think you are to talk back to God like that?  
Can an object that was made say to its maker, "Why did you make me like this?"  
A potter has the right to do whatever they wants with their clay.*

ROMANS 9:20-21 (GW)

*Each one should retain the place in life that the Lord assigned them and to which God called them.*

1 CORINTHIANS 7:17 (NIV)

*So I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground.*

MATTHEW 25:25 (ESV)

<p>-- <b>WHY MUST I MAXIMIZE MY SHAPE?</b> --</p> <p>Because I'm _____ to my creator.</p>
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*From where God sits, the Lord overlooks all us earth-dwellers.  
God has shaped each person in turn; now the Lord watches everything we do.*

PSALM 33:14-15 (MSG)

*Offer the parts of your body to God to be used in doing good.*

ROMANS 6:13 (NCV)

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## **DISCOVERY QUESTIONS**

1. In what ways has comparing yourself to others impacted your life?  
Where in your life do you tend to conform to the world's standards?  
What does the Bible say about comparing and conforming?

2. In the parable of the talents, Jesus warns us not to hide the gifts God has given us. Faithful living is using our gifts well. *Is there anything you are good at or anything you've always longed to try that you've kept hidden from the world?*  
*What's holding you back?*

3. Is there a fit or interest that is part of your SHAPE that you're no longer using?  
*What might happen if you started to share this part of your SHAPE again?*

# **PRAYER DIRECTION**

Take time this week to examine your past, and experiment with one or two different tasks, and see if God begins to lead you closer to your SHAPE.

Ask God to help you discover, accept, and maximize your SHAPE.

Ask God to help you fully examine your past so you can uncover any gifts that may have become dormant.

Pray for the courage to experiment and explore some new ways of sharing your talents!