



Small Group Discussion Guide

Not in a group? Email us at smallgroups@myriversidechurch.com

Ice Breaker: When playing games with others, do you enjoy games that you have to work together as a team to meet an objective or do you prefer games where you individually have to play against other individuals to win?

Instructions: If your group meets bi weekly, answer questions 1 and 3.

1. Read Matthew 22:37-40 and 1 John 4:20-21. As followers of Jesus, how we relate to one another demonstrates a counter-culture reality. As Christ followers we are told to love our God and love our neighbor. How should our relationships with one another be different than the culture at large? What have you recently done to show that you truly love your neighbor? What challenges do you face that prevent you from loving your neighbor? What can you do to overcome these challenges? How does loving our brother and sister demonstrate our love of God?
2. 1 Corinthians 12:2-7 explains that one's spiritual gift may be different than one's natural talents, abilities, or vocations and not always connected to our natural skills, abilities, training, and education. Why does God choose to give us a spiritual gift that may be unrelated to our past experience? How does this demonstrate God's grace? In your experience, have you identified a spiritual gift that you've received? Is it consistent with your talents and abilities? If not, how did you discover this gift?
3. Pastor Tom said, "All spiritual gifts find their fullest expression through men, women and students who are involved and committed to the Body of Christ, working with others as a team". How do spiritual gifts build up the church? Have you been able to use your spiritual gift(s) to build up the church? What was that experience like? At Riverside we emphasize Next Steps. Do you want to understand how God has gifted you? Is your Next Step serving? It is the best way to learn your God-given gifting.
4. Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-27. Pastor Tom said, "When everyone is using the gifts God has given them, the church demonstrates what real spirituality and relational health looks like. It makes every person valuable and necessary and wanted." How does diversity help the church? What can we do to ensure everyone is valued and necessary and wanted? How is this attitude counter-cultural? Have you seen people with different gifts complement one another on a team?

Personal Guides Available Each Week!

Looking for a personal study to enhance what you're hearing on Sunday morning? Pick up a copy of the Personal Guide by either entrance or at www.myriversidechurch.com/smallgroups.



MESSAGE NOTES & DISCUSSION GUIDE

"Gifted...or Talented?" (part 1) - Week of Feb. 14th, 2016



“Gifted...or Talented?” (Part 1)

[Senior Pastor, Tom Lundeen]

(You can sign up for Pastor Tom's e-newsletter for his thoughts on various subjects at pastortom@myriversidechurch.com)

MESSAGE NOTES

...the challenge for every generation of Jesus followers is:

- How do we engage the culture without _____ the gospel?
- How do we deal with the reality that the same culture which often scares us and _____ us has also left its imprint in our lives that we bring with us into Jesus' Church?

What we have learned so far is this: The primary way we engage the culture without losing the gospel is by demonstrating a counter-culture reality as followers of Jesus that is primarily expressed in _____ (with God and others).

Note Matthew 22:37-40; 1 John 4:20-21

1. What Are Spiritual Gifts?

Note 1 Corinthians 1:7 and 12:1

“Spiritual gift” = “c_____”; “Spiritual gifts” = “charismata”
Root word = “charis” = “_____”

A spiritual gift is a m_____ of the Holy Spirit enabling one to minister to the needs of Christ's body, the church.” (Mare)

A spiritual gift is a special a_____ given by the Holy Spirit to every member of the Body of Christ according to God's grace for use within the context of the Body.” (Wagner)

Note 1 Corinthians 12:2-7

There's a difference between natural talents, _____, vocations, and spiritual gifts.

Spiritual gifts are not always connected to our natural skills, abilities, t_____, and education.

2. Who Has Spiritual Gifts?

Every member of God's family has at least _____ spiritual gift
(*note 1 Corinthians 12:7*).

God s_____ determines who gets which gifts
(*note 1 Corinthians 12:11*).

Note 1 Corinthians 12:14, 20, and 27.

3. What Are Spiritual Gifts For?

Spiritual gifts are not _____ in themselves.

