

CHAPTER 8

SERVICE: DISCOVERING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Refer to **pg 93** in the workbook

Summary

Spiritual gifts are given by God when the person becomes a Christian so that he or she becomes an effective member of the Body of Christ. Most of the gifts mentioned in the Bible are noted. The purpose of gifts is emphasized.

The practical is to begin to discover spiritual gifts through a questionnaire. Guiding principles to developing the gifts are given.

Preparation

1. Extra Bibles, pens and pencils
2. Photocopies of Spiritual Gift Discovery Questionnaire in separate Word file: **Ch 8_Sp Gift Discovery Questionnaire**
3. Photocopies of Spiritual Gift Profile Sheet in Word file: **Ch 8_Sp Gift Profile Sheet**
4. Photocopies of Description of Spiritual Gifts in separate Word file: **Ch 8_Description of Sp Gifts**
5. Memory verse 1 Peter 4:10

Teacher's Guide

Let the learners circle the present they would like to receive. Have some fun discussing what they want. Feel free to add others like dresses, chemistry sets, telescope, etc.

Refer to **pg 94** in the workbook

Bring their attention to the fact that they chose according to their characters. Later, you will remind them that God also gives spiritual gifts in line with their characters.

1. God gives us spiritual gifts when we become members of His family. Let the learners look up the verses given and answer the questions.

The flow of thought here is like this.

When a person becomes a Christian, he or she is a new creation. This new creation is God's workmanship.

Why are we re-created? To do good works (you may add the rest of Ephesians 2:10 which says that these are good works 'which God prepared in advance for us to do').

Now how are we equipped to do these good works? Everyone has been given a spiritual gift so that these good works of serving others and building up the church, the people of God.

Question 1:

What happens when you become a Christian?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17.

You become a **new creation**

2 Corinthians 5:17

If anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; the old has gone, the new has come!

Refer to **pg 95** in the workbook

Question 2:
What are you created (or newly created) for?
Read Ephesians 2:10.
Created for **good works**

Ephesians 2:10
For we are God's
workmanship, created
in Christ Jesus to do
good works.

Question 3:
How are you prepared for the good work God
has in mind for you? Read 1 Peter 4:10.
You have received a **gift** of the Spirit

1 Peter 4:10
Each one should use
whatever **gift** he has
received to **serve**
others.

Question 4:
What do you do with what you have received?
See the same verse above.
Use it to **serve others**

God has given us **spiritual gifts**. Write this into the boxed section.

Refer to **pg 96** in the workbook

Let the learners go through the wordsearch highlighting the words as they are discovered.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
T	L	N	O	N	S	G	G	M	A	T	T	R	N	M	1
D	E	E	O	N	O	I	N	P	E	S	G	O	G	I	2
I	A	G	T	I	V	I	O	I	I	R	I	H	N	S	3
S	D	E	D	I	S	S	T	L	V	T	C	N	I	S	4
C	E	T	N	E	T	S	E	A	A	R	M	Y	L	I	5
E	R	G	H	L	L	G	E	R	T	O	E	S	A	O	6
R	S	E	E	C	N	W	T	C	D	R	P	S	E	N	7
N	H	H	U	A	P	S	O	S	R	L	O	R	H	A	8
M	I	C	V	A	I	H	I	N	E	E	W	H	H	R	9
E	P	E	S	N	Y	W	S	H	K	P	T	I	X	Y	10
N	Y	T	I	L	A	T	I	P	S	O	H	N	R	E	11
T	O	M	C	R	A	F	T	M	A	N	S	H	I	P	12
R	D	T	E	A	C	H	E	R	H	T	I	A	F	I	13
A	M	U	S	I	C	T	E	H	P	O	R	P	T	U	14
A	L	G	I	F	T	S	A	R	E	G	I	V	E	N	15

ANSWERS

(OVER, DOWN, DIRECTION)

First letter in darker print box

- ADMINISTRATION (1,14,NE)
- APOSTLE (10,1,SW)
- CRAFTMANSHIP (4,12,E)
- DISCERNMENT (1,2,S)
- EVANGELIST (3,10,NE)
- EXHORTATION (15,11,NW)
- FAITH (14,13,W)
- GIVING (8,1,SW)
- HEALING (14,8,N)
- HELPS (9,10,NE)
- HOSPITALITY (12,11,W)
- INTERCESSION (14,12,NW)

