

“Serving or Being Served?”

(1) Getting Started	(3) Digging Deeper
<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader: Since there may be new people in your group this week, have the group introduce themselves again this week. <p>Vision for the Semester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serving isn’t something we can only do alone. Discuss how your group can serve together this semester. <p>Prayer Requests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take prayer requests and spend time as a group in prayer, either at the beginning or end of the meeting. 	<p>Read Romans 12:13-8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where do you see <i>unity</i> in this passage? • Where do you see <i>diversity</i>? • How does the imagery of a body help us understand Jesus’ design for His church? <p>Read Ephesians 4:11-16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you ever experienced “burn out” in ministry? • What led to it? • What is the <i>ideal</i> picture of the church that Paul paints for us in this passage?
(2) Read Scripture	(4) Application
<p>Read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John 13:1-17 <p>Travelling Instructions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who took the Word Partners training were introduced to the idea of “travelling instructions”, meaning that there is no direct route from Scripture directly to us today. <p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the significance of foot washing in Jesus’ day? <p>Application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since this isn’t something done in our culture today, what is the <i>principle</i> we can apply in its place? 	<p>Application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the list of Spiritual Gifts attached to this pdf <p>If the members are <i>unknown</i> to each other, ask each one:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which gift(s) do you think you may have? 2. Which gift(s) have others said they think you have? <p>If the members are <i>known</i> to each other:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Go around and “build one another up” by affirming what gifts you see in each other <p>Close in prayer.</p>

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.