PREPARE MODULE #2 - Individual Students

LEADER:: JHM & HSM | EASTSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

COMPETENCY: Support leaders to better understand their faith journey and who God made them to be in order to help students take one more step in their faith journey.

OBJECTIVE: Recalling our personal story of accepting Jesus, understanding the gospel, and identifying our unique gifts is crucial for inspiring others on their spiritual journey. In this session, you will reflect on your own story of accepting Jesus, the core beliefs of our faith, and the unique talents God has given each of you. The goal is to use these areas to inspire and equip you to help students in their own walk with Jesus.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- *ASSIGNMENT #1 // Read Acts 9:1-22 and answer the questions*
- *ASSIGNMENT #2 // Read the Gospel in 5 card and answer the questions*
- *ASSIGNMENT #3 // Read the SHAPE outline, take the SHAPE test, and answer the questions*

ASSIGNMENT 1

Read the passage that talks about Saul's transformation after meeting Jesus. In these verses, we experience the power of conversion, specifically conversion as a type of resurrection in Jesus Christ, a spiritual resurrection. As you read part of Saul's (later called Paul) journey in accepting Jesus and beginning a relationship with Him, think back to the time when you first accepted Jesus and how that transformed your life.

Acts 9:1-22

1 Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's
followers. So he went to the high priest. 2 He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in
Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found
there. He wanted to bring them—both men and women—back to Jerusalem in chains.

3 As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?"

5 "Who are you, lord?" Saul asked.

And the voice replied, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting! 6 Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

7 The men with Saul stood speechless, for they heard the sound of someone's voice but saw no one! 8 Saul picked himself up off the ground, but when he opened his eyes he was blind. So his companions led him by the hand to Damascus. 9 He remained there blind for three days and did not eat or drink.

10 Now there was a believer in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, calling, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord!" he replied.

11 The Lord said, "Go over to Straight Street, to the house of Judas. When you get there, ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying to me right now. 12 I have shown him a vision of a man named Ananias coming in and laying hands on him so he can see again."

13 "But Lord," exclaimed Ananias, "I've heard many people talk about the terrible things this man has done to the believers in Jerusalem! 14 And he is authorized by the leading priests to arrest everyone who calls upon your name."

15 But the Lord said, "Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel. 16 And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name's sake."

17 So Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 Instantly something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized. 19 Afterward he ate some food and

regained his strength. Saul stayed with the believers in Damascus for a few days. ***20*** *And immediately he began preaching about Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is indeed the Son of God!"*

21 *All who heard him were amazed. "Isn't this the same man who caused such devastation among Jesus' followers in Jerusalem?" they asked. "And didn't he come here to arrest them and take them in chains to the leading priests?"*

22 *Saul's preaching became more and more powerful, and the Jews in Damascus couldn't refute his proof that Jesus was indeed the Messiah.*

QUESTIONS:

1. *What are some of your initial takeaways from this passage?*

2. *When Saul (then turned Paul) met Jesus, everything changed for him. When did you first understand/accept Jesus?*

3. *How did your life change when you accepted Jesus?*

4. *Did you have an Ananias in your life (someone who helped lead you to Jesus)?*

5. *How can you be an Ananias for others? Specifically our students?*

6. *What did you think of Jesus when you were in junior high or high school?*

7. *If you followed Jesus as a teenager, was it hard for you to tell others about Jesus? Was it hard for you to be a christian? How might it be difficult for students to share their faith/be a christian today?*

ASSIGNMENT 2

Take a look at the “Gospel in 5 Words” card and answer the following questions.

If you followed Jesus as a teenager, was it hard for you to tell others about Jesus? Was it hard for you to be a christian? How might it be difficult for students to share their faith/be a christian today?

