

Spiritual Gifts

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Prepare:

We are all called to do ministry. As part of the body of Christ, we are all given spiritual gifts to do our part in the Kingdom. This study will encourage women to find their place of ministry in the body of Christ by examining the types of spiritual gifts and the individual purposes for them.

The leader should read through the following passages to become familiar with spiritual gifts as listed in scripture: John 16:13-15; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 28; Ephesians 4:11; and 1 Peter 4:9-11.

Materials Needed:

A copy of the Gifts of the Spirit Quiz on page 48 for each woman.

Other helpful resources include

Discover Your Gifts Workbook (Charles Shumate) and *Every-Member Ministry* (Kevin Early) both available through Warner Press (warnerpress.org).

Lesson Presentation

Participants will be expected to identify their own gifts, the type, and explore ways to develop them. Each participant will need a Bible, paper, and pen.

Immerse:

“In Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”

Read: Romans 12:3-8 *1

We are all part of the body of Christ and have been empowered by God with gifts to use in ministry to God’s kingdom. In God’s kingdom, “there is a place for everyone and everyone takes her or his place.”

Taking our place in God’s kingdom involves discovering and using our spiritual gifts. If we don’t know what body part we are in the body of Christ, then we don’t know where and how we are supposed to serve. When we do not know our place of service, we are hindering the work of the body of Christ by not doing our part.

Maybe it is our hands that serve or comfort others. Maybe we are the feet that bring others to where Jesus wants the whole body to go. Maybe it is our voices that sing or encourage others. It is important that we not only discover, but use our spiritual gifts. *2

“What is my spiritual gift and where does it come from?”

Read: John 16: 13-15 *3

The key to spiritual gifts is found in the middle of the passage. Jesus said the way the Holy Spirit works is to, “receive what he will make known to you.” This is essential when it comes to the gifts of the Holy Spirit because it gives us a sound, Biblical foundation for all our definitions! **The Ho-**

Engage:

1. Discussion Questions:

- Do you feel like you have a place in the body of Christ? Why or why not?
- What do you think Paul meant by saying, “each member belongs to all the others?”
- If God calls pastors, then what is everyone else at church supposed to do?
- What does this have to do with spiritual gifts?

2. Take the Gifts of the Spirit Quiz and discuss the answers.

Answers to the Gifts of the Spirit Quiz: 1-F; 2-T; 3-T; 4-T; 5-F; 6-F; 7-T; 8-T; 9-T

3. Discussion Questions:

- In your own words, define spiritual gifts based on the text from John 16:13-15
- How do you share your spiritual gift in your role in the body of Christ?
- Of the spiritual gifts you possess, identify ways to develop the gift.
- How does knowing your spiritual gifts help you to be better able to take your place in the ministry of your congregation and community?

ly Spirit takes something from Christ and reveals it to us! Jesus is glorified.

There is often confusion between what is a spiritual gift and a natural gift. Just remember who gets the glory. Natural gifts draw attention to and glorify the individual. Spiritual gifts draw attention to and glorify the Lord.

EXAMPLES OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

As you read through this list, think of people you know who might have these gifts. How have you seen spiritual gifts expressed in the lives of others?

Prophecy

Takes place when the Holy Spirit makes known to someone what Jesus is saying in order to encourage, edify, or exhort the church. (Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 14:1-3; 1 Corinthians 14:32; 2 Peter 1:21)

Teaching

Takes place when the Holy Spirit awakens a believer to a teachable moment and empowers them to speak or act in that situation. (Mark 11:15-18; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

Encouragement

Takes place when Jesus Christ encourages a person or group of people through an individual who is empowered by the Holy Spirit. (Acts 15:32; Acts 20:2; Romans 12:8)

Mercy / Compassion

Takes place when the Holy Spirit enables a believer to share in the compassion of Christ, which stirs the person to an action that demonstrates what Christ wants to do in that scenario. (Matthew 9:36; Matthew 14:14; Matthew 20:34; Mark 1:41; Romans 12:8)

Giving / Generosity

Takes place when the Holy Spirit empowers a person to reveal Christ's love and nature through the giving of a gift. (Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 8:7)

Hospitality

Takes place when the Holy Spirit empowers a believer to reveal Christ's love through hospitality. (Romans 12:13; Romans 16:23; 1 Timothy 5:10)

Service / Helping Others

Takes place when the Holy Spirit empowers a believer to serve in such a way that reveals Christ's love and nature. (1 Corinthians 12:28; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

Leadership

Takes place when Jesus grants a person a place of authority and the Holy Spirit gives the abilities necessary to carry out that role. (2 Chronicles 13:5; Daniel 2:37-38; Luke 1:32-33; Acts 13:21; Romans 12:8; Romans 13:1)

Administration

Takes place when the Holy Spirit empowers a believer to administer, organize, and direct people, projects, and/or programs just as

Jesus intends. (1 Corinthians 12:28)

Sometimes we admire people for their spiritual gifts. Sometimes, we may wish we had the same gifts as those we admire. However, God has created each of us with love and unique giftedness. Spiritual gifts are not about recognition or church fame, instead our gifts are best expressed by bringing glory to God and God's kingdom. Imagine if each us joyfully served in fullness with the gift God had given us. Imagine what would happen in our churches and communities! *4

Close in prayer.

Definitions and Characteristics of Spiritual Gifts and Manifestations taken from:

Spiritual Gifts Ministries and Manifestations – B.E. Underwood

Engage:

4. Ask each person to identify and list her spiritual gifts. Ask participants to describe the purpose of the spiritual gifts that were given to them. **You may want to use copies of the Discover Your Gifts workbook from Warner Press (warnerpress.org).*

Many times, people do not recognize their gifts; however, others see them. Ask the participants to find a partner and exchange lists. The partners should review each other's lists to see if there are any gifts that were not identified. If they are able to identify gifts that were not listed, instruct them to add it to the list.

Gifts of the Spirit Quiz

*Based on the book *Every-Member Ministry* by Rev. Dr. Kevin W. Early (available through Warner Press, warnerpress.org)

Next to each statement, write *T* for true or *F* for false.

- ___ 1. Only ordained clergy with a seminary education are qualified to render effective ministry.
- ___ 2. Leaders can demonstrate their value by allowing the congregation to minister vicariously through them.
- ___ 3. Pastors who equip others for ministry enable them to exercise their God-given gifts.
- ___ 4. A church is doing well when believers use their spiritual gifts.
- ___ 5. Christians who want to use their spiritual gifts must derive their power and authority from the staff leaders of the congregation.
- ___ 6. A healthy church is one in which the pastor alone functions in his or her God-assigned ministry.
- ___ 7. Laypersons are capable of and should be expected to render effective ministry to others while using their spiritual gifts.
- ___ 8. God is the ultimate source of ministry empowerment.
- ___ 9. An unhealthy leader serves the church by this principle: If you want a job done right, do it yourself.