

S.H.A.R.P.E.N. Your Focus

[Finding Your Place In Ministry @Rivermont EPC]

Please complete this learning experience as you consider 1) Your relationship with Jesus Christ, 2) Your ministry to the church, and 3) How you would present your passion for ministry in about 10 minutes using S.H.A.R.P.E.N.

1. Your relationship with Jesus Christ: *Evaluation of Heart and Soul*

God communicates things about Himself and His will in His Word. Read the following passages and evaluate your life and leadership in light of these verses: Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 5:15-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Hebrews 10:36; 1 Peter 2:6, 13-21; 1 Peter 5:2-3; 1 John 5:14

In light of these verses, what changes of behavior or attitude need to take place in your life and leadership so that it conforms more to the image of Christ?

To whom will you be accountable for such changes?

2. Your involvement in REPC: *Areas of Ministry and Mission*

Walk through the S.H.A.R.P.E.N. acrostic and consider your area(s) of service. Consider your ministry at REPC or in the community at large; see how it's the right place or a good fit for you.

Spiritual gifts are God-empowered, God-equipped gift(s) for building up the body of Christ, the Church. So what are the spiritual gifts God gives through the Holy Spirit? Read the list of gifts from: Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-11, 28-31; Ephesians 4:11. Consider your God-given gift(s) and ask God for clarity in how to use it/them in the Church effectively. If you are not sure of your spiritual gift(s), you can take a free online assessment through the Church Growth Institute. The website address is WWW.CHURCHGROWTH.ORG/CGI-CG/GIFTS.CGI?INTRO=1.

Reflecting upon your past ministry in the Body of Christ, please answer the following questions.

1. *What are your current ministry responsibilities?*
2. *Where do you get your greatest joy in Christian service?*
3. *Where do you seem to have the greatest effect for Christ's kingdom?*

S SPIRITUAL GIFTS *Based on your observation/assessment, what is/are your spiritual gift(s)?*

H HEART *What are you passionate about? What burdens you, what gives you deep joy?*

A ABILITIES *What abilities, skills and talents do you possess? What have you done to develop any of these abilities?*

R RELATIONSHIPS *What relationships do you have? What are your responsibilities in your relationships?*

P PERSONALITY *How are you wired? Where do you get your energy (from people or from solitude)?*

E EXPERIENCES *What experiences have you encountered in your past and present? How can these be used to build up the Body of Christ?*

What have you discovered about yourself in the providential experiences of life?

N NEEDS *What needs/burdens do you tend to see while others do not? What do you do about those needs?*

When it comes to the Body of Christ, are you a consumer or a contributor?

In prayer, seek God's guidance and blessing as you seek to build up the Body of Christ at REPC. With a spirit of humility and teachability, consider how you may complement this area of ministry and mission and how God may bear fruit through your faithful commitments.

If you are already involved in a fulfilling area of ministry, then examine how you can strengthen and/or improve your service to the body of believers in this area.

3. Your passion for ministry: Your S.H.A.R.P.E.N. Design

Think through how you would highlight your passion for ministry using the S.H.A.R.P.E.N. acronym in *about ten minutes*. Yes, sharing your life in about ten minutes can be challenging for all of us!