



LifeGroup Study

2024-02-11

OPEN

Open to Gifts

Leader Notes

OVERVIEW:

Welcome back to our study, Open to the Spirit. Over the six weeks of our series we are exploring who the Holy Spirit is, how He is at work in our lives and how we can follow his lead. For this week, our topic is "Open to Gifts". The Spirit provides gifts to unify and equip the church for its mission in the world. Central to these gifts is love. For today's study we'll explore some of the gifts the Spirit has given the church. You'll have opportunity to think about the gift or gifts the Spirit has given you and how you can use that gift to love and serve others.

ICEBREAKER: I Love My Team!

Creekside is a team based church. Every area of our church has teams of volunteers who serve together to help that ministry area thrive. I am grateful for the many volunteer teams I get to see in action at Creekside. I love our teams! How about you? What team have you been part of? This could be a Creekside team, another volunteer team outside of Creekside, or any sport team or work team. How have you been blessed through being a part of that team? **Share your story with the group!**

STUDY:

Let's begin by looking at two key truths about spiritual gifts. The church is a BODY and everybody in the body has been given a GIFT (or gifts) to love and serve others.

1. The Church is a BODY. Every member has a valuable role to play.

READ: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

¹²Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For we were all baptized by^[c] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. NIV

- **Why do you think Paul would choose to compare the church to a body?**
- **What does it mean to you to be a part of the body of Christ?**

LEADER NOTE: Being a part of the body means you are *needed*. Just like your body needs and benefits from your thumb (for example) the church needs and benefits from each member. Being a part of the body means you have a *role*. Each part of your body has an active role to play to make your body function as it should. It is the same with the church. You have an active role to play to make the church healthy.

2. Everybody has a GIFT (or gifts)!

READ: 1 Corinthians 12:7

⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. NIV

- **Why would God give a gift (or gifts) to every follower of Christ?**

LEADER NOTE: God has given a gift (or gifts) to every follower of Christ for the common good. We are gifted by God not so we can feel good about ourselves or say, "Hey everybody, look at me!". We are gifted, Paul says, for the "common good". The reason the Spirit has given you a gift (or gifts) is for the common good of the church. You have something to bring to the table. You have a valuable contribution to make within the church!

- **What would you say to a follower of Jesus who says, "I don't think I have anything worthwhile to contribute to the church. I don't think I'm gifted."**

LEADER NOTE: There are many Christ followers who struggle to believe they have anything worthwhile to contribute to the church. Some feel that there are others who are far more gifted/talented than they are. Others look around and think that all of the needs in the church are being met so their contribution isn't necessary. Instead of comparing ourselves to others or thinking all the roles are

taken, we can open our hands and receive the gift (or gifts) God holds out for us to receive, the gifts He has given you to serve!

3. VIDEO – Spiritual Gifts Assessment.

<https://groupleaders.org/curriculum-feed/spiritual-gift-assessment>

This video is a Spiritual Gifts Assessment for your group members. It is about 12 minutes long. Take time in group to do this assessment together in group and score your answers on the chart below. After the assessment, meet with one other person in your group and discuss the following questions.

- **What do you think of your results from this assessment? Has this given you a fairly accurate assessment of your spiritual gifts? Why or why not?**
- **How has this exercise encouraged you about how God has wired you up to serve? What questions do you have?**

SPIRITUAL GIFTS ASSESSMENT

This video-based Spiritual Gift Assessment is designed to help you identify your own spiritual gifts. Here's how it works:

1. You'll see a series of 44 statements on the screen, one at a time.
2. On a scale of 1 to 5, determine how accurately each statement describes you. A "5" means the statement is very true of you.
3. Write your number in one of the eleven columns below (the video will tell you where to write your number).
4. Once you've seen all of the statements, tally up totals in the spaces below each column.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

Spiritual Gift Assessment Results: to be completed after video

Write your numbers in the corresponding blanks below.

___ 1. Administration

___ 7. Mercy

___ 2. Evangelism

___ 8. Pastoring

___ 3. Exhortation

___ 9. Serving

___ 4. Giving

___ 10. Teaching

___ 5. Hospitality

___ 11. Wisdom

___ 6. Leadership

Sections of Spiritual Gifts Survey courtesy of LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, TN.



