

(CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER continued)

Sharing your SHAPE: This sharing process could easily take up the entire time of your small group session. It is recommended that only two to four people share each session instead of the whole group at once. The person(s) sharing should bring their summary printout with them, so please notify them ahead of time. Have them complete the following sentences as prompts for their sharing:

- My top 3 Spiritual Gifts are ... (read the descriptions aloud)
- My Heart or passion is for...(share areas and sentence)
- My natural Abilities from experience, skills, or roles are...
- My Personality style is.... (read the description aloud)
- My Experiences in life that have shaped who I am are....

CONNECT WITH SCRIPTURE (Read the passages and review the sermon outline. Then select the best questions or customize the questions for your group):

- Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11.
- Read the main points from the sermon outline.
- What topic in the sermon and scripture stood out to you?
- How does Paul define the gospel? How would you define the gospel?
- What does it mean to hold firmly to the word that Paul preached to the Corinthians?
- How does Paul display both confidence and humility in this passage?
- How is grace on display in and through the life of Paul?

CONNECT WITH GOD'S MISSION IN THE WORLD (select one question for discussion)

- How would you explain the gospel to a friend, neighbor, or coworker?
- Does understanding your SHAPE give you confidence, humility, both, or none?
- How is love from 1 Corinthians 13 connected to the gospel in chapter 15?
- If we must receive, believe, and pass on the good news, which part of this comes most naturally and which part is a struggle?
- How does your belief in Christ's death and resurrection impact your daily life?

PRAYER

End your time in prayer writing down any prayer requests in your journal. Please pray for the people who shared their SHAPE affirming their gifting. Take a moment to note any prayer requests that God has answered from previous weeks. This is a great opportunity to remind the group of the Lord's provision.

MESSAGE OUTLINE

February 6, 2022
Pastor Mike McClenahan

Mosaic:
Being the Body of Christ
Gospel

MOSAIC
BEING THE BODY OF CHRIST

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11 (NIV)

^{15:1} Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹ Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

MOSAIC a picture or pattern produced by arranging together small colored pieces of hard material, such as stone, tile, or glass.

1. The gospel is received, believed and passed on.

...which you received and on which you have taken your stand... For what I received I passed on to you...

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9 (NIV)

(Message Outline continued on the next page)

MESSAGE OUTLINE POINTS

2. The gospel is rooted in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

...that Christ died for our sins... he was buried, he was raised on the third day..

By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. **1 Corinthians 6:14 (NIV)**

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. **Romans 6:4 (NIV)**

Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about. —N.T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection and the Mission of God*

3. The gospel is good news because of the grace of God.

But by the grace of God I am what I am...

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. **Ephesians 2:4–10 (NIV)**

Our response

- **Know** our SHAPE – spiritual gifts, heartfelt passion, abilities, personality and experiences.
- **Use** our gifts with wisdom and humility.
- **Encourage each other** to know and use our gifts in the body for God's kingdom.
- **Seek** unity and appreciate diversity of the body.
- **Make** love our highest aim.
- **Receive, believe and pass on** the good news.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS—February 6, 2022

Mosaic: Being the Body of Christ—Gospel

CONNECT WITH GOD (choose one of these practices that best suits your group or use a practice from a previous week)

Lord Open Unto Me: Have everyone get comfortable in their seats and close their eyes. Slowly read (or have someone prepare and read) this prayer from Howard Thurman.

Open unto me — light for my darkness.
Open unto me — courage for my fear.
Open unto me — hope for my despair.
Open unto me — peace for my turmoil.
Open unto me — joy for my sorrow.
Open unto me — strength for my weakness.
Open unto me — wisdom for my confusion.
Open unto me — forgiveness for my sins.
Open unto me — love for my hates.
Open unto me — thy Self for my self.

Lord, Lord, open unto me!

Prayers for a Privileged People: Theologian, author, speaker, and pastor Walter Bruggeman has written many books – including one with the title of this prayer exercise. To begin your time, read the prayer slowly, leaving room for the Holy Spirit to speak to your hearts and minds. Have your group focus on praying the prayer in their hearts together in unity.

We know about your presence that fills the world, that occupies our life, that makes our life in the world true and good. We notice your powerful transformative presence in word and in sacrament, in food and in water, in gestures of mercy and practices of justice, in gentle neighbors and daring gratitude. We count so on your presence and then plunge—without intending—into your absence. We find ourselves alone, abandoned, without resources remembering your goodness, hoping your future, but mired in anxiety and threat and risk beyond our coping. In your absence we bid your presence, come again, come soon, come here: Come to every garden become a jungle. Come to every community become joyless, sad and numb. We acknowledge your dreadful absence and insist on your presence. Come again, come soon. Come here. —Walter Bruggeman

Gratitude:

- Read: "In ordinary life we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich." —Dietrich Bonhoeffer (*Letters and Papers from Prison*)
- Journal: Make a list of the riches God has given you. Once you have filled a page, circle the one that stands out to you today and write a short sentence of gratitude to Jesus for giving you that gift.

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