

SESSION 1

WELCOME TO DISCOVERING MY MINISTRY #301

This class is the third of Reseda's four basic classes. Since these classes build on each other you should have already attended Discovering My Membership #101 and Discovering Spiritual Maturity #201 before taking this class. We are convinced that you must first be committed to membership in a church family and committed to the habits for spiritual maturity before you are ready for ministry. Membership and Maturity are the foundation for Ministry.

Opening Questions:

1. How long have you been attending The Reseda church?
2. How have you grown as a Christian since arriving at the Reseda church?
3. What do you like best about the ministry here?
4. When you help others, what do you do?

THE PURPOSE FOR THIS CLASS:

"(God) has given... Evangelists, pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so the body of Christ may be built up." Eph. 4: 11-12

The Bible says:

- The Evangelists are the _____
- and Elders are the _____
- The People are The _____

THE PRINCIPLE UNDERGIRDING THIS CLASS:

MY MINISTRY IS DETERMINED BY MY _____ (_____)

What God made me to *BE* determines what He intends for me to *DO*. I will understand the **purpose** I was created for when I understand the kind of **person** I am. This is the secret of knowing God's will for my life!

God is consistent in His plan for each of our lives. He would not give us inborn talents and temperaments, spiritual gifts, and all sorts of life experiences and then not use them! By reviewing and studying these factors, we can discover the ministry has for us... the *unique* way God intends for us to serve Him.

The two results of discovering the ministry I've been shaped for are:

_____ and _____.

THE FOCUS OF THIS CLASS

At the Reseda church, we focus on an individual approach to ministry rather than an institutional approach.

We will focus on **Five Personal Factors** that have combined to shape the "real" you. By identifying the specific traits you possess in each of these areas, the ministry God has designed you for will become crystal clear!

CLASS OUTLINE

Orientation

- Purpose and principles of the Class
- Three requirements to complete the Class

Session 1. What the bible Says about Ministry

- What is ministry
- The purpose, practice and priority of ministry
- SHAPE: The procedure on how to discover my ministry

Session 2: What the Bible says about Spiritual Gifts

- The purpose of spiritual gifts
- How to discover your spiritual gifts
- Unwrapping your gifts

Session 3: Discovering my Shape

- Monitoring my Heart
- Applying my abilities
- Plugging in Personality
- Previewing the Opportunities ("Ministry Menu")

Session 4: Serving Through the Reseda Church

- Reseda vision of ministry
- What we believe about ministry
- Previewing the opportunities

Our Mission

We are a church producing disciples for the Ministry of L.i.f.e. and the mission of R.e.a.c.h.

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS

The goal of this class is for members to discover their shape and identify their role in our ministry of L.i.f.e. and our mission of R.e.a.c.h.

Two Mission Objectives

1. To formulate Ministry L.I.F.E. Groups – four core members

- a. L – Love – members with gifts service, mercy, shepherding
- b. I – Involvement: members with gifts of encouragement
- c. F – Fellowship: members with gifts of hospitality
- d. E – Edification: members with gift of

2. To formulate Mission R.E.A.C.H. teams – five core members

- a. R - members with leadership and teaching gifts
- b. E – members with gifts of teaching and working w/ children
- c. A – members with gifts of giving
- d. C – members with gifts of showing mercy
- e. H – members with leadership and serving gifts

THREE PHASES TO COMPLETING THIS CLASS

1. Attend CLASS 301
2. Complete your S.H.A.P.E. (Personal Profile)
3. Meet with a Ministry Guide

THE GOALS OF THIS CLASS:

1. THAT I WILL _____ MY UNIQUE DESIGN (S.H.A.P.E.) FOR MINISTRY AND COMMIT TO _____ AND _____ MY GOD-GIVEN GIFTS AND ABILITIES IN SERVING GOD AND OTHERS THROUGH MY CHURCH FAMILY.

2. THAT I WILL _____ AND BEGIN _____ IN THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH THAT BEST _____ WHAT GOD MADE ME TO BE.

