



# IMAGINE IF...

## *Permission Granted*

#NPIImagine

Week 1

1 of 4

August 7, 2016

**Bottom Line:** God made you unique, and there's nobody else like you. It is important that you understand and know your SHAPE and how you can use your SHAPE to honor God.

**Icebreaker:** What is something about you that you consider to be unique?

**Key Verse:** *Your hands shaped me and made me.* Job 10:8a

The brief verse we are looking at today comes from a section in Job where Job lamented his life and circumstances. We are all familiar with the story of Job – the man of God who through no fault of his own endured incredible suffering and misery, both from the devil and from the poor advice of his friends. Central to the Book of Job is the power and control of God. Job's lament here is instructive for us today.

One of the things that allowed Job to continue during his suffering is he understood that God made him and was for him. God shaped both the person Job was and his experiences to help Job find his glory and purpose in God. Job lost sight of this through the course of his journey, as do we. But when we serve God, we are serving the God who has made us, shaped us, and gifted us to serve Him.

Each of us comes to the table with certain gifts. For example, Job was a generous and devout man (Job 1:5). Additionally, each of us has certain passions. Job cared deeply about his family, and we are shaped by experiences as Job was by his suffering. These things make up our shape, the person God has made and is making us to be.

The big lesson for us is that God is in control, and God used Job's experiences with suffering to shape him. God is absolutely in control and uses all of the control He has for our good and His glory – part of the way He does this is through the people He has made us to be. When we realize that God shaped and continues to shape us, we can fully release ourselves to His purpose for our lives.

## THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on Dwight's message, what stood out to you?

Dwight said we should care about how God shaped us because it reduces stress, it produces self-confidence, it increases success, it deepens satisfaction, and it builds self-esteem.

How does it add to our value to know that God has shaped us? What does that teach us about ourselves and about God?

How is God shaping you right now? What is He using to shape you?

## LOOK IT OVER <<<

Have you ever taken a SHAPE test or another personality and gifts assessment? How can these be valuable tools for the work we do in the kingdom of God?

How are you currently using who God has made you to be to further the gospel?

Because of the way God has shaped you, what unique perspectives do you bring to the table? How might these be valuable both in this group and to our church as a whole?

Connections are often made on the basis of common personality or interests. How can you use who God has made you to be in order to reach out to someone who is similar but far from God?

# NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together as a group:

1. What are the different personality types that exist within your group? Brainstorm ways that people can use who God has made them to be, both collectively and individually, to build the church of God. How can we serve in a way that honors all the different ways God has made us?
2. Praise God for making all people different and allowing all people to find their true meaning and purpose in Jesus Christ. Ask that we would be a people who are committed to valuing our uniqueness and that we would bless and empower that uniqueness in service to the kingdom of heaven.

## EVALUATION/ACTION Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** It is important that you understand and know your SHAPE and how you can use your SHAPE to honor God.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Day 1: Psalm 139:13

Day 2: Psalm 139:14-16a

Day 3: Psalm 139:16b

Day 4: Genesis 2:4-7

Day 5: Proverbs 22:6

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***

*(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)*