



OPENING QUESTIONS

What are some of the Spiritual Gifts you see in the members of our Small Group? If we had to plan and execute a service project, who would do what?

READ TOGETHER

1 Corinthians 12:4-13.

BIG IDEA

A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) What does the fact that God loves to give gifts to His children say about His nature and heart?
- 2) Read **Ephesians 4:7, 8**. The ascension of Jesus to His place of authority in Heaven is connected to His act of giving gifts. **Historical Context:** Paul here is quoting Psalm 68:18; a Psalm that looked forward to the coming of the Messiah. In ancient times when an army defeated an enemy, the conquering Commander or King would lead their army in procession into the victorious ruling city. Returning victorious after a brutal battle, what a wonderful feeling that would be! In the procession would be the enemies that were taken captive. As the captives were led into the city they would be jeered; insults and all manner of things would be hurled at them. The ridicule of defeated Kings and commanders was particularly strong. Part of the celebration was the distribution of the plunder gained in the battle. The Commander would distribute gifts from the loot to citizens of the winning city. People who were not even at the battle enjoyed the spoils of victory. These were not just trinkets, it was a means of transferring wealth from one city or nation to another. Do you agree with the following statement? Our gifts are the power and resources of Heaven being poured out onto the earth through us.
- 3) According to **1 Corinthians 12:4-13**, what are the gifts God gives? Do you think that list is exhaustive? What types of things would fit into the category of gifts?
- 4) According to **1 Corinthians 12:7**, why have we been given gifts? Would it be accurate to say that the gifts we receive are not really gifts to us but to others through us? (Eph. 4:11-16)
- 5) Read **Ephesians 4:16**. What is the outcome if each part of the body does its work?
- 6) Some in your group might be wondering, "How do I get started using my gifts?" Lead them through a time of evaluation and prayer.
 - a. Be filled with the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18) Each day, spend time with God, His Word, and ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Write down the answer to this question: **What am I uncommonly good at?** What is something you do – in your work, at home, or at church that you are good at? What do you do that brings people closer to God and each other? What do you do that bears the fingerprints of Heaven?
 - c. Write down the answer to this question: **What am I passionate about?** Some people group? Some activity? Some part of the world? Some need? God not only gives abilities, He gives passions associated with that gift. Your passion is the address at which you use your gifts.

- d. Write down the answer to this question: **What do others see in me?** Have the group affirm what they see in each other.

CHALLENGE

This week commit to ask God to fill you with His Spirit and give you whatever gift(s) you need to bring Him glory and benefit others.

“Lord, I do not know what I will encounter today. Fill me with your Spirit and give to me whatever grace I may need to bring you glory in this world.”

PRAYER

Take time to pray. Ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit so that you will be gifted and empowered, for the glory of God and the benefit of the world.

“Lord, you have said that in the last days you will pour out your Spirit upon all people. I cry out to you from the depths of my heart and ask that you would pour out your Holy Spirit on us. Be Lord over every part of our lives and every aspect of our beings. Fill us with your Holy Spirit and pour over us your peace, faith, truth, and power. Let a Spirit of praise arise in our hearts and teach us to worship you in spirit and in truth. In your grace grant to each of us gifts to be used for your glory and the benefit of others. Reveal to us what those gifts are and guide us in the use of those gifts so that together we will all grow into maturity in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.”