- My Primary Ministry
- My Secondary Ministry

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT MINISTRY

WHAT IS MINISTRY?

DEFINITION: (Greek "diakonos" - "to serve")

"Ministry IS USING WHATEVER GOD HAS GIVEN ME TO SERVE HIM AND THE NEEDS OF OTHERS"

We minister in 3 directions

* To _____ (Acts 13:3)

* To _____ (Heb. 6:10)

* To _____ (Matt. 5:13)

WE MINISTER TO 3 AREAS OF NEEDS.

* To people's _____ needs.

"(God says) I was hungry and you fed me, ... thirsty and you gave me a drink... needed clothes and you clothed me... sick and you cared for me... in prison and you visited me... Whenever you have done this to the least person, you did it to me." Matt. 25:35-36, 40

"If, as my representative, you give even a cup of cold water to a little child, you will surely be rewarded." Matt. 10:42 (LB)

* To people's _____ needs.

"... Warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with all." 1 Thess. 5:14 (GN)

* To people's _____ needs.

"... God reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." 2 Cor. 5:18

"We proclaim Christ, counseling and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ." Col 1:28, 29

THE PURPOSE OF MINISTRY

"There are different kinds of service to God, but it is the same Lord we are serving. The Holy Spirit displays God's power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church. All of you together are the one Body of Christ and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it."

GOD WANTS TO USE ME TO _____
(_____)

THE PRIORITY OF MINISTRY

(Why should I be interested?)

1. I'VE BEEN _____ FOR MINISTRY

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Eph. 2:10

2. I'VE BEEN _____ FOR MINISTRY!

"It is He who saved us and chose us for his holy work, not because we deserved it but because that was his plan long before the world began..." 2 Tim. 1:9 (LB)
"Saved to Serve!"

3. I'VE BEEN _____ INTO MINISTRY!

"God, in his grace, chose me even before I was born, and called me to serve him." Gal. 1:15 (GN)

"I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received." Eph. 4:1

"... You have been chosen by God himself -- you are priests of the King... you are God's very own -- all this so that you may show to others how God called you out of darkness into his wonderful light! Once you were less than nothing, now you are God's own!" 1 Peter 2:9-10 (LB)

"... you will serve as holy priests..." 1 Peter 2:5 (GN)

I am not who I think I am
I am not who you think I am
But I really am who God says I am!

A LIFE CHANGING TRUTH - MY PRIMARY IDENTITY:

I AM A _____ OF JESUS CHRIST!

4. I'VE BEEN _____ FOR MINISTRY!

"God has given each of you some social abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God's many kinds of blessing." 1 Peter 4:10 (LB)

5. I'VE BEEN _____ FOR MINISTRY!

"(Jesus said) All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples..." Matt. 28:18-19

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors..." 2 Cor. 5:20

6. I'M _____ TO MINISTRY!

"(Jesus) Your attitude must be like my own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve..." Mt. 20:28 (LB)

"(To Archippus) Take heed to the ministry you've received from the Lord and fulfill it." Col. 4:17 (KJV)

7. I'M TO BE _____ FOR MINISTRY

"God gave evangelists, pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry so that the body of Christ may be built up..." Eph. 4:11-12

8. THE BODY OF CHRIST _____ MY MINISTRY!

"All of you together are the one body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it." 1 Cor. 12:27 (LB)

Ministry always functions in the context of the _____.

