

## **Discovering Your SHAPE**

### **Session 7 : Experiences Identifying how God can use your experiences for His glory**

This session is about serving God and others through our experiences.

Someone once said:

“Wisdom is the reward of experience and should be shared”- Unknown.

Isn't that so true? The reward of the experiences you've gone through, both good and bad, can enhance the way we serve God and others.

Consider the most meaningful and formative experiences you've had and the impact these have made in shaping you as a person.

Even our most painful and difficult experiences can be a powerful way God might encourage others through our lives.

Yet God can also use the things that we experience in everyday life as a way to serve Him and those around us.

Here are the different types of experiences that are worthwhile reflecting on and praying about:

- Meaningful/Formative events
- Painful experiences
- Educational experiences (e.g. Moses' Egyptian education)
- Work experiences (e.g. Joseph working in Potiphar's house)
- Spiritual experiences (e.g. Peter and Pentecost)
- Ministry experiences (e.g. Paul training Timothy and Jude)
- Family experiences (e.g. Ruth's relationship with Naomi)

As you consider and discuss the different experiences that you've gone through, invite the Holy Spirit into your conversations and prayer time to give fresh insight into how your experiences can be a source of blessing and encouragement to others.

We pray you have an amazing time of discussion and prayer!

## **Group Exercise**

### **Read, Discuss & Discern**

1. What have been the most meaningful or formative experiences in your life? How have they shaped you as a person?
2. Are there specific meaningful experiences you've had that often come up when encouraging or supporting others?
3. Who is your favourite Bible character and which of their experiences have resonated most with you?
4. Read Genesis 50:15-21. What does Joseph's story reveal about:
  - a. Joseph's painful experiences?
  - b. God's activity/purposes (20)?
  - c. Joseph's response to his family (19-21)?
5. Read Romans 8:26-28. What encourages you most from this passage?
6. Share an example of how God used a painful experience you've had to encourage others.
7. Reflecting on the above responses what areas of ministry might God be able to use your experiences most powerfully or effectively?

### **Pray**

Spend time praying for each other and the significant experiences you've shared.

Ask God for a wisdom and insight to use your experiences to serve Him and encourage others.

Take a step of faith to join the dots between your experiences and your service.