

2022 Fall Spiritual Renewal
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Got Purpose?

Week 6

You Were Shaped for Serving God

Opening Questions

1. What, if anything, really struck you from this week's sermon or Scripture reading?
2. Talk about the most enjoyable serving experience you have had in your life (perhaps it's something you're still doing!). Explain why it was/is so fulfilling for you.

Observation/Interpretation/Application

Read Jonah 1:1-17

3. From the list below, what spiritual gifts do you think Jonah had?

Administration, Craftsmanship, Music and arts, Giving, Helping, Prophecy, Teaching, Encouragement, Evangelism, Hospitality, Intercession, Leadership, Mercy, Shepherding, Creating new ministries, Discernment, Faith, Knowledge, Wisdom

What spiritual gifts do you think you have?

Compare Jonah's actions to the following statement: *"The mature follower of Jesus stops asking, 'Who's going to meet my needs?' and starts asking, 'Whose needs can I meet?'"*

In what life situations do you become a "Jonah?"

Read Jonah 2:10

4. What did Jonah realize as he spend three days in the belly of the great fish? Note specific verses that point to your answers and ideas.

5. In his book, Rick Warren writes:

Have you ever wondered why God doesn't just immediately take us to heaven the moment we accept his grace? Why does he leave us in a fallen world? He leaves us here to fulfill his purposes. Once you are saved, God intends to use you for his goals. God has a ministry for you in his church and a mission for you in the world.

The Purpose Driven Life; pg. 229

Share what you perceive to be God's ministry for you in His Church and mission for you in the world at this time in your life. What about your "SHAPE" convinces you that this is true?

SHAPE = **S**piritual gifts

Heart

Abilities

Personality

Experiences

Read Jonah 3:1-10

6. The citizens of Nineveh were some of the most despicable, murderous, and immoral people around. What do these verses tell you about God? What do they tell you about God's attitude toward you?
7. Sometimes it's easy to downplay your own giftedness and your own areas of ministry. It takes others to give affirmation and to notice why your area of ministry is a blessing. Take some time as a group to talk about why each person in this group is a blessing. Let people in your group know what gifts and aspects of their personality you value.

Read Jonah 4:1-11

8. How did Jonah feel about his ministry? How did those feelings affect his attitude and spirit? When have you felt the way Jonah did?
9. God created us for service. As we serve, we find our area of ministry and we find where we are needed at the moment. To be a servant, all one needs is character. How is God calling you to serve in ways that you may not be comfortable? Talk about the attitude you have in your area/s of ministry (include ministry at home, church, work, and community). What improvements is God calling you to?
10. Rick Warren notes:

Money has the greatest potential to replace God in your life. More people are sidetracked by materialism than by anything else.

The Purpose Driven Life; pg. 267

What materialism challenges do you face? What is your current system for serving God with your finances?

11. God was deeply concerned about the people of Nineveh. How have you seen God's concern for you in your life? How do those experiences motivate you to serve others to share His love?
12. How does the Bible verse for this week affirm you as a person God has created for ministry and service? Ephesians 2:10

Whenever we resist the temptations placed before us, we have the opportunity to do good. If you are comfortable, share an area of temptation you are struggling with. Pray as a group, asking God for the strength to resist the temptations which are placed before you.