

Who am I (Judges 6) Questions

1. For we are God's *masterpiece*. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago (Ephesians 2.10). When you look in the mirror, do you feel like God's masterpiece? (The Greek word translated masterpiece literally means workmanship – we are all Gods works in progress)
2. God calls Gideon a mighty hero, but Gideon seems to see himself as mostly hopeless (v15). Looking at Gideon's choices, behaviour and actions in Judges 6.11-32, does he come across as someone who is low in confidence? Was he from an unimportant and insignificant family?
3. Why might Gideon have viewed himself as worthless and insignificant when he clearly wasn't?
4. The game of Jenga could be seen as a metaphor for life. Sometimes we get parts taken out of us and at other times we get built up. Do you feel that you receive more discouragement or encouragement in your everyday life?
5. Encouragement is so powerful, but sometimes we can be reluctant to give it. Why might this be and how can we become better encouragers?
6. Like Gideon, many of us are living with lies about ourselves and believing they are true. How can we find freedom from these lies? Sometimes freedom can be miraculously instant, but often it takes time. What things are essential on the journey to freedom?
7. "Our calling and our identity are interlinked! Gideon needed to understand who he was before he could serve effectively)". What do you think of this statement?
8. "We should not be people who are just trying to do jobs for God. We need to simply try to live as the people who God made us to be, and effective ministry will happen naturally". What do you think of this statement?
9. Sitting Bull was named Jumping Badger at Birth before being given a new name later in life. What characters from Bible did God rename? Can you think of why their new names and the meaning of those names were important?
10. What name or description might God give you? How about others in your group – what encourages you the most about them?
11. **SHAPE**: What are your **S**piritual gifts / **H**eart's desire / **A**bilities / **P**ersonality / **E**xperiences (see notes and worksheet on following pages).

Examples of God changing people's names:

- Abram is renamed Abraham & Sarai is renamed Sarah (Genesis 17:5 & 15)
- Jacob is renamed Israel. (Genesis 32:28)
- Simon is renamed Peter by Jesus (John 1.42) Peter means Rock
- James and John are called the sons of Thunder by Jesus (Mark 3.17)
- Saul was also called Paul – unclear if this was God or someone else's idea (Acts 13.9)

What is your SHAPE?

(Summary from “The purpose driven church” by Rick Warren, p369-375 & “The purpose driven life”).

1. Every Christian should have a ministry/role – Romans 12.1-8 (Not necessarily on Sundays or in organised church activities).

2. God has created us as unique individuals

The person that God made you to be will help you to see what he intends you to do.

God will not give us abilities that he does not expect us to use.

3. My SHAPE / Who I am

Spiritual gifts – 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12 v1-8, Ephesians 4 – often we discover our spiritual gifts by trying things out.

Heart's desire – Matthew 12.34 “Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks”, Psalm 37 v4 “If we delight in God, he will give us the desires of our heart”

What am I passionate about? eg helping poor, helping people grow in faith, making friends etc

Abilities – eg Exodus 31 v3 Ability as a craftsman, Deuteronomy 8 v18 Ability to make money, ALSO, music, researching, writing, interviewing, qualifications, cooking etc

Personality – eg introvert or extrovert, thinker or feel way through issues etc

There is no right or wrong personality when it comes to serving God.

Experience – Romans 8.28 “In all things God works for the good of those who love him”

1. Educational experiences – eg favourite subjects at school/college
2. Vocational experiences – eg most fulfilling job you have had
3. Spiritual experiences – meaningful and decisive points in your life when God clearly spoke to you about your future or your work for him.
4. Ministry experiences – How have you served God in the past? What was the most fulfilling?
5. Painful experiences – What do you feel that you have gained from some of the problems and hurts that you have been through in life?

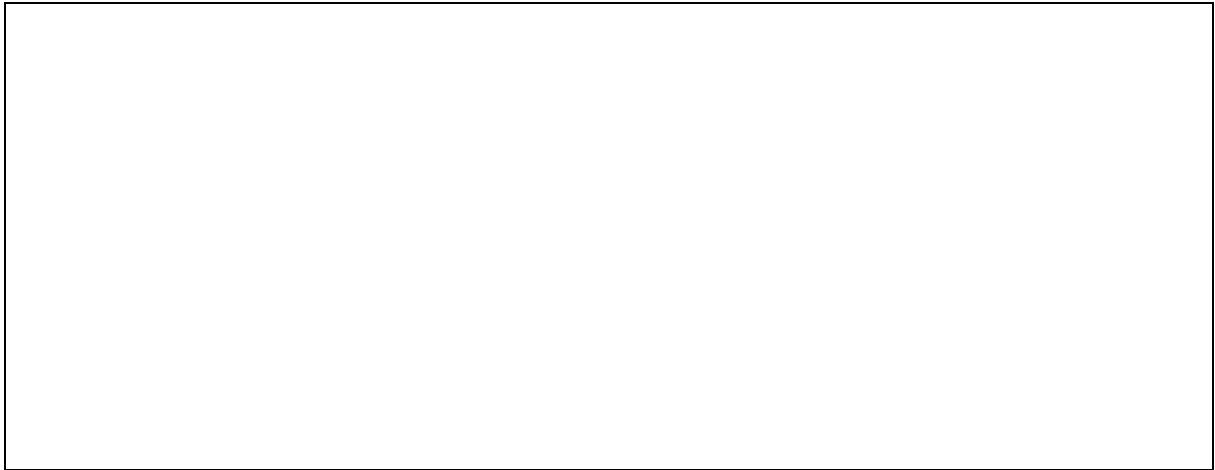
YOU MAY GET AN OVERLAP IN YOUR ANSWERS – ie you may get the same answers in 2 or 3 categories eg teaching could be written under every category. If you write something down a few times, it doesn't mean you've got it wrong. On the contrary, it means that you have probably already found the main answer regarding your SHAPE.

4. Let's take some time to:

- Consider what we feel our SHAPE is
- Discuss our SHAPES together – encourage & point each other to the good in us.

What is my SHAPE?

Spiritual gift – Exodus 31.1-5, Romans 12 v1-8, 1 Corinthians 12, Eph 4, 1 Pet 4.8-11



Hearts desire - What do I care about?
- What am I passionate about?



Abilities – What am I naturally good at?



Personality – How has God made me?

Experience eg:

Family experiences – What did you learn while growing up?

Educational experiences – What were your favourite subjects at school?

Vocational experiences – What jobs have you been effective in and enjoyed the most?

Spiritual experiences – What have been your most meaningful times with God?

Ministry experiences – How have you served God in the past? What was most fulfilling?

Painful experiences – What have you learned from past problems and hurts?

YOU MAY GET AN OVERLAP IN YOUR ANSWERS – ie you may get the same answers in 2 or 3 categories
- this means that you have probably already found what you should be doing.

Tips for finding your SHAPE

- Fill this out yourself & ask others (Often others can see what we are like more clearly than we can)
- Experiment to find your vocation
- Realise you can't do everything – we have limitations