

LifeGroup Curriculum | Discovering Your SHAPE for Ministry

Series Context: The Book of Esther

Primary Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:4–11

Supporting Scriptures: *Esther 2–4; Ephesians 2:10; Romans 12:4–8; Psalm 139:13–16*

Culture Code: Presence > Preference

FRAMING STATEMENT (Read Aloud as a Group)

As we've been learning through the Book of Esther, we see that **identity is formed before position**.

Esther's life wasn't random—God was shaping her long before she ever understood her purpose or mission.

In the same way, God shapes us through our experiences, seasons, obedience, and waiting. Through that shaping, He reveals **gifts** that align with **His identity in us** and **His mission through us**.

These gifts aren't for self-expression or personal significance—they are **useful for the Kingdom of God** and meant to strengthen others.

PORCH TALK (Relational Warm-Up)

Keep this light but meaningful. Let people ease in.

- What has stood out to you most as we've been studying Esther?
- Where do you see God shaping Esther *before* placing her in influence?
- When you hear the word "calling" or "ministry," what comes to mind first?
- Have you ever realized later that God was preparing you for something before you understood it?

 **Anchor Verse:** "And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" — *Esther 4:14*

Reference Scriptures: *Galatians 2:20, Colossians 3:1–4, Isaiah 43:1, Romans 8:28–29, Jeremiah 18:1–6, James 1:2–4, Romans 12:6–8, Ephesians 4:11–13, 2 Timothy 1:6–7*

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LIVING ROOM (Deeper Discussion & Scripture)

1) God Shapes Identity Before Assignment

Read: Esther 2:5–7; Esther 4:13–14

Say: Esther didn't step into purpose overnight. God used loss, family, culture, and obedience to shape her heart before revealing her mission.

Discuss: What parts of Esther's shaping process feel familiar to your own story? How does knowing God shapes identity before assignment change how you view your current season? Where might God be forming something in you that hasn't been revealed yet?

Supporting Scripture: "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works..." — *Ephesians 2:10*

2) The Spirit Gives Gifts for the Common Good

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:4–11

Say: Spiritual gifts aren't earned or chosen—they're **distributed by the Spirit** and meant to serve others, not elevate ourselves.

Discuss: Paul says there are "different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit" (v.4). What does this teach us about unity and diversity in the church? How does this challenge comparison?

Verse 7 says gifts are given "for the common good." What does that look like practically in everyday life? Where have you seen someone's gifting bless others? As you hear the list of gifts (vv. 8–10):

Which resonate with your life experience? Which stretch or intrigue you? Verse 11 says the Spirit distributes gifts as He determines.

What does this free us from? How does it shape our attitude toward insecurity or envy?

Reference Scriptures: *Galatians 2:20, Colossians 3:1–4, Isaiah 43:1, Romans 8:28–29, Jeremiah 18:1–6, James 1:2–4, Romans 12:6–8, Ephesians 4:11–13, 2 Timothy 1:6–7*

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3) Understanding Your SHAPE

Explain Briefly (No Handouts Needed):

S.H.A.P.E. stands for:

- **Spiritual Gifts**
- **Heart** (what moves or burdens you)
- **Abilities**
- **Personality**
- **Experiences** (both positive and painful)

Group Reflection (Verbal):

Invite each person to share **one** area where they see God shaping them right now.

Discuss:

- How has God used your experiences to shape how you care for others?
- Where do you see your heart and abilities intersecting?
- How might God want to use your SHAPE for His mission—not just personal growth?

Supporting Scripture:

“There are varieties of service, but the same Lord.” — *1 Corinthians 12:5*

Reference Scriptures: *Galatians 2:20, Colossians 3:1–4, Isaiah 43:1, Romans 8:28–29, Jeremiah 18:1–6, James 1:2–4, Romans 12:6–8, Ephesians 4:11–13, 2 Timothy 1:6–7*

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AFTER GLOW (Reflection & Prayer)

Reflection Question (Read Slowly):

If the goal of your life is to find your identity in Christ, your place in His mission, and to live in a way that brings gospel impact—

how has God already been shaping you for that?

Prayer Focus:

- Thank God for how He has already been forming each person.
- Ask for clarity and courage to walk in the gifts He's given.
- Pray for humility to serve others with what He's entrusted.

Closing Verse:

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others." — 1
Peter 4:10

LEADER NOTE (Optional to Share)

This week isn't about **finding a title** or **locking in a role**.

It's about recognizing how God has already been at work—

shaping identity, revealing gifts, and inviting us to walk with Him into His mission.

<https://www.lifeway.com/en/articles/women-leadership-spiritual-gifts-growth-service>

<https://spiritualgiftstest.com>

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