**LTCL 2024 Week 4 Ppt CF Notes:**

**Slide 3** - Your Divine Design: Part of your masterpiece mission

CRAIG - As a reminder, we are in a two part section of our class on Divine Design where we are learning, confirming or relearning how God has made us and where He has put us for our Masterpiece Mission.

**Slide 4** – S.H.A.P.E. [A]bilities: Talents & Skills

CRAIG - Let’s move on to discuss the next part of your shape, A a which stand for abilities, but I add in talents and skills. ​
When we are talking about these, they fall into a couple different categories.​

First of all there are those natural talents or innate gifts that people have. You know, those who just excel with art, music, math, language and it just comes so easily to them. Like my son who hated band and piano as a kid, I couldn’t force him into it, and then he started playing the piano by ear 15 years later, even breaking into the UT Music buildings to play their pianos, and now has a baby grand piano. ​

{Becky: Like my son who completed HS Spanish in 8th grade and is now creating a new language to go with the fantasy novel he’s writing. Like J.R.R. Tolkein}​

There are also learned abilities and skills which can come through education, training, certifications, experiences.​

Now we all CAN do a lot of different things, but we are wanting to pay attention to those that are most important to you. The filter I like to use is those that you find Fulfilling, Energized, and where you make an Impact. ​

Maybe you can just do something in an incredibly efficient or unique way, you produce results with a minimum expenditure of energy, time, or resources. Maybe you have a Special method of doing something, using something, or dealing with someone. Those can all give you insights to pay attention to and decide which Abilities are most important to you.​

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**Slide 5** - From S.H.A.P.E. Assessment

CRAIG - Just a reminder, on the SHAPE assessment, they asked these questions about these topics and you added it to your assessment. They may give you some insights. But with the exception of the last one, they don’t add in our key filter: **Fulfilling, Energized, Impact** , nor do they always get to our top abilities

**Slide 6** – S.H.A.P.E. Questions to help identify your gifts and strengths/Other ways to discover – Important filter: Fulfilling, Energized, Impact

CRAIG - So to help you, we have some additional suggestions that you can use to help you determine your top Abilities to add to your Oak or SHAPE box. ​

These questions are good starting points: read bold words​

Many times we can have an ability, but don’t love doing it. And there are some personalities who will never NOT do something well, even if it’s torture! So it’s not just a focus on what CAN you do, We want you to hone in on those that bring you joy. ​

In your handout on page X, we have a Transferable Skills checklist that is helpful. Note that you are first ranking if you **Do** that skill well, but then it asks if you **Enjoy** it. If you have checks in both boxes, then those tend to be the skills to pay particular attention to.​

Another key aspect to think about is, “What have I done where others have given me feedback that I am just a “natural” or “gifted at it?” That may give you some great clues! We can have blinders on to our natural gifting and others can help validate them. By using these abilities and talents in helping others and volunteering in ministry, you can develop them even more! Story of Pierce (I can tell you or you can come up with your own.)​

Another option is to pay attention to the abilities and talents you use on a daily basis and at the end of the week, do an assessment of what ones are often repeated, you do with ease and bring you fulfillment. ​

Finally Use past resumes, performance reviews, LI for ideas of professional abilities. ​

**Slide 17** - S.H.A.P.E. [E]xperiences from Assessment – Remember God doesn’t waste a hurt

CRAIG - Finally our last part of our SHAPE is our Experiences. From the assessment they asked some specific questions, but there are some other things to include. ​

We also covered some that you will find in your workbook on page X a Life Wins/Struggles worksheet. These are your significant life experiences, often mountain top and valley experiences, that really shaped you- *Personal Wins (health difficulty you over came, marathons), Career Wins, Past Hurts/Life Struggles (loss of parent, recovery), Spiritual Highlights (Usually those incredibly high experiences), Unique Experiences (Lived abroad as a child, special needs siblings, family of pilots)*​

When thinking about those struggles in particular, it’s beneficial to remember the phrase “God doesn’t waste a hurt.” In other words, that very difficult challenge you experienced and God brought you though to victory may be the very thing He wants you to use in your ministry to others. ​

From Craig G: Chazown:​

*We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*Romans 8:28​

The beautiful thing about “all things” is that it includes pretty much all things. The good things, the ordinary things, the not-so-good things, the truly (at the time) awful things. God has promised to use them all for good for those who love God and have responded to the call to live out their *lives*for His purposes.​

*Your past often holds the key to unlock your future.*​

What might your past have prepared you to do that you couldn’t—or wouldn’t—do otherwise? Think about the positive experiences that have been formative in your life. Maybe a business success has given you the confidence to lead a nonprofit organization toward greater impact. Or maybe God healed you of cancer and now you can offer hope to others.​

Think also about the negative experiences that have shaped how you think, feel, and act. You suffered a miscarriage and never thought you’d feel happy again. But because of God’s emotional healing, you now can comfort other couples whose dreams have died. Or your marriage fell apart, but because of what God has taught you, you now have the wisdom to help others in a relationship crisis.​

Now, in preparation for the next stage of understanding and living out your *calling*, explore these questions with me:​

1.     *What do your good and bad experiences have in common?*​

2.     *What do you think your experiences have done within you to prepare you for the future?*How are you inwardly different because of what you have enjoyed or endured?  ​

3.     Now, regarding the next chapter of your life: *What possible title comes to mind when you think about the path ahead of you?*

**Slide 18** - S.H.A.P.E. [E]xperiences From Discover Hill Country

​CRAIG - The last piece we want to include in talking about your experiences is what are your current circumstances right now? We consider it an important reality check as you start to consider different possibilities. Your present circumstances are your “truths” about your situation which will impact what you can do and what makes sense for right now. ​

Location: Austin, TX – which HCBC, community, neighborhood​

Family + work situation – impacts your bandwidth, availability, circles of influence, little kiddos vs. empty nest, work downtown or at home, homeschool, stay at home parent, single parent​

Other resources, etc. – Boat, horses, past certifications like having an RN for missions,  big house for hosting, etc. (I usually tell a boat story from John.)​

**Slide 19** – (Oaks of Righteousness graphic) My Life Growth Plan worksheet

CRAIG - So, wow, y’all have worked hard and we have now gone through all the different areas of your SHAPE, your gifting and your unique 5%.​

Based on our work today and what you will be doing during the week, you will be able to fill out the Abilities, Personality and Experiencers sections of your Oak of Righteousness Worksheet or your SHAPE box on your plan page. ​

It should really be starting to take shape and have a lot of great content that is specific to you, your gifting and your heart. ​

Spend some time in prayer over this, look for trends, patterns and insights. Pray for them, too. ​

We’ll work to complete the other areas of these next week.

​**Slide 20** – (Acorn graphic) Oaks of Righteousness Personal Worksheet - Becky’s filled out

CRAIG - Here is Becky’s, starting to get much more filled in this week!

**Slide 21** - My Life Growth Plan - Craig’s Version worksheet filled out

CRAIG - And here is Craig’s

**Slide 23** - Homework for Week 5

CRAIG

**Slide 25** - Experiencing God Book Homework & Check-in Cohort Discussion

CRAIG - Have you made any adjustments based on this insight?