

“Through Our Gifts”

(1) Getting Started	(3) Questions?
<p>Review From Last Week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recite Matthew 28:18-20 or any other Scriptures you are working on memorizing. <p>Getting to Know You</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What sorts of messages were you taught about giving or serving in the churches you’ve attended? In what ways have you seen God move through the generosity of His people in the past? 	<p>Diving Deeper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 In what way is this a picture of a group of people who: <i>Love God completely</i> <i>Love self correctly</i> <i>Love others compassionately?</i> How is this model different from how we tend to think of giving?
(2) Read Scripture	(4) Application
<p>Read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romans 12:3-8 <p>Discuss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take 5-10 minutes and make observations about these verses. (Bring up anything you see). 	<p>Reflect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor Dave said that he doesn’t like Spiritual Gifts tests because they can often be manipulated toward the outcome we would prefer. Instead of doing a test, go around the group and name a spiritual gift or two you see in each member (for lists of gifts, see the list on the following pages). If you are not using the gifts God has given you, would you mind sharing with the group why? If you are, would you share how that experience has shaped you as a follower of Jesus?

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

ADMINISTRATION: The ability to help steer the church, or a ministry, toward the successful completion of God-given goals, with skills in planning, organization, and supervision.

APOSTLE: A person sent to new places with the gospel. You may have heard of missionaries going to different countries to help spread the Word; they could be described as apostles. An apostle can also provide leadership to other churches or ministries and offer advice on spiritual matters.

DISCERNMENT: The wisdom to recognize truth from untruth by correctly evaluating whether a behavior or teaching is from God or another, ungodly source.

EVANGELISM: The ability to successfully communicate the message of the gospel, especially to nonbelievers.

EXHORTATION: Competence in offering encouragement, comfort, and support to help someone be all that God wants them to be.

FAITH: People with this gift have such great confidence in the power and promises of God that they can stand strong in their belief, no matter what may try to shake them. They can also stand up for the church and for their faith in such a way as to defend and move it forward.

GIVING: Those who have this gift are particularly willing and able to share what resources they have with pleasure, and without the need to see them returned.

HEALING: A capability used by God to restore others, be that physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually.

HELPS: Someone with this gift is able to support or assist members of the body of Christ so that they may be free to minister to others.

HOSPITALITY: A natural ability to make people—even strangers—feel welcome in one’s own home or church as a means to disciple or serve them.

KNOWLEDGE: This is the gift of someone who actively pursues knowledge of the Bible. This person may also enjoy analyzing biblical data.

LEADERSHIP: This aptitude marks a person who is able to stand before a church, to direct the body with care and attention, and to motivate them toward achieving the church’s goals.

MERCY: This is the defining trait of a person with great sensitivity for those who are suffering. It manifests itself in offering compassion and encouragement, and in a love for giving practical help to someone in need.

PROPHECY: The ability to speak the message of God to others. This sometimes involves foresight or visions of what is to come. This skill should be used only to offer encouragement or warning.

SERVING: A talent for identifying tasks needed for the body of Christ and using available resources to get the job done.

SPEAKING IN TONGUES: The supernatural ability to speak in another language (one that has not been learned).

TEACHING: The skill to teach from the Bible and communicate it effectively for the understanding and spiritual growth of others.

WISDOM: The gift of being able to sort through facts and data to discover what needs to be done for the church.

It should be noted that not every Christian believes all these spiritual gifts are still given by God. Some think that there were certain gifts, such as speaking in tongues, that were handed down only for a time when they were needed in biblical history and are no longer needed now.