"When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said, `The harvest is great but the workers are few. Ask the Lord to send our workers into his harvest field.'" Matt. 9:36-37

9. I AM _____ FOR MY MINISTRY!

"So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God." Romans 14:12

The Parable of the Talents: Matt. 25:14-30

10. I WILL BE _____ FOR MY MINISTRY!

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward." Col. 3:23, 24

"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your Master's happiness!" Matt. 25:23

VI. THE PROCEDURE HOW TO DISCOVER MY MINISTRY (ROMANS 12:1-8)

STEP 1: DEDICATE _____

"I urge you... to offer yourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God -- which is your spiritual worship." (vs. 1)

STEP 2: ELIMINATE _____

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (vs. 2)

STEP 3: EVALUATE _____

"Don't cherish exaggerated ideas of yourself or your importance, but try to have a sane estimate of your capabilities by the light of the faith God has given to you. (vs.3 Ph)

STEP 4: COOPERATE _____

"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one Body and each member belongs to all the others." (vs. -5)

Implications from Paul's Anatomy Lesson:
(See also 1 Cor. 12:1-31)

- * Every member is a minister in Christ's body.
- * Every member has a different function.
- * Every member's ministry is important.
- * Every member belongs to the others.

"Each of us is a part of the one Body of Christ... The eye can never say to the hand, 'I don't need you.' The head cannot say to the feet. 'I don't need you.' And some of the parts that seem weakest and least important are really the most necessary! ... So God put the body together in such a way that extra honor and care are given to those parts that might otherwise seem less important." 1 Cor. 12:13, 21-22, 24b (LB)

STEP 5: ACTIVATE _____

"We have different gifts, according to the grace God has given us.. prophesy... serving... teaching... encouraging... contributing... leadership... showing mercy..." Romans 12:6-8

DISCOVERING HOW GOD HAS SHAPED ME FOR MINISTRY HOW HAS GOD SHAPED ME?

"Your hands formed and shaped me..." Job 10:8a (GN)

God has been molding and shaping you for ministry since you were born. In fact, God started uniquely shaping even before you were born!

"Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about. Your workmanship is marvelous... You were there while I was being formed... You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe." Psalm 139:14-16 (LB)

1. I was _____ for a purpose.
2. I am _____!
3. I am _____.

"What right do you have, a human being, to cross-examine God? The pot has no right to say to the potter: Why did you make me this shape? A potter can do what he likes with the clay!" Rom. 9:20-21

In Ministry... Function follows Form!

MINISTRY IS DETERMINED BY SEVERAL FACTORS

"There are different kinds of SPIRITUAL GIFTS but the same Spirit gives them. There are different WAYS OF SERVING, but the same Lord is served. There are different ABILITIES to perform service, but the same God gives ability to everyone for their service. The Spirit's presence is shown IN SOME WAY in each one, for the good of all." 1 Cor. 12:4-7 (GN)

MY S.H.A.P.E. WILL DETERMINE MY MINISTRY

S _____

"... Each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that." 1 Cor. 7:7b

WHAT AM I GIFTED TO DO?

H _____

"God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose..." Rev. 17:7

"For it is God who works in you, inspiring both the will and the deed, for his own chosen purpose!" Phil. 2:13 (NEB)

WHAT DO I LOVE TO DO?

A _____

"There are different abilities to perform service..." 1 Cor. 12:6

"I (God)... have given him **skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts...**"
Exodus 31:3

"... our **competence** comes from God."
2 Cor. 3:5b

WHAT NATURAL TALENTS AND SKILLS DO I HAVE?

P _____

"No one can really know what anyone else is thinking or what he is really like, except that person himself." 1 Cor. 2:11 (LB)

WHERE DOES MY PERSONALITY BEST SUIT ME TO SERVE?

E _____

* **WHAT** _____ **HAVE I HAD?**

"There has been enough time for you to be teachers -- **BUT** you still need to be taught... (you are) without any **experience** in the matter of right and wrong."
Heb. 5:12-13

* **WHAT** _____ **EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?**

"Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways." Prov 20:30 (GN)

"God helps us in our troubles, **so we are able to help others** who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God." 2 Cor. 1:4 (GN)

* **WHAT** _____ **EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?**

"Always remember what you have learned. You **education** is your life -- guard it well!" Prov. 4:13 (GN)

* **WHAT** _____ **EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?**

"Because of **the service by which you have proved yourselves**, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel..."
2 Cor. 9:13

Your ministry will be most effective and fulfilling when you are using your GIFTS and ABILITIES in the area of HEART'S DESIRE in a way that best expresses your PERSONALITY and EXPERIENCE!