God gives you and me spiritual gifts to bless and b_____ the Body of Jesus/the church (*note 1 Corinthians 12:12-13*).

Individual Christians disconnected from the Body are not useful. Spiritual gifts are not designed for Lone Rangers. They are designed for members of the Body. (Wagner)

Spiritual gifts are functional, but they are also “c_____”.

All spiritual gifts find their _____ expression through men, women, and students who are involved and committed to the Body of Christ, working with others as a team.

4. Why Spiritual Gifts Matter So Much

When everyone is using the gifts God has given them, the church demonstrates what real spiritual and relational _____ looks like.

It makes every person valuable and necessary and _____
(*note 1 Corinthians 12:14-27*).

Using spiritual gifts God has given us can:

- Help us experience the Christ-_____ more completely.
- Make s_____ more effective and exciting.
- Help the entire church/body be healthy and g_____
(*note Ephesians 4:7, 11-16*).
- Help us g_____ God (*note 1 Peter 4:10-11*).

When we allow God to “Re-New” us personally and as a church, we will be able to engage the culture without losing the gospel:

- Spiritual gifts are one way that God takes broken, faulty, ordinary people and _____ transforms them personally and creates a supernaturally empowered community/family that captures the attention of a culture that while critical of the Church/Christ-followers, is still open to spiritual truth and genuine spirituality lived out in real people's lives (*note 1 Corinthians 1:26-31*).
- Help us help you discover and develop the gift (s) God has given you.

Fill out the special connect card today and try a First Serve! Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey.



"Gifted or Talented? (Part 1)"

[Sr Pastor, Tom Lundeen]

(You can sign up for Pastor Tom's e-newsletter for his thoughts on various subjects at pastortom@myriversidechurch.com)

MESSAGE NOTES

the challenge for every generation of Jesus followers is:

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What we have learned so far is this: The primary way we engage the culture without losing the gospel is by demonstrating a counter-culture reality as followers of Jesus that is primarily expressed in relationships (with God and others).

Note Matthew 22:37-40; 1 John 4:20-21

1. What Are Spiritual Gifts?

Note 1 Corinthians 1:7 and 12:1

"Spiritual gift" = "charisma"; "Spiritual gifts" = "charismata"

Root word = "charis" = "grace"

A spiritual gift is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit enabling one to minister to the needs of Christ's body, the church. "(Mare)

A spiritual gift is a special attribute given by the Holy Spirit to every member of the Body of Christ according to God's grace for use within the context of the Body. "(Wagner)

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God sovereignly determines who gets which gifts (note 1 Corinthians 12:11).

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God gives you and me spiritual gifts to bless and build-up the Body of Jesus/the church (note 1 Corinthians 12:12-13).

Individual Christians disconnected from the Body are not useful. Spiritual gifts are not designed for Lone Rangers. They are designed for members of the Body. (Wagner)

Spiritual gifts are functional, but they are also "congregational".

All spiritual gifts find their fullest expression through men, women, and students who are involved and committed to the Body of Christ, working with others as a team.

4. Why Spiritual Gifts Matter So Much

When everyone is using the gifts God has given to them, the church demonstrates what real spiritual and relational health looks like.

It makes every person valuable and necessary and wanted (note 1 Corinthians 12:14-27).

Using spiritual gifts God has given us can:

- Help us experience the Christ-life more completely.
- Make serving more effective and exciting.
- Help the entire church/body be healthy and growing (note Ephesians 4:7, 11-16).
- Help us glorify God (note 1 Peter 4:10-11).

When we allow God to "Re-New" us personally and as a church we will be able to engage the culture without losing the gospel:

- Spiritual gifts are one way that God takes broken, faulty, ordinary people and radically transforms them personally and creates a supernaturally empowered community/family that captures the attention of a culture that while critical of the Church/Christ-followers, is still open to spiritual truth and genuine spirituality lived out in real people's lives (note 1 Corinthians 1:26-31).
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