

SHARING LIFE MAPS

DEVELOPING YOUR LIFE MAP

A Life Map is a visual representation of your life from birth to today. It highlights events God has used to mold and shape your character and helps others to know you. The Life Map process gives insight into how God has designed you and worked in your life, and where he is leading you. It will also help your group members get to know one another. Below are a couple of different ways to develop your Life Map:

LIFE MAP – OPTION #1: REFLECT, ANALYZE, ORGANIZE

Use these three steps to help you develop and communicate your Life Map:

STEP 1: REFLECTION

Prayerfully consider people, places, and events that have marked your life. Make a list. Be sure to use the Life Map Worksheet on the next page to help you categorize your thoughts. The terms on the worksheet identify categories and describe things to include. Ask yourself the questions for each category and fill in the worksheet.

STEP 2: ANALYSIS

Now that you have reflected over your life—your heritage, heroes, high points, hard times, and hand of God moments—it's time to analyze which of these you want to put in your Life Map. While it would be nice to share everything, focus on the most significant influences and experiences in your life. Spend some time praying through what you have listed. What you choose is totally up to you.

STEP 3: ORGANIZATION

Now try to synthesize this information into a logical flow of thought. How do these people, places, and events fit together?

LIFE MAP WORKSHEET

NAME:	AGE/LIFE STAGE LOCATION	AGE/LIFE STAGE LOCATION	AGE/LIFE STAGE LOCATION	AGE/LIFE STAGE LOCATION
HERITAGE: How have your family relationships, ethnic, or geographical influences shaped your life?				
HEROES: What relationships influenced your character/shaped your direction (positively & negatively)? How? Why?				
HIGH POINTS: When did you come to know Christ? What experiences have you especially enjoyed? Felt closest to God? Why?				
HARD TIMES: What experiences were especially difficult or painful? Felt furthest from God?				
HAND OF GOD: When/how have you seen God's hand at work in your life? List specific events that illustrate His work in your life.				

LIFE MAP – OPTION #2: THREE PEOPLE AND THREE EVENTS

Option 2 is a shorter, more condensed way to share your Life Map. For this option, come to your group prepared to share:

THREE PEOPLE WHO GOD USED TO SHAPE WHO YOU ARE TODAY

- Who led you to Christ or invited you to church?
- How did your parents influence you as a child or adult?
- Did you have a friend or co-worker who helped you in a difficult season?

THREE EVENTS THAT GOD USED TO SHAPE WHO YOU ARE TODAY

- What season of life was the darkest? Most joyful?
- Is there a moment you will never forget?
- If you thought your life was going to go a different direction than it did, what event made that change?

SHARING WITH YOUR GROUP

Sharing your story can be as simple or creative as you'd like. Feel free to just write it down and share from the page. Or, present it in a way that is creatively unique to your personality. For example, someone might like to draw a Life Map or use photographs and music that is meaningful. Another person might just share five highlights and lowlights in life. Regardless of how you share, each person (or couple) should plan about 20-25 minutes to share.