

What are Spiritual Gifts? What are their purpose? What are we supposed to do with them?

SPIRITUAL GIFTS | TIER 3 DISCIPLESHIP | Rom 12:6, 1 Cor 12:4-7, Eph 4:12, 1 Pet 4:10-11

December 15, 2019

DISCUSSION GUIDE :: AT A GLANCE

INFORMAL: (8 minutes)

Take attendance with the LEAD App.
Ask guests to complete a connection card.
Allow for informal conversation with your group but be prepped to transition.
REVIEW Memory Verse (Hebrews 4:13).

INTRODUCTION: (7 minutes)

OPENING QUESTION: What do you like and dislike about receiving gifts?
EXPLAIN: We will use the DIG Method as always to study Scripture but to get a well rounded perspective on Spiritual Gifts we will use a chart to see the conclusions of different Scriptures.
PRAY: Ask the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to desire, see, understand, & live the truth.
HANDOUT: Make sure each student has the Spiritual Gifts Chart.

DISCOVER - Asking Who, What, Where, or When (4 min)

OBSERVE: Look at the chart to see WHAT Rom 1:6; 1 Cor 12:4-7,11; & Eph 4:11-12 have to say about Spiritual Gifts.
READ: 1 Peter 4:10-11 out loud and complete the column for that passage.
WHAT trends to you see about Spiritual Gifts throughout these different Scriptures?

INVESTIGATE - Asking Why or How (4 min)

WHY are we all gifted differently?
WHY is it important that the gifts are empowered by the Lord? What happens if it is just our effort trying to accomplish something?
Based on our observations WRITE your own definition of what Spiritual Gifts are?

GO - Asking Questions That Require Action (4 min)

HOW would you go about discovering what your Spiritual Gifts are?

ACTIVITY: (10 min)

EXPLAIN: If serving is not merely for helping others but also to help you discover how God has gifted you then we should look for a variety of ways to serve.
BRAINSTORM: Dream a little. Be willing to think outside the box. How can you serve?

COMMUNITY & CONCLUSION (10 min)

CLOSING QUESTIONS: Related to this morning's DIG study & the activity... How can we pray/encourage you this week? How can we hold you accountable this week?
PRAY: Spend time praying for each other. ENCOURAGE them to follow up with each other.

**Current
Memory Verse**
Hebrews 4:13

**Provided
Supplies**
Spiritual Gifts
Chart



**Sermon
Connection**

Today's
Discussion is not
specifically tied
to Owen's
Message.



**Emmaus
Connection**

When a
connection is
being made to
our discussion we
will outline that
here.

DISCUSSION GUIDE :: EXPANDED

INFORMAL: (8 minutes)

Take ATTENDANCE with the LEAD App.

Ask GUESTS to complete a CONNECTION card. Find ways to learn about the guest. Allow for informal CONVERSATION but be prepped to TRANSITION to allow time for Bible discussion & community. REVIEW this month's Memory Verse (Hebrews 4:13).

INTRODUCTION: (7 minutes)

OPENING QUESTION: What do you like about receiving gifts? What do you dislike about receiving gifts?

- *Follow up with: As we approach this "gift-giving" season, we are going to discuss some special gifts that we are given by God. Spiritual gifts. Does anyone know what a Spiritual Gift is? (Resist defining what a spiritual gift is at this point. Rather explain that we are going to try and better understand what Spiritual Gifts are in our discussion today.)*

EXPLAIN: We will use the DIG Method as always to study Scripture but to get a well rounded perspective on Spiritual Gifts we will use a chart to see the conclusions of different Scriptures.

PRAY: Ask the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to desire, see, understand, and live the truth.

- *We never want to approach God's Word like we approach books we read for school/learning. We are not merely acquiring information. We are encountering words that are alive and change people through the power of the Holy Spirit. Let's position ourselves in humility and ask God for His help and to transform us!*

DISCOVER - Asking Who, What, Where, or When (4 min)

OBSERVE: Look at the chart to see WHAT Rom 1:6; 1 Cor 12:4-7,11; & Eph 4:11-12 have to say about Spiritual Gifts. ****The completed chart is at the end of the discussion guide. I will print off the incomplete charts for your small group.*

READ: 1 Peter 4:10-11 out loud and fill in the column for that passage on your handout.

- **1 Peter 4:10-11** *Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. **11** If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

WHAT trends do you see about Spiritual Gifts throughout these different Scriptures?

- *1) The gifts that God gives are a result of His grace to us. 2) God gives different gifts to different people. 3) Gifts are given for the good of others and for the glory of God.*

INVESTIGATE - Asking Why or How (4 min)

WHY are we all gifted differently?

- *God made and gave different gifts. He also made each of us unique. He has brought together how he has made us and how He has gifted us for each of us to fulfill roles serving the Body of Christ. (we will expand this thought further in a later Discussion Guide).*

WHY is it important that the gifts are empowered by the Lord? What happens if it is just our effort trying to accomplish something?

- *We can properly glorify God when we recognize that we operate with our gifts from His power, not our own. If we act as if we serve in our own effort and power, we will gladly also receive the glory that is due only to the Lord. We will make our service about us and not Him. There could be additional possible answers, but this answer is the primary one.*

Based on our observations WRITE your own definition of what Spiritual Gifts are?

