

## Small Group Study: Discovering Your S.H.A.P.E.

**Experiences:** Those parts of your past, both positive and painful, which God intends to use in great ways.

### Memory Verse: Romans 15:7

*“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”*

### Special Bible Reading Meditation: 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

(Read the word everyday this week)

1. What positive experiences have prepared you to minister and help others?  
Let people share.

God has shown me people who have been healed from sickness or from addictions and He has shown me people who have received restored lives as a result of prayer and encouragement from the word of God. These experiences have increased my faith and led me to more willingly pray and reach out to others offering myself to them as a minister knowing there is hope in God.

2. What painful experiences have prepared you to help others?  
Let people share. Be prepared to use this time to minister to others in their pain.

Seeing people whom I love suffer has given me a new appreciation of the pain that people live with (both emotional and physical). Seeing loved ones die in pain, seeing loved ones suffer from abuse has led me to reach out more. I have been blessed not to suffer in the same way so I am responding now knowing that God has chosen to use me in a very specific way.

3. **Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7:** How has God helped you through a situation that you now feel He wants you to help another person through?  
Let people share.

4. How is accepting another person (**Romans 5:7**) the first step in ministering to them? How can we accept people even when they are unworthy?  
I must realize that God has loved and chosen them and He and He alone can change them. If God accepted us in such a horrible state then we also can accept our brother just as he is. “Just as I am, without one plea...I come I come.”

5. As you look back over these past few weeks in this study, what has God revealed to you about how he has been shaping your life for His Kingdom purpose?  
Let people share what they have discovered over the past few weeks.