

Study Guide #14 (Leader's Guide): K-group Bible Study for Week of February 11, 2018

Title of the Lesson: Spiritual Gifts

This week's bible passage talks about beautiful gifts of grace that God has given to each believer to accomplish ministry. These "grace gifts" are commonly referred to as spiritual gifts. As Christ followers, we need to assess what our spiritual gifts are and then learn how to effectively use them to accomplish God's kingdom work.

- Remind your group that one of the discipleship skills that we want to develop this year is the ability to verbalize scripture to people with whom we will have the opportunity to minister. So we will continue to ask one of you to tell the bible story from memory.
- So, let's give our undivided attention to _____ as he/she verbalizes tonight's bible study passage.

Romans 12:1-8

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Questions

- Now, let's open our bibles to Romans 12:1-8. Let's review the scripture and look for details that need to be emphasized and remembered.
- After clarifying what the bible says, ask what resonated with you the most and why?
- Context Analysis: What comes immediately before and after our passage? How does this shape our understanding of what Paul is saying in Romans 12:1-8?
- This is the first list of spiritual gifts found in the New Testament. Other lists are found in 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, and 1st Peter 4. Look at the accompanying chart titled "Comparison of Spiritual Gifts." What observations can you make from the list of spiritual gifts found in these four passages?

- The church has purchased a tool for each of us to utilize in discerning our spiritual gifts and then learn how to connect them with our passions and style to accomplish God's work. It is a book titled *What You Do Best in the Body of Christ* (leaders pass out the book and have each person write in their name and phone number on the inside of the cover). This is a gift from the church that will help us all to grow in our understanding and practice of spiritual gifts. Let's take a moment and get an overview of the book (leaders give a brief summary of what is included – focus on the 3 main areas of assessment: style, spiritual gifts, and passion). Today we are going to focus on spiritual gifts and how they might connect to our God given passions for ministry.
- First, what in the world are spiritual gifts?
- Have the group turn to page 38 and discuss the official definition of spiritual gifts from the book.
- Okay, with this definition in mind, let's each turn to the back of the book and fill out the spiritual gifts assessment and then enter our responses into the scoring grid on page 146 (this may take about 30 minutes to accomplish – encourage those who finish early to help others record their tabulations into the grid).
- Next, list your top three potential spiritual gifts on page 51 and then read the definitions of those three gifts from the chart on page 49-51.
- Once everyone has completed this assessment, take a moment for each person to share about the results concerning their potential spiritual gifts. Have each person answer the question, "What surprised you and what didn't surprise you and why?" Encourage the group to interact with each person to affirm potential gifts that they have seen in action. Try to give specific examples when affirming. (Leaders will need to manage the time on this so that everyone gets to share and be affirmed).
- If you have time, follow the spiritual gifts discussion with a discussion about passion. Ask, what in life really excites you, what energizes you, what do you like to daydream about? Write down your answers on page 86 in your book. (If you don't have time, ask the group to complete the passion questions on p. 83-89 and to bring their books back to next week's K-group meeting.)
- Take time to let people share about their passions and to think about how these could be used in ministry? Encourage the group to interact with each person who shares to affirm them or to give ideas or suggestions.
- Lastly, ask, how can you connect your spiritual gift(s) to our ministry passion(s). What might be the result of this?
- What actions do you plan to take as a result of this study and discussion?

Close with prayer. Pray specifically that the group can follow through with what God has put on their hearts to do.