

The Story of Redemption

Session 4: Shaping Others (Galatians 1:21-24)

In this final session, you'll see that God uses you to help shape others.

WELCOME

- What is one key thing you've learned during this series?
- How have you been applying what you've learned?
- React to this statement: "God draws people to Himself and He uses other people in the process." How have you seen this to be true?

INTRODUCTION

- Our mission at The Hills is to **Make and Grow Followers of Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20)**.
- God uses other people in this process of making and growing followers (shaping others).
- You can see this in our **Next Steps** at The Hills – **Worship Regularly, Connect with God, Live Differently, Do Life Together, Give Generously, Serve Others, and Tell Your One**.
- In what ways are these Next Steps personal and relational?

PAUL'S EXAMPLE

- **Read Galatians 1:21-24.** These verses describe what Paul did after his visit with Peter (where they spent 15 days sharing their stories and getting acquainted).
- From there he went to Syria and Cilicia to share the message of Jesus ("the man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy").
- Seeing this change of direction in Paul's life – his story of transformation – caused the people to recognize and worship God because of Paul (verse 24).

- This reminds us that not only does the message of Jesus change us individually but it is also used by God to shape others we have a relationship with.

FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS

- Have you ever had the impression that God was speaking to you through another one of His followers? How was God trying to use that person to shape you?
- Have you ever had the sense that God was working directly through you in order to help shape someone else's life? What happened?
- Reflect on this quote from Dallas Willard's book, *Renovation of the Heart*:

Spiritual formation, good or bad, is always profoundly social. You cannot keep it to yourself. Anyone who thinks of it as a merely private matter has misunderstood it. Anyone who says, "It's just between me and God," or "What I do is my own business," has misunderstood God as well as "me." Strictly speaking there is nothing "just between me and God." For all that is between me and God affects who I am; and that, in turn, modifies my relationship to everyone around me. My relationship to others also modifies me and deeply affects my relationship to God. Hence those relationships must be transformed if I am to be transformed.

- What resonates with you from this quote?
- Do you agree with Dallas' statement that spiritual formation is always profoundly social? Why or why not?



SHAPING OTHERS

- We help God shape others as we are being shaped by Him to become more like Jesus.
- God loves us enough that He sent Jesus to rescue and save us. That's a wonderful thing.
- What may be just as marvelous is that God calls us to be available to help shape others.
- Being like Jesus means that we grow to the point that we see what Jesus sees, we feel what Jesus felt, and we do what Jesus did.
- It is these intentional actions that cause us to share with those God is drawing, so they can know Jesus too!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Consider some of the people you see every day. What are some of the things they are experiencing in their lives in which they could use your help?
- What are some qualities God is developing in you to help other people?
- What's our next step in this area individually and as a group? Brainstorm for a time about some of the creative ways you can serve others as a group to hopefully open other hearts to hear about Jesus.

CONCLUSION

Confirm details about what's next for your group. *Sharing Your Stories* is a great option. Also, many groups do the **Discussion Questions** that go along with the sermon each week or pick another study from **Right Now Media** or **Study Gateway**. You can find more details at www.thehills.org/leader-resources.

Reminder: Don't forget to take attendance using the Lead App or directly through The Hills Connect.