- *Possible answer: Spiritual gifts are varied and given by God's grace, through the Holy Spirit that lives in us for the common good of others, to serve one another, and to build up the Body of Christ in order that in everything God would be glorified.*

GO - Asking Questions That Require Action (4 min)

HOW do you find out what your spiritual gifts are?

- *Many people assume you discover what your Spiritual Gifts are through some kind of Spiritual Gifts Test/Survey/Inventory. Taking a survey may be quite helpful for some. However, if it does not move us to action, it can be a mere exercise in trying to label gifts we are not going to use.*
 - *That being said, if someone is interested in exploring what his/her spiritual gifts are via a survey, here is an online one that is interesting and interactive: [freeshapetest.com](https://www.freeshapetest.com)*

- *There are other approaches to discovering where we are gifted spiritually that are proactive and helpful.*

1) **Seek wise counsel** from someone who knows you well. People who are close to you that also love Jesus can help you see things that you may not perceive right off.

2) Since the purpose of Spiritual Gifts are to build up the Body of Christ and to serve one another, one of the very best ways to discover where you are gifted is to **SERVE the Body of Christ**. So maybe instead of asking, "What are my Spiritual Gifts?", you should ask, "How can I serve the Body of Christ?". As s we serve, we discover what we are uniquely equipped to do, where our strengths are, what we have great passion for, and, ultimately, what our spiritual gifts are.

ACTIVITY: (10 min)

EXPLAIN: If serving is not only for helping others but also to help you discover how God has gifted you then we should look for a variety of ways to serve.

BRAINSTORM: Dream a little. Be willing to think outside the box. How can you serve? What are you passionate about? What do you enjoy doing? Spend some time discussing specific ways that students can serve the Body of Christ.

- *Some ideas... Ministry Teams (sign up on the Silver Table), serve at church-wide events (like the adoption event recently, VBS, Fall Fest, Easter egg Hunt), serve in Elevate, organize mission work, share what God is doing in your life, use your talents for the good of others, engage & encourage younger students/kids, when you hear about a need of a fellow student do something to meet that need, greeters, prayer room, nursery, be creative and take initiative on some area of ministry that you have a passion for.*
- *Close by reinforcing that serving the Body of Christ is an excellent way to discover your Spiritual Gifts and grow in them.*

 **COMMUNITY & CONCLUSION (10 min)**

CLOSING QUESTIONS: Related to this morning’s DIG study or other spiritual struggles... How can we **pray** for you? How can we **encourage** you this week? How can we hold you **accountable** this week?

- Please use the above questions & **refrain** from stating, “Does anyone have any prayer requests?” This is too general & doesn’t ask the student directly about spiritual issues. Until your group develops greater community invite students to connect with you individually.

PRAY: Spend time in prayer as a group.

- This will depend upon the life of your small group and the willingness of the individuals. A big win would be that everyone gets prayed for and every person prays. However, if your group isn’t there yet take small baby steps throughout the year.

ENCOURAGE: Pray for each other & check in with each other for encouragement & accountability.

- As the adult encourager set the tone and be the lead prayer warrior this week. Give them an example to follow by checking in with your small group via text, GroupMe, or whatever means your small group has adopted for regular communication.

POST SMALL GROUP STUDENT CONNECTION

CONNECT: With your small group or the students as individuals this week by...

- Create a jpg (picture) through YouVersion App for the verse 1 Peter 4:10 and share it with your small group.
- Start conversations with some of your students about their potential gifting. Ask them what their passions are or how they have served in the past and whether they are currently serving in any way. Encourage them how you see God using them.

What do these passages of Scriptures say about...	Romans 12:6	1 Corinthians 12:4-7,11	Ephesians 4:11-12	1 Peter 4:10-11
Gifts in general & how we got them?	The gifts differ and they are given according to grace.	There are a variety of gifts.	There are a variety of gifts given to those leading the church.	Gifts are the result of God’s varied grace.
The Spirit/God/Lord?	N/A	The same Lord/Spirit/God empowers them all.	N/A	To Him belong glory & dominion forever and ever.
Us (receivers of the gifts)?	We have them and we should use them.	Each are given as a work of the Spirit within us.	N/A	When we use them we are being good stewards & working in His strength.
Why the gifts are given?	N/A	For the common good of others.	To equip the saints for the work of the ministry for the building up of the Body of Christ.	To serve one another in order that in everything God will be glorified.

Spiritual Gifts Chart

What do these passage of Scriptures say about...	Romans 12:6	1 Corinthians 12:4-7,11	Ephesians 4:11-12	1 Peter 4:10-11
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The Spirit/God/Lord?	N/A	The same Lord/ Spirit/God empowers them all.	N/A	
Us (receivers of the gifts)?	We have them and we should use them.	Each are given as a work of the Spirit within us.	N/A	
Why the gifts are given?	N/A	For the common good of others.	To equip the saints for the work of the ministry for the building up of the Body of Christ.	

Brainstorm how students can serve and learn about their passions and how God has gifted them.