

Introduction: RECOGNIZE

Greeting and Opening Story Good evening/morning! So glad to see everyone this week. Praising Jesus because as we discussed last week, you don't want to miss a single weekend of service.

So, here's an interesting story. In the middle of preparing for this weekend, I heard a gentle voice say, "Remember who you are." I'm like, "What?" Then it said again, louder, "Remember who you are." Funny thing is, it sounded a lot like the actor James Earl Jones. I was reminded of this scene in the movie, *The Lion King*, and thought, "Oh my gosh! It ties directly into this week's message."

In the movie, Simba is going through what you might call an identity crisis. He's lost and in a foreign place. Anyone ever feel like that? He's asking, "Who am I?" and "Why am I here?" With the help of a friend, he is reminded that he carries his Father's spirit and that he is the King's son. The theater goes wild as he runs off to fulfill the plan over his life. That's exactly the journey of discovery that we are on. Who am I? Why am I here? What is my purpose?

Recap and Transition Last week, Pastor Theresa did an amazing job opening our series called RISE. God spoke through her to help us REALIZE that the divine master, God, has a divine master plan created for each of us. If we don't REALIZE that yet, get ready because we are praying we will. We are a praying church, and when we pray, we believe for God's breakthrough over every life. Amen!

Now that we REALIZE there is a master plan over each of our lives, the next question is, "What is it?" This week we will take a look at some practical steps to help us RECOGNIZE God's master plan for our lives.

Introduction to S.H.A.P.E. Let's begin with S.H.A.P.E. The S.H.A.P.E. Assessment is a powerful five-pronged tool to help us discover God's plan and purpose for our lives. As we seek the Lord and examine these areas, there is an alignment between our faith and God's master plan, giving us a deeper understanding of who we are and how we can best serve others to reveal God's glory.

Personal Testimony SHAPE is not just a one-time assessment; it's a lifelong journey of self-discovery. I believe in it because it helped me. Everyone knows the term "people-pleaser," right? Because of my past and my personality, that's what I became. A couple of my bosses described me as a chameleon because I could fit into different environments and work with different people. But the downside was that I never really knew who I was.

Going through SHAPE helped me see who God made me to be. Thank God for this church, the staff, and Pastor Mike. I'm not just finding out who I am but experiencing the freedom to be who God made me to be. I'm excited for what God is doing in each of you.

I believe in this tool so much that I share it with believers, non-believers, young adults, and anyone who comes into the café. It's been a joy to see them respond with comments like, "Wow! I really don't know myself as well as I thought." or "I had forgotten how much I enjoy ____." Best of all, we get to introduce them to their identity in Christ.

Unique Design by God Consider that it's no mistake that there is a 1 in 70 trillion chance of having the same DNA as someone else. Even if someone else had the same DNA, your personality and traits would make you unique. Romans 12:4-6 says, "For 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, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

God is challenging us to trust Him and surrender our lives to Him. He's saying, "Trust me and surrender your plans for mine." Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Will you trust Him and surrender to Him as Savior and Lord?

Encouragement to Take S.H.A.P.E. This assessment, if you let it, will empower you to live more purposefully toward His God-given purpose. I encourage everyone to go online and take the S.H.A.P.E. Assessment to embark on God's transformative journey for your life.

Take your SHAPE assessment: <https://www.nhcohawaii.org/shape/>

S – SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The first element of the S.H.A.P.E. Assessment is "Spiritual Gifts." These are Holy Spirit-empowered abilities that enable individuals to serve others effectively within the context of our faith. Recognizing our spiritual gifts helps us understand how God has uniquely equipped us to contribute to His Kingdom. These gifts include administration, service, pastoral, teaching, leadership, exhortation, hospitality, evangelism, and more.

God places these gifts in us, knowing they will manifest in different ways. For example, Wes and Cheri both have the gift of evangelism, but it manifests differently due to their other gifts. Pastor Theresa and I both have leadership gifts, but we lead differently because we are wired differently. God uses both of us to accomplish His great work.

Embrace Your Gifts As God refines and grows us, our gifts may adjust from season to season. The saying goes, "God does not call the equipped. He equips the called." Embrace your gifts, not just for your sake but for the sake of others and for God's glory.

Let's pray: Heavenly Father, we extend our hands and take them to our heart as a prophetic act of receiving every gift given. Help us to have hearts of gratitude for every good gift. Help us to embrace and nurture these gifts and let this be a continuing journey of discovery. Amen.

H – HEART

The "Heart" component of the S.H.A.P.E. Assessment refers to your passions, desires, and what genuinely excites you. It's about identifying the activities and causes that resonate deeply with you. Understanding your heart's desires can provide valuable insights into the areas where you are most likely to find fulfillment and make a meaningful impact.

Condition of the Heart Before we ask, "What moves or breaks your heart?" or "What excites us?" we must first ask, "What is the condition of our heart?" Are we trusting our heart or committing our heart to God? The world says, "Trust your heart," but the Bible never supports that. Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?"

Aligning our heart with God can lead to great fulfillment and purpose. Aligning it with anything else can lead to chaos and pain.

