

## Respond to the call to serve: *What are spiritual gifts?*

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

#### Facilitator Notes:

#### I wonder...

- What are spiritual gifts?
- Are spiritual gifts the same as natural talents, fruit of the Spirit, or spiritual disciplines?

#### I believe...

- Spiritual gifts are gifts from God that are revealed when we engage the Holy Spirit.
- I believe and understand that while my spiritual gifts are different than my natural talents, the fruit of the Spirit, and spiritual disciplines, all four are important for my life as a follower of Christ.

#### Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Toolbox with screwdriver, hammer, tape measure, and an assortment of other tools
- Chart paper or whiteboard
- Markers
- *Spiritual Gifts Definitions* handout for students

#### References:

- *Spiritual Gifts – Extended Definitions* for facilitators
- Bible: Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 4:11-16,

### PRE DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENT (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

What are spiritual gifts? This week we will be discussing what spiritual gifts are and are not. Join us tomorrow for small group at \_\_\_\_\_.

### POST DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

#### Facilitator Notes:

- Please keep the main message intact, but feel free to add local information as necessary.
- Attach the *Spiritual Gifts Definitions* handout to this message for the parents' reference.

Dear Parents,  
 This week the "I Wonder..." questions are about our spiritual gifts, what they are, and what they are not. Please reference the attached document for a list of the gifts we discussed and their definitions. This week, consider having a conversation with your student about what gifts you have seen your student display. Encourage him/her to look at themselves to see what may be a passion or interest that they may use in serving others and helping to build up the Body of Christ.

Your Youth Leaders

## SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

### Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?
- What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?
- So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
- Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

## HOOK (up to 10 minutes)

### Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.
- Point out that you **can** get the nail in with the screwdriver – but it's more effective with the correct tool.

- How are you and how are you feeling today?
- Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week?

Place your toolbox on the table and begin by pulling out your hammer and screwdriver.

**Tell the students something like:** I have many different tools in my toolbox. Here is a hammer and a screwdriver. What is a screwdriver created to do? Act like a hammer? Have you tried to use it as hammer? (*act like you are trying to put in a nail with screwdriver*)

It really isn't very effective on nails. Hammers, on the other hand, work really well with nails; you can pull them out or hammer them in. Have you ever tried to put a screw in with a hammer? Doesn't work very well, does it? Each tool was created for a specific purpose.

## SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

### Facilitator Notes:

- Preview the "I wonder" questions with the students.

### I wonder...

- What are spiritual gifts?
- Are spiritual gifts the same as natural talents, fruit of the Spirit, or spiritual disciplines?

## LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

### Facilitator Notes:

### Student Question #1 What are spiritual gifts?

Spiritual gifts are gifts from God that are revealed when we engage the Holy Spirit. In this semester, we will be discussing the R of the THRIVE acronym, "Responding to the call to serve." We serve by engaging these spiritual gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit. What are they? Well, just like the hammer and the screwdriver, each have been created for a separate task, so we all have different gifts and abilities. It is important to find and discover what unique gifts we have, that we do not become like a screwdriver trying to hammer in a nail.

- Reference the *Spiritual Gifts - Extended Definitions* document for facilitators.
- Hand out the *Spiritual Gifts Definitions* document to the students.

Look through the *Spiritual Gifts Definitions* handout. Review what spiritual gifts are and then review the list of gifts and discuss. What gifts do the students find interesting? What gifts are confusing or need to be explained?

Remind the students that because we have the gift of the Holy Spirit in us, we actually have all these gifts. The Holy Spirit allows some of these gifts to be strong and prevalent in our lives at different times, so over the course of your life, you might display many different gifts. However, it takes time to see and understand these gifts, so don't be worried if you don't know which ones are important to you right now. As you grow and develop, your gifts will become more apparent.

Discovering our spiritual gifts is a process aimed at understanding how God has designed us and what He expects of us. It is about discovering who we are, and understanding our place within the Body of Christ. It is a tool to support spiritual health, growth, and maturity. Through this process, we can better understand how and where He wants each of us to engage our spiritual gifts in His salvation plan while preparing for Christ's return.

**Student Question #2 What are the differences between spiritual gifts and natural talents or abilities?**

On paper or a whiteboard, draw a simple chart (an example is below). As you write the information into the two columns, discuss the meaning and relationship between the two phrases. Follow up with questions highlighting examples to promote understanding. Example: When did you get your talent to sing? Does your best friend have a talent?

**Natural Talents**

Given at physical birth  
 God-given to all people

**Spiritual Gifts**

Given at spiritual birth  
 God-given to believers

**Tell the students something like:** Your spiritual gifts are the primary way that you contribute to the Body of Christ. Your talents may or may not be a contributing factor. In order to determine whether or not there is a relationship between a natural talent and a spiritual gift, ask yourself, "Does my natural ability regularly glorify God and edify others?"

- The main point to focus on is that while natural talents are different from spiritual gifts, there is a relationship between them. Your natural talents can enhance your spiritual gifts and vice versa. For example: my natural talent for drawing can be enhanced by the spiritual gifts of Creative Communication.

