



Week of October 26, 2014

Ephesians 2:10 - We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Acts 22:3-5,

Under Gamaliel I was thoroughly trained in the law of our fathers and was just as zealous for God as any of you are today. 4 I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, 5 as also the high priest and all the Council can testify. I even obtained letters from them to their brothers in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 - Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."

Philippians 1:12-14 - Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. 13 As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. 14 Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.

Growth Group Discussion Guide

"Growing Upward, Inward, Outward, and Forward"



Sermon Outline / Week Three / S.H.A.P.E. Personality/Experience

- Consider our God-given S.H.A.P.E.:
 - Spiritual gifts
 - Heart
 - Abilities
 - Personality
 - Experiences
- God gave us our personality – we were born with it.
- Our personality doesn't necessarily change upon salvation.
- We can see some different personality types based on whether people are:
 - Introverted or Extroverted
 - People-Oriented or Task-Oriented
 - Enjoy Variety or Enjoy Routine
- People with different personalities may have the same spiritual gift, they will just express it differently.
- God also guides our life experiences to shape us for serving Him and ministering to others.
- Often our biggest hurts in life become our greatest ministry to others.

WELCOME – Getting to Know Each Other Better

- How would you describe your personality?
- What life experiences have shaped who you are the most?

WORD - Applying Scripture to Our Lives

ATTENTION: *Please think through these ahead of time, so when you get to your Growth Group you will be prepared to discuss.*

1. As you have thought through how God has shaped you, what have you learned about HOW God might want you to use your spiritual gifts to serve others and build up the church?
2. How do you feel about the idea that our personality doesn't necessarily change when we come to know Christ?

Genesis 50:18-20 - His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. 19 But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. 21 So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

2 Corinthians 1:3-7 - Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. 5 For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. 6 If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. 7 And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

3. Take a moment to share with the group how you serve at UBC and why OR share how you think God might want you to serve and why.
4. Why do you think using our spiritual gifts helps us to grow spiritually?
5. Can you share about a time that your life experiences have allowed you to minister to someone else?
6. How does using your spiritual gifts within the church change your attitude about the church?
7. What does Ephesians 2:10 teach us about our purpose in life?
8. What was Paul's attitude in Philippians 1 and 2 Corinthians 1 (you can read these in the left column) about difficult life experiences?
9. Are there any current priorities in your life you need to get rid of or rearrange so you can fulfill God's purposes for you?

WITNESS - Prayer Concerns from my Growth Group:

- Who has God placed in your life who does not know Christ?

- How can we pray for your spiritual growth tonight?

- What other prayer concerns do you have?