THE GO5PEL IN 5 WORDS

GOD — All of us were created by God to be in a relationship with Him. [Genesis 1:27, Genesis 5:1]

SIN — Because of sin, that relationship is broken. [Romans 5:12, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23]

JESUS — Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the grave to pay the penalty for our sins, and fix what has been broken. [John 3:16, Ephesians 1:7, Romans 4:25]

GIFT — Jesus offers forgiveness and eternity in heaven as a free gift. [Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 4:25]

CHOICE — God love us completely, so he allows us to choose whether to receive of reject this gift. [John 1:12-13, Romans 10:9-10, Mark 8:34]

God created all of us with the intentions to be in a perfect relationship with that would last forever. Sadly, that relationship was broken when people SINNED and decided to follow their ways instead of God's. To fix the broken relationship, God sent his son JESUS CHRIST to die on the cross and pay the penalty for our sins. Jesus' death and resurrection paves the way to a restored relationship with God and a forever life in heaven, which he offers us as a free GIFT! God loves us completely and will never force us to follow him, so he gives us the CHOICE to receive or reject this amazing gift!

Note: A good summary is found in Colossians 1:15-23

YOUR DECISION TODAY IS AS SIMPLE AS ABC AND MEANS THAT YOU...

ADMIT THAT I'M A SINNER AND CAN'T SAVE MYSELF.

BELIEVE THAT JESUS DIED FOR MY SINS, ROSE AGAIN AND HAS THE POWER TO FORGIVE ME AND OFFER A RESTORED RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND ETERNAL LIFE IN HEAVEN.

COMMIT TO FOLLOWING JESUS AND HIS WAYS FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

QUESTIONS:

1. *When did you first hear the Gospel? Did you comprehend it at first?*

2. *In what ways does the Gospel change how you live your life everyday?*

3. *Have you ever shared the good news of the Gospel with someone else? How do you feel like you did? How did they react?*

4. *What has held you back from sharing the gospel?*

5. *Write out how you would explain the gospel to a student.*

*Example: **GOD** created all of us with the intention to be in a perfect relationship with Him that would last forever. Sadly, that relationship was broken when people chose to **SIN** and follow their ways instead of God's. To fix the broken relationship, God sent his only Son, **JESUS CHRIST**, to die on the cross and pay the penalty for our sins. Jesus' death and resurrection paves the way to a restored relationship with God and a forever life in heaven, which He offers us as a free **GIFT**! God loves us completely and will never force us to follow Him, so He gives us the **CHOICE** to receive or reject this amazing gift!*

6. *What are some things you can do to help a student explain the gospel?*

ASSIGNMENT 3

After accepting Jesus and understanding the gospel, we are then on a journey to figure out who God created us to be and how we can impact His kingdom. Read the material below, take the spiritual gifts quiz, and answer the following questions.

God has given every creature he made a special area of expertise to fulfill its purpose. For instance, some animals run, others hop, some swim, others burrow, and some fly. Each has a particular role to play based on the way they were shaped by God. This is equally true of you and every other human being. You were uniquely designed, wired, and "shaped" by God to do certain things. You are not an assembly-line product, mass produced without any thought. You are a custom-designed, one-of-a-kind, original masterpiece.

SHAPE is a simple acronym created to help people remember five factors God uses to prepare and equip us for our purpose in life.
(Rees, Erik. S.H.A.P.E.: Finding and Fulfilling your Unique Purpose for Life)

SHAPE Test Module

QUESTIONS:

1. *What were your top 3 spiritual gifts? Did any of these gifts surprise you? Why or why not?*

2. *How do you think your spiritual gifts can be used to serve in JHM/HSM?*

3. *When it comes to serving, what do you have the heart for (what motivates you the most)?*

4. *How have your past accomplishments and vocational skills equipped you to serve at Eastside?*

5. *In what ways can your unique personality traits be used to support the students in JHM and HSM?*

6. *Reflecting on your experiences, both good and bad, how do you think God is working through them for the good of those who love Him?*

What are at least two LEADERSHIP TAKEAWAYS from this module? Be prepared to discuss with your group.

1.

2.