- Draw another chart and fill in the answers as you discuss with the students.

- **Fruit of the Spirit:** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.* (Galatians 5:22-23)

- “Doing qualities” - qualities that can be put into actions. So the fruit of the Spirit is **who you are** while you are using your spiritual gifts **to do something**.
  - I can teach with gentleness.
  - I can be encouraging with love.

- Draw another chart and fill in the answers as you discuss with the students.

- Spiritual disciplines will be explored in depth in the “Invest in your spiritual health” semester of the THRIVE youth small group curriculum.

**Student Question #3** What are the differences and similarities between spiritual gifts and fruit of the Spirit?

<u>Fruit of the Spirit</u>	<u>Spiritual Gifts</u>
Inward characteristics of the believer’s heart	“Doing” qualities
Attitudes	Aptitudes
Result of healthy walk with God	Abilities given by Holy Spirit
Necessary for effective ministry	Necessary for effective ministry

**Tell the students something like:** The fruit of the Spirit develops when we give the Holy Spirit room in us to work. God is also concerned with the attitude in our hearts while we are serving – not just what we are doing.

**Ask the students:** Which wing of the airplane is the most important?

Both are essential for a successful flight. This is like the fruit of the Spirit and spiritual gifts. You need both. What are the gifts without love? What is love without the expression of gifts?

**Example question:** If you’re asked to dry the dishes, but complain the whole time, is that God-pleasing? If you help teach Sunday School, but easily lose patience with the children, are you using your gift of Teaching in the way that God intended?

**Student Question #4** What are the differences between spiritual gifts and spiritual disciplines?

<u>Spiritual Disciplines</u>	<u>Spiritual Gifts</u>
All should be practiced in a believer’s life	A few will be practiced in a believer’s life
Builds up, strengthens growth in the individual	Builds up, strengthens growth in the Body of Christ
Some of the many ways we receive grace	God-given ways we are to extend grace
Everyone should exercise disciplines	Everyone should express their spiritual gifts

**Tell the students:** The disciplines are significant habits that enable believers to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Each of us should be developing habits that keep us spiritually and relationally healthy. These disciplines are activities evidenced in some measure in the life of every fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ. Spiritual disciplines strengthen the individual; spiritual gifts strengthen others.

## WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)

### Facilitator Notes:

Wrap up the lesson with why we need to recognize our spiritual gifts and how knowing our spiritual gifts can help us to respond to the call to serve.

### Close with the "I Wonder...." questions

- Ask a student to read an "I Wonder..." question, and invite another student to answer with an "I Believe..." statement or an "I Believe..." statement in their own words.
- As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.
- Remind the students that on their Confirmation day, they will or have already promised and committed to surrendering themselves to God in belief and obedience.

### I wonder...

- What are spiritual gifts?
- Are spiritual gifts the same as natural talents, fruit of the Spirit, or spiritual disciplines?

### I believe...

- Spiritual gifts are gifts from God that are revealed when we engage the Holy Spirit.
- I believe and understand that while my spiritual gifts are different than my natural talents, the fruit of the Spirit, and spiritual disciplines, all four are important for my life as a follower of Christ.

### Point to Ponder....

- Being guided by the Holy Spirit and the apostles, the first Christians helped each other and built up the church. Today we are asked to do the very same thing using our spiritual gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit.

### A Call to Action....

This week, think about what spiritual gifts you have seen being put into action around you. What gifts have you seen your parents display? What gifts have you seen your teachers display?

Write a prayer to thank God for empowering and equipping us to do His work, and to help each other.

### Weekly Reflections

What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?

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What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?

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So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

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Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

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**Point to Ponder...**

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**Call to Action...**

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## Respond to the call to serve: *What are spiritual gifts?*

<b>I wonder...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What are spiritual gifts?</li> <li>➤ Are spiritual gifts the same as natural talents, fruit of the Spirit, or spiritual disciplines?</li> </ul>	<b>I believe...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Spiritual gifts are gifts from God that are revealed when we engage the Holy Spirit.</li> <li>➤ I believe and understand that while my spiritual gifts are different than my natural talents, the fruit of the Spirit, and spiritual disciplines, all four are important for my life as a follower of Christ.</li> </ul>
<b>References:</b> <i>Spiritual Gifts Definitions</i> handout, Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 4:11-16	

### 1. What are spiritual gifts?

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### 2. What are the differences between spiritual gifts and natural talents or abilities?

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### 3. What are the differences and similarities between spiritual gifts and fruit of the Spirit?

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### 4. What are the differences between spiritual gifts and spiritual disciplines?

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**Point to Ponder:** Being guided by the Holy Spirit and the apostles, the first Christians helped each other and built up the church. Today we are asked to do the very same thing using our spiritual gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit.

**Call to Action:** This week, think about what spiritual gifts you have seen being put into action around you. What gifts have you seen your parents display? What gifts have you seen your teachers display?

Write a prayer to thank God for empowering and equipping us to do His work, and to help each other.