

## Discussion Guide

***Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!***

### Open

In this week's message Pastor Don continues in our *SHAPE* series by helping us understand that God intentionally created each of us with our unique *personality*. And because there's no such thing as a "perfect" personality type, God doesn't want us to try to be someone we're not - instead, He wants us to allow Him to refocus and redirect our personalities so that our lives are lived to honor Him and serve others. So as you start your group time together let everyone share one of their favorite things about their personality...

### BIG THOUGHT

Although we begin a process of change and transformation when we choose to follow Jesus, many traits of our personality will remain the same as God reshapes and redirects them for His purposes.

1. For an example of how God wants to use our personality after we choose to follow Jesus, read about Saul (who's later renamed Paul) in Acts 7:58-8:3 and Acts 9:1-2. How would you describe his personality as shown in these verses? Have you ever personally known anyone who had this kind of passion for their cause(s)? Share with the group if you can...
2. Now read Acts 9:3-9. Why was Paul going to Damascus? (see v. 2-3) What did he see and hear on the way? (v. 3-6) How did Jesus identify Himself to Saul? (v. 5) What does this tell us about Jesus' connection with His followers? How do you think a man like Saul felt about Jesus ordering him what to do next? (v. 6) And how did Jesus ensure that Saul would be obedient? (v. 7-9) Have you ever had God stop you in your tracks before to redirect you? Explain.

3. After Saul is taken to Ananias' house he regains his sight and is baptized as a follower of Jesus. (see v.18) Now read v.19-22. Where does Saul immediately go? (v. 19-20) How did God change Saul's original focus? (see v. 2) What is the response to Saul's message? (v. 21) And how do we see his same passion and commitment show up now? (v. 22) Have you seen God use your passions and commitment for His work? Share with the group.
4. Read Galatians 5:16-21. Paul (formerly Saul) is writing this to the church in Galatia. What is to be our goal if we're following Jesus? (v. 16) How does v. 17 describe a natural tension between our personalities and the Holy Spirit's work in us? Which characteristics in v. 19-21 can be tied back to personality traits? How can some of these negative traits become positive ones if we're living in fellowship with God (for example, can God refocus someone's selfish ambition into caring about His Kingdom)? See what examples your group can come up with...
5. Now read Galatians 5:22-25. What personality traits does the Holy Spirit nurture? (v. 22) What do we need to do to partner with God in this process? (v. 25) Share with the group how you've seen God refocus your personality for His purposes...

### Take it Further

Talk with God and thank Him for the personality He's given you, and then ask Him use the characteristics of your personality to honor Him!

### Daily Verse Readings

Day 1: Psalm 139:13  
Day 2: Romans 12:4-5  
Day 3: 1 Peter 1:14

Day 4: Ephesians 2:10  
Day 5: Jeremiah 29:11  
Day 6: Isaiah 64:8

Memory Verse: Galatians 2:20



1651 Dutch Fork Rd. Irmo, SC  
www.gatewaybc.com