

SHAPE

DISCOVER WHO GOD MADE YOU TO BE 🌈

Small Group Discussion Questions
SHAPE: The Principle of the Path
Proverbs 3:5-6
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Intro

There is often a tension between where we want to end up in life and the path we choose to get there. We fail to see that having good intentions is never good enough. Like Charlie Brown, we wrongly believe there's something to be said for "trying hard" in various aspects of our lives. We need to understand why, in spite of our good intentions, we may have ended up at the wrong destination with our finances, our marriages, our careers, our parenting, our spiritual growth and maturity, or a host of other dreams. So how do we get from where we are to where we truly want to be? The Principle of the Path in general -- and CPC's PATH of Worship//Connect//Serve in particular -- is a road map and a reminder...to step off the "treadmill," and choose the path that leads to life transformation through following Christ.

Talk it Over/Work it Through

1. Share an example where you have experienced the reality of the Principle of the Path: The path we're on determines our destination. (*This could be an example from an actual road/path, a financial path, a relational path, or even a spiritual path.)
 - a. HOW/WHERE DO YOU HOPE TO SEE GOD TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE IN THE NEXT YEAR?

2. Tyler opened the sermon while running on a treadmill. How and why can you relate to that as a picture of your life...or your path?
 - a. Why is it so easy to find ourselves back on that proverbial treadmill?
 - b. Describe the physical, emotional, vocational and spiritual effects of spending too much time on that treadmill.
 - c. Read Ecclesiastes 2:4-11; 4:4; and Mark 4:18-19
 - d. How do these verses speak to your heart?

3. The treadmill clearly represents the path that culture encourages us to run along. How can/do we also apply the "treadmill" as a religious approach to meeting God, pleasing Him, or living/growing as His disciples? Though this path "seems right" (per Proverbs 14:12), why is this dangerous and exhausting?
 - a. *Remember: Religion = we obey, therefore we are accepted by God. The Gospel = we're accepted by God (by grace through faith in Jesus), therefore we obey. Talk for a few moments about the difference.
 - i. Read Romans 3:21-24 for a simple explanation of this in Scripture.

4. Our PATH here at CPC (which is a path of life transformation through following Christ) is WORSHIP // CONNECT // SERVE. Let's unpack that a bit, and look at some Scriptures together to guide our discussion.
 - a. WORSHIP – A lifestyle of enjoying God and putting him first.
 - i. Read 1 Chronicles 16:29; Romans 12:1-2; and John 4:23
 - ii. If we look at worship as a lifestyle of "responding" to what God has done for us – by enjoying him and putting him first in all areas of our lives -- how might that change our view of:
 1. Prioritizing attendance at weekend worship services?
 2. Reading the Bible, praying, or other types of personal expressions of worship and devotion?
 3. Our decision-making?
 - b. CONNECT – Join a group or a team and grow in community.
 - i. Read Hebrews 10:24-25, and Psalm 133
 - ii. We often talk about "connecting" as "moving from rows to circles." According to Hebrews 10:24-25 – and in your own experience -- why is connecting to a group of believers important to growing in your relationship with Jesus?
 1. Share a personal example of how/where your life was transformed through a "community" of people.
 - c. SERVE – Use your gifts – your SHAPE – to serve God and others.
 - i. Read Deuteronomy 10:20-21; Joshua 24:14-15; and Matthew 20:28
 - ii. Why is serving important?
 - iii. How has God transformed your life through serving?

5. What is YOUR MOVE? (Read Proverbs 27:12 and 14:8)
 - a. Take a step off the treadmill. (How, where and why?)
 - b. Take a look at your priorities. (Be specific.)
 - c. Take a "next step" on our PATH. (How, where and why?)
 - d. Take a break. (This is important...we love to add stuff, and rarely to the harder work of "pruning," saying NO to something else. How, where and why will you do this?)

Pray it Through

Pray for one another...that God will remind you to stay off the treadmill, believe and embrace the Gospel, and choose the PATH of WORSHIP // CONNECT // SERVE.