A – ABILITIES

A stands for Abilities, which addresses your natural talents and skills. Everyone has unique abilities, whether in leadership, communication, craftsmanship, or other areas. When we use our abilities in service to the Lord, the Holy Spirit empowers us to play an active role in God’s mission.

Examples of Using Abilities For example, Uncle Wes Maxwell, a retired fire captain, helps lead worship and small group discussions. Uncle Byron Cristobal, who recently retired from a lifelong career with the Air National Guard, plays drums and the saxophone and sings in worship. Simone, a digital media specialist, uses her talent in art to launch a God-centered business opportunity that brings glory to Him.

P – PERSONALITY

P stands for “Personality.” It asks questions about our temperament, preferences, and communication style. Do you like working in large organizations or small? Do you like being in the background or upfront? Personality, with its unique traits and characteristics, plays a significant role in our purpose and how we interact with others and contribute to our community.

Impact on Spiritual Gifts Knowing our personality type can help us work more effectively in teams, build better relationships, and tailor our approach to connect with others authentically.

E – EXPERIENCES

E stands for “Experiences.” Our life experiences, both positive and challenging, shape our perspectives and equip us with unique insights and empathy for others. There is value in our life experiences in ministry and service.

Reflecting on Past Experiences S.H.A.P.E. helps us reflect on our past experiences to uncover how they can be used to help and support others. Drawing on life experiences can help us connect with people who have gone through similar challenges and offer them guidance, encouragement, and hope.

Final Encouragement Once completed, it might be good to sit with a mentor or leader and prayerfully analyze your assessment through God’s lens. The S.H.A.P.E. assessment is a tool. Be prayerful, don’t overanalyze, and watch what God does. Remember the clip I mentioned earlier? I wanted you to see it. Take a look at this.

Closing

Would you stand as we pray?

Heavenly Father, we have one life on this side of Heaven. Help us to live it not for the temporary time we spend here but for the eternity we look forward to spending with you. Help us to be intentional. Help us to press in. Help us to surrender our lives to your will and plan. Help us to call you Lord of our lives in every way. We praise you that as we abide, we RISE up in your spirit and celebrate YOU in each of us. To you be the glory, power, and honor. Amen.

If you have any questions or need prayer, please hang out afterward. We'd love to spend time with you. Have a great week!

Ohana Group Questions:

1. What did today's message speak to you?
2. Read Jeremiah 1:5 and Jeremiah 29:11. What do those scriptures speak to you?
3. What is the ultimate call over every life? What does it mean to surrender to God's plan?
4. How does S.H.A.P.E. tie into God's plan and purpose over your life?
5. What barriers might keep someone from realizing that plan?
6. Why is it important for one to "know" that he/she has a God-given plan and purpose over their lives?

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S – SPIRITUAL GIFTS Challenge

Identify and Use Your Spiritual Gift

- **Challenge:** Take time this week to identify at least one of your spiritual gifts. If you're unsure, ask close friends or family members who know you well to help you recognize your gifts.
- **Action:** Find a way to use this gift to serve others. It could be within the church, your community, or even your workplace.

H – HEART Challenge

Align Your Heart with God's Desires

- **Challenge:** Spend time in prayer and reflection to align your heart with God's desires. Identify one passion or cause that excites you and brings you joy.
- **Action:** Get involved in an activity or ministry that aligns with this passion. It could be volunteering, joining a small group, or starting a new project that reflects God's heart.

A – ABILITIES Challenge

Utilize Your Natural Talents for God's Glory

- **Challenge:** List your top three natural abilities or skills. Think about how you can use these abilities to serve others and glorify God.
- **Action:** Find a practical way to apply one of your abilities this week. This might involve helping someone with a task, offering your skills to a church ministry, or mentoring someone who can benefit from your expertise.

P – PERSONALITY Challenge

Understand and Leverage Your Personality

- **Challenge:** Reflect on your personality traits and how they influence your interactions with others. Consider taking a personality assessment if you haven't already.
- **Action:** Use your understanding of your personality to improve a relationship or work more effectively in a team setting. Be intentional about leveraging your strengths and addressing any weaknesses.

E – EXPERIENCES Challenge

Share Your Experiences to Encourage Others

- **Challenge:** Reflect on a significant experience in your life that has shaped you. Consider how this experience can be used to help others.
- **Action:** Share your story with someone this week. It could be in a small group, with a friend, or even as a testimony in a church setting. Use your experience to offer encouragement and hope.

Final Challenge: Complete the S.H.A.P.E. Assessment

<https://www.nhcohawaii.org/shape/>

Discover Your S.H.A.P.E.

- **Challenge:** If you haven't already, take the S.H.A.P.E. Assessment this week. It will help you gain a comprehensive understanding of your spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality, and experiences.
- **Action:** After completing the assessment, schedule a meeting with a mentor or church leader to discuss your results. Pray together and seek guidance on how to use your unique S.H.A.P.E. to fulfill God's purpose in your life.

These challenges can be presented during the message to encourage the congregation to take actionable steps in recognizing and living out God's master plan for their lives.