SUCCESS IS DOING WHAT GOD MADE ME TO DO!

HOW PAUL'S MINISTRY WAS "SHAPED"

PAUL'S SPIRITUAL GIFTS

"And of this gospel I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher." 2 Tim. 1:11

PAUL'S HEART

*"**My constant ambition** has been to preach the gospel where the name of Christ was previously unknown, and to avoid building on another man's foundation." Rom. 15:20 (Ph)*

"For God, who was at work in the ministry of Peter as an apostle to the Jews, was also at work in my ministry as an apostle to the Gentiles." Gal 2:8

"Life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus..." Acts 20:24 (LB)

PAUL'S ABILITY

*"... Paul went to see them, and stayed and worked with them, because **he earned his living by making tents**, just as they did. He **debated** in the synagogues every Sabbath, trying to convince both Jews and Gentiles." Acts 18:2b-4 (GN)*

PAUL'S PERSONALITY

"For you have heard of my past... I persecuted the church with fanatical zeal... and did my best to destroy it... I was ahead of most of my contemporaries in the Jewish religion, and had a boundless enthusiasm..." Gal. 1:13-14 (Ph)

PAUL'S EXPERIENCES

HIS SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES

- * Watching Stephen be stone (Acts 8:1)
- * Conversion on the Damascus Road (Acts 9:1-20)
- * 3 years maturing in Arabia (Gal. 1:18)
- * Special vision from God (2 Cor. 12:2-7)

HIS PAINFUL EXPERIENCES

"... I have been in prison more times... near death often... been whipped five times with 39 lashes by the Jews and three times by the Romans... once stoned... I've been in three shipwrecks... and once spent 24 hours in the water... In my travels I've been in danger from floods... robbers... enemies... wild animals and false friends... I've served long hours without sleep or food or shelter or even clothing..." 2 Cor. 11:23-27

*"To keep me from becoming conceited because of these great revelations, I was given a **thorn in my flesh**, a messenger from Satan, to torment me." 2 Cor. 12:7*

PAUL'S EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

"I received my training at the feet of Gamaliel, and I was schooled in the strictest observance of our fathers' Law." Acts 22:3 (Ph)

PAUL'S MINISTRY EXPERIENCES

Read the Book of Acts!

RESEDA MINISTRY DISCOVERY PROCESS

BEGIN MY MINISTRY AND ATTEND THE MONTHLY S.A.L.T. MEETINGS

IDENTIFYING MY UNIQUE S.H.A.P.E.

We've prepared and adapted several tools to help you discover and think through the five factors that make up who you are. You will complete these on your own (homework) *before* you meet with a Ministry Guide.

* " _____ YOUR GIFT" will give you an overview of spiritual gifts and help you identify which ones you may have been given by God.

* " _____ YOUR HEARTBEAT" will help you clarify what you really love to do.

* " _____ YOUR ABILITIES" will help you appreciate the natural talents and vocational skills you have.

* " _____ YOUR PERSONALITY" will help you see how your God given temperament can best be used in ministry.

* "_____ YOUR EXPERIENCES" will help you review your history to discover how God has prepared you for a unique ministry that only you can fulfill.

REMEMBER:

1. Have fun! These are not "tests"! There are no right or wrong answers. The purpose is to show how you are a unique blend!
2. Each one is self-evaluating. No one is "rating" you on this. We're interested in your feelings, not others. However, it may be helpful to ask for additional input from those closest to you *after* you've filled in your own responses.
3. The value of each of these tools will vary depending on your age, how long you've been a Christian, your background, your honesty, and how much time and serious thinking you're willing to invest in them!
4. AS YOU COMPLETE EACH TOOL, TRANSFER YOUR RESULTS TO THE FORM CALLED "MY MINISTRY PROFILE". YOU WILL BRING THIS PROFILE WITH YOU TO YOUR INTERVIEW WITH A MINISTRY GUIDE.