

Life Group Guide | May 30

S.H.A.P.E. ~ “E - Experiences”



A guide for Life Groups, families or individual study. Feel free to use the back of this sheet for notes. Life Group materials, including videos, are available at redeemerconnect.com/life-groups or on our new Redeemer Connects mobile app, downloadable from the iTunes and the Google Play stores.

FOLLOWING JESUS #1

Before your Life Group meets, take the “Experiences Assessment” available on the Redeemer website: redeemerconnect.com/experiences Once complete, we ask that you not add these results to your profile in Realm. Instead, we would like you to keep them handy for your own reflection and development and to help you determine what God's purpose might be for you. For more information about the S.H.A.P.E. components, go to redeemerconnect.com/shape. (See QR codes on next page.)

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You are the author of our lives. You know every detail of every moment since the day we were born. Help us to find opportunities to use our experiences, both joyous and painful, to guide us in serving others. May the stories of our lives give us compassionate understanding and become opportunities to minister to others so that they may see the unique ways you work through human experiences. In your Son's name we pray. Amen.

CONNECTING QUESTION

If your life was a movie, which category or genre would it fall under and why? Comedy? Drama? Action?

SCRIPTURE READING

Read Aloud & Meditate on God's Word: 2 Corinthians 1:3-11

WATCH VIDEO | SESSION 5

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. In verses 3-4, Paul tells us that God comforts us in our afflictions. How does this align with what you know to be true of God's character?
2. In what ways, through our own suffering, are we better equipped to minister comfort to others? How does this reflect the heart of the gospel?
3. Read verses 6-7. What do you think Paul means by connecting his distress to our comfort and salvation?
4. Read verses 9-10. Why is it a good thing for Christians to admit their weakness and dependence on God? In what ways can you choose to rely on God more than yourself?

5. Paul experienced intense hardships as a disciple and follower of Christ. How did this lead him to depend on God even more? How do you respond to hardships and pressure as a Christ follower?
6. Do you think God creates or allows the painful experiences in our lives? Explain.
7. Take some time to share some of your experiences from the categories asked in the Experiences Assessment of S.H.A.P.E. Does anyone in your Life Group have any similar experiences? In what ways do these experiences allow you to relate to others and be there for them? In what ways might these experiences help you determine the current purpose God has for you?

FOLLOWING JESUS #2

Think about someone in your life who is going through a specific pain or suffering that you yourself have similarly been through. How can you intentionally support them in this season? How might your own past experiences shed light on the care that you can bring to them?

SCRIPTURE FOR EXTRA STUDY

2 Corinthians 12:9-10, Romans 8:28

LIFE GROUP OPTIONAL PRAYER TIME - HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

CLOSING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pray that God would work through your past experiences, positive and painful, to bring comfort to people in your life who are going through similar experiences. Pray that the Holy Spirit would give you the words and the courage to use the trials in your own life to encourage and comfort others and point them to Jesus.

Our Father...



Scan the Discover Your Shape QR code to access all five S.H.A.P.E. components.



Scan the Experiences QR code to take the assessment from a mobile device.