SPIRITUAL GIFT DEFINITIONS. Source: Northpoint Church small group curriculum

Here are general definitions of some of the gifts mentioned in the Bible, but there are varied opinions on these definitions.

1. Administration: advancing the work of God by planning, organizing, executing procedures, and supervising others
2. Evangelism: delivering the gospel to others in a way that consistently helps them trust Christ
3. Exhortation: ministering to others through encouraging, comforting, and using wise counsel to help them become more like Jesus
4. Giving: generously and cheerfully sharing money and resources without expecting anything in return
5. Hospitality: making other people—even strangers—feel welcome and cared for in your home or church
6. Leadership: helping shape the direction of a group in a way that motivates others to get involved and move in the same direction
7. Mercy: being sensitive to those who are suffering; feeling genuine sympathy and empathy, then caring for them with loving words and actions
8. Pastoring: spiritually caring for, protecting, and guiding a group of believers toward spiritual maturity
9. Serving: taking joy from performing any act of service motivated by genuine love for God and others
10. Teaching: being able to understand biblical truths and then instructing others in a way that inspires learning, application, and growth
11. Wisdom: applying spiritual truths practically in decision-making and daily life.
12. *Discerning Spirits: discerning with complete accuracy what is true and what is false.
13. *Faith: living boldly and sometimes taking radical action as a result of deep trust in God (this is distinct from the trust in God and Christ that is true of all believers)
14. *Healing: supernaturally restoring a physical body back to health
15. *Interpreting Tongues: understanding a foreign language with no training, then communicating the message to others
16. *Miracles: performing an act that includes God's intervention into laws of nature
17. *Prophecy: receiving direct revelation from God and then communicating the message to others
18. *Speaking in Tongues: being able to speak in a foreign or unknown language with no training

*Some Christians believe these gifts were temporary, meaning they were only necessary to authenticate Jesus' work of during and immediately after his earthly ministry. For the sake of unity, this assessment only focuses on gifts the majority of believers would agree are active today.

4. GROUP EXERCISE - "This is what I see in you."

Take 10 minutes in group for this exercise. Stay together in pairs of two for this exercise and take 5 minutes to share about the gift or gifts each of you see in the other person. For example, John and Joe pair up for this exercise. John may notice that Joe has a compassionate, caring heart for people. Joe may notice that John regularly makes himself available to help others. John and Joe each take a few minutes to share their insights with one another. The goal of this exercise is that each of your group members would be affirmed by a fellow group member about the gifts the Spirit has given them and how they are using them to benefit others. Note: If some of your group members are new and don't know one another well enough yet to have noticed the gifts in each other, take some time instead to have the group members share about their own experience. "This is how I think God has gifted me."

5. Creekside has a statement "IN A GROUP and ON A TEAM". **What does this statement mean?**

LEADER NOTE: At Creekside our deep desire is that every adult would be IN A GROUP and ON A TEAM. IN A GROUP means we desire that every Creekside adult be connected into a group of like-minded followers of Jesus who can encourage them in their faith. Our LifeGroups are an ideal place to grow your faith in God and your friendships with other people. ON A TEAM means we desire that every Creekside adult serve on a TEAM at Creekside. A TEAM is a group of Creeksiders who serve together. We are a team based church. Every ministry area at Creekside functions through teams of volunteers who serve together to help that ministry area thrive. The reason why we desire every adult to engage in these two areas is we believe these are key ways we can live out our mission to FOLLOW JESUS, LOVE GOD and LOVE PEOPLE.

6. **What questions do you have about serving on a TEAM at Creekside?**

LEADER NOTE: To find out more about serving on a TEAM at Creekside, go to <https://www.creeksidechurch.ca/volunteer/> You are welcome to reach out directly to the pastor or director of any ministry area that you would like to know more about.

PRAYER:

Spend some time together thanking God for the gifts He has given the members of your LifeGroup. Ask Him to continue to show you how you can use your gifts to love and serve people.