

Giver & Users
Week 1: What is a Spiritual Gift?

Series Big Idea: God has given spiritual gifts to every follower of Jesus, but for many of us these gifts are unwrapped and unexplored. How can we help each other discover their spiritual gifts and their unique role in serving one another?

Sermon Big Idea: Are you willing to seek the Spiritual Gift the Holy Spirit has given you?

Scripture Passages

- **Matthew 3:16-17** - Jesus is baptized and the Holy Spirit descends on him.
- **Phil 2:6-7** - Paul clarifies that Jesus gave up his divine privileges
- **1 Corinthians 12:7-11** - Paul writes about the purpose of Spiritual Gifts
- **John 15:5** - Jesus teaches his disciples about the importance of remaining connected to Jesus.
- **1 Corinthians 13:1-7** - Love is the foundational way to understand Spiritual Gifts.

Additional Scripture Passages

- **1 Corinthians 12:18-27** - Paul describes the church as the Body of Christ and talks about how we are all interdependent on each other.

Definitions:

- **Natural Abilities** are something you are born with the ability to do well.
- **Learned Skills/Talents** are abilities that we develop over time through practicing, learning, working, and through experience.
- **Spiritual Gifts** are a specific ability that is given to all followers of Jesus by the Holy Spirit for the sake of ministering to one another.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever thought about the importance of the Holy Spirit descending on Jesus at his baptism. What does this reveal to us about how the Holy Spirit empowers people for ministry?
2. Natural abilities and Learned Skills/Talents are often confused with Spiritual gifts. Why is it important to recognize that Spiritual Gifts have the specific purpose of ministering to one another? What other distinctions are there between natural abilities, learned skills, and spiritual gifts?
3. Read **1 Corinthians 12:5-11**. What does Paul put the most emphasis on in this portion of the letter to the Corinthian church?
4. Read **1 Corinthians 12:18-27**. What is Paul trying to say to the Corinthian church in this passage? Why is it important for us to recognize that one gift is not superior to another?
5. In the middle of his writing about spiritual gifts, Paul says “But now let me show you a way of life that is best of all.” (1 Cor 12:31) and then writes the famous “Love Chapter” of

1 Corinthians 13:1-7. Read through this passage. Why is love so critical for the proper use of Spiritual Gifts?

6. What are you doing on a regular basis to grow your character and remain connected to Jesus? (Read John 15:1-6 for why this is critically important)
7. Are you willing to seek, discover, and develop the spiritual gift(s) that the Holy Spirit has already given you? What would you need to do to lean in and discover your spiritual gift?

Take time to pray for each other to lean in and discover your spiritual gift(s).