

session 1 study guide

spiritual gifts: are they for everyone?

dig

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,
since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.*

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24

1. What are spiritual gifts? What is their purpose? Write your definition of spiritual gifts below.

Spiritual gifts are an important piece of our personal relationship with Jesus Christ as well as a vital part of how we interact with, support and grow with the Body of Christ. We are all “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14), uniquely constructed by the Master Craftsman with the perfect set of traits, abilities and talents. These gifts and abilities are not for our own credit, but to bring God glory.

session 1: spiritual gifts: are they for everyone?

2. Spiritual gifts are discussed in four different passages in the New Testament. Read the passage of Scripture listed below and list the various gifts mentioned in that section.

Romans 12:6-8

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

1 Corinthians 12:4-11;
1 Corinthians 12:28-30

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Ephesians 4:7-8,11-12

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

1 Peter 4:9-11

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

3. Look at the complete list on the previous page. What do you notice about the kinds of spiritual gifts on this list?

session 1: spiritual gifts: are they for everyone?

They are called gifts for two reasons: first because we received them from the Holy Spirit, and second because they are all meant to be used to assist and aid the Body of Christ. We received these spiritual gifts, but we also must learn how to utilize them and give them away.

4. Do you think some gifts are more important than others?

5. Read Romans 12:6-8. According to this passage, if you have a particular gift, what should you do?

6. First Corinthians 12:1 says, "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be uninformed" (*RSV*). Continue reading verses 4 to 6. What point does Paul want to make clear about spiritual gifts?

session 1: spiritual gifts: are they for everyone?

7. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-26. What does Paul's metaphor in these verses say about the importance of and connection between the various spiritual gifts?

8. Read and summarize 1 Peter 4:10. Explain how your specific gifts are to be used.

9. How do spiritual gifts benefit others and also accomplish God's work?

session 1: spiritual gifts: are they for everyone?**discovering your gifts**

Do you know what spiritual gifts you have? While no single person except Jesus Christ possesses all spiritual gifts, all Christians have at least one spiritual gift. So how do you find out what yours is? Here are some suggestions for discovering what your spiritual gifts may be.

try it

Sometimes the only way to know if God has gifted you in a certain area is to try out the gift. You will never know if you have the gift of teaching unless you try to teach! Look at the list of spiritual gifts and think back over the last few months.

1. What is one gift that you have recently tried out, and how did the experience work out?

2. Again, looking at your list, what is one spiritual gift that you would be interested in trying out during the upcoming week?

session 1: spiritual gifts: are they for everyone?

3. Brainstorm an opportunity that you could have to put this gift into action.

examine your feelings

Your feelings can be good indicators of where your gifts lie. If you experiment with the gift of teaching and feel extremely uncomfortable and embarrassed, then perhaps you don't have the gift (at this time).

On the other hand, if you were to experiment with the gift of hospitality and find that you enjoy entertaining people, sheltering them and feeding needy neighbors, then you most likely have the gift of hospitality.

1. Do you like being a leader? Do you enjoy helping others? Do you crave knowledge and wisdom? Which of the spiritual gifts do you enjoy doing?

2. Which spiritual gifts are less enjoyable for you?

session 1: spiritual gifts: are they for everyone?

3. Remember that just because you find something difficult or unpleasant doesn't necessarily mean that you don't have the spiritual gift! Read Exodus 3:7-13. In these verses, God is calling Moses up to be a leader. What is Moses' response?

4. What is God's response?

ask those around you

Often times, God will use other Christians in your life to reveal His will to you. Although it may be difficult for you to see your own gifts, those around you may have a clearer perspective about your gifts and talents.

1. If you feel comfortable, ask some of your friends and peers what spiritual gifts they see exhibited in your life. List those gifts below.

session 1: spiritual gifts: are they for everyone?

2. Did your friends' and peers' responses surprise you in any way? Why or why not?

look for opportunities

Another way that God can reveal His will to you is through your circumstances. Do opportunities for hospitality keep knocking at your door? Are you continually presented with chances for leadership? God may be providing opportunities for your spiritual gifts to be revealed.

1. In the last few months, which of the following spiritual gifts have you had opportunities to use?

Spiritual Gift	Opportunity
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>

2. Did you use those gifts? What happened in the situation when you did?

session 1: spiritual gifts: are they for everyone?

Remember to be open to the Holy Spirit surprising you with gifts outside of your normal operating range. You may have one set of gifts at this point in your life, but down the road, those gifts may change according to how the Holy Spirit directs.

using your gifts

So . . . how do you know if you are using your particular spiritual gifts to the glory of God?

evaluate your effectiveness

Occasionally, stop and think about if you are being effective in the role you are in. Ask yourself these three questions:

1. *Am I being effective?*
2. *Am I having a worthwhile impact on the people I am serving?*
3. *Is God using me in this particular area?*

Have you ever been involved in a ministry where you felt ineffective? What do you think was the cause?

There are various reasons why you might not be effective in a particular role. It may be that you were not given that specific spiritual gift, or it may be that you are not giving the task the attention and effort it requires.

expect confirmation from the body of Christ

Often times, God will use other Christians in your life to give you guidance and direction. Fellow believers should be encouraging and discouraging you (with love) in what you do. Listen to them, value their perspective, and then weigh their comments in prayerful consideration.

session 1: spiritual gifts: are they for everyone?

Who in your life can you trust to provide insight and guidance about your spiritual gifts?

failing to use God's gifts

But what happens if we don't use the spiritual gifts that God has bestowed on us?

we bring displeasure to God

In Matthew 25, Jesus tells the Parable of the Talents in which a man entrusted three of his servants with sums of money. Two of the servants invested the money, earning more than the master had originally given them. When the master returned, he said to each of them, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things" (Matthew 25:21). However, when the third servant came before the master, he said, "I knew you were a hard man . . . so I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you" (vv. 24-25).

Read Matthew 25:26-30. What was the master's response to the third servant?

Although in this passage, a talent refers to a sum of money—worth more than one thousand dollars in today's money—our understanding of a talent (a gift or ability) also applies in this parable. God has given us specific talents and abilities that He wants us to use—or we risk losing them.

session 1: spiritual gifts: are they for everyone?

we let down the body of Christ as a whole

“God has arranged the parts . . . just as he wanted them to be. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it” (1 Corinthians 12:18,26). What are the consequences if we don’t use our gifts?

reflect

1. What would happen to the Body of Christ if everyone had the same gifts?

2. Why is it important to discover your spiritual gifts?

session 1: spiritual gifts: are they for everyone?

3. What should you do if you have a friend who is not using his or her spiritual gift?

4. What spiritual gifts do you believe you currently have?

I believe that I have the gift of _____ because ...

I believe that I have the gift of _____ because ...

I believe that I have the gift of _____ because ...

session 1: spiritual gifts: are they for everyone?

5. What spiritual gifts are you fairly certain that you do not possess? List the reasons why you feel you don't have these gifts below.

6. Are you currently using your spiritual gifts? If not, where do you sense God calling you to use your spiritual gifts?

7. How can understanding your own spiritual gifts help you within your family? In your youth group? In your church?

session 1: spiritual gifts: are they for everyone?

meditation



There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.
There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.
There are different kinds of working, but the same God
works all of them in all men.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-6