- KNOWLEDGE (10,10,NW)
- LEADERSHIP (2,1,S)
- MERCY (9,1,SE)
- MISSIONARY (15,1,S)
- MUSIC (2,14,E)
- PASTOR (6,8,SW)
- PROPHET (13,14,W)
- SERVING (13,7,NW)
- TEACHER (3,13,E)
- WISDOM (7,10,NE)

Refer to **pg 97** in the workbook

3. The hidden message is '**TO STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH**'.

You will find an inventory with a description and Bible reference of each of the different gifts in a separate Word file: Ch 8_Description of Sp Gifts. Let the learners know that different questionnaires have different lists of gifts. The one that you just did, for example, did not include gifts like working of miracles, tongues and interpretation of tongues. So get a better idea of your own gift, it might be good to 'get a second opinion' by working out other questionnaires. There should be some harmony for our more obvious gifts.

Emphasize that the gifts are to strengthen the church and for serving others. They are not given so that we can be proud of them.

You may at this time ask them what they think their gifts are. The confirmation of others in the group will be helpful. Tell them that a more detailed questionnaire will be given later.

Refer to **pg 98** in the workbook

4. Give them some time to go through the quiz by themselves and then discuss each question.

The answers are as follows.

1. F
2. T
3. F
4. T
5. F
6. T
7. T

These are the thoughts to be emphasized.

1. Everyone has at least one spiritual gift. Some may have more than one. But no one is to feel that he or she has been left out. Reference: 1 Peter 4:10 - 'each has received'.

2. Gifts are given for the common good, to strengthen the church. Reference: 1 Corinthians 12:7 - 'common good'.

3. This is the Corinthian debacle when boasting about one's spiritual gifts becomes a real problem in the church community. Emphasize the place of 1 Corinthians 13 about love in between teaching about spiritual gifts.

4. Spiritual gifts are to be used and to be used with love and concern in order to build up others and ultimately the whole church community.

5. Spiritual gifts need to be nurtured, developed and practised. It can be hard work. Reference: 2 Timothy 1:6 - 'fan to flame the gift of God'.

6. The Holy Spirit in his sovereignty distributes gifts. Reference: 1 Corinthians 12:11 - 'just as he determines'.

7. God is the God of variety. He gives different gifts to different people.

Encourage the learners to take down some notes.

Refer to **pg 99** in the workbook

1. The questionnaire is given in a separate Word file: **Ch 8_Sp Gift Discovery Questionnaire**. Have enough copies for everyone.

Go through the test yourself first before you let the learners do it. You may need to explain some of the words or even change the terms. Feel free to do so. This resource is in Word so that you can make changes if necessary to the wordings.

Some learners may not be able to zero in as to their spiritual gift. You may like to spend time to pray for them that God will reveal this to them. Encourage them that they will definitely find out in time. In the mean time, encourage them to grow as a Christian by reading the Bible, praying, worshipping and witnessing. Where there are opportunities for service, encourage them to try out. Even if they do not do so well at first, they may find the assurance that they will do better the next time around.

Encourage mutual accountability and encouragement so that the group watches out for manifestations of each other's gifts.

Refer to **pg 100** in the workbook

2. Emphasize the acronym 'GROW'. Spiritual gifts need to be developed through discipline and growing spirituality.

Revise the meaning of the acronym at the end after your explanations.

Refer to **pg 101** in the workbook

The memory verse is 1 Peter 4:10. You may let them read it together before writing it down.

Revise the other memory verses.

1 Peter 4:10

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others.

Let the learners go through the summary by themselves.

TODAY I LEARNED ...

- 1 that when we become Christians, God gives us **spiritual** gifts
- 2 that it is the **Holy Spirit** who decides what gift each person receives
- 3 that these gifts are to **strengthen** and to **build** up the church
- 4 that these gifts are to be used to **serve** others
- 5 that gifts are to be used with **love** and **concern** for others

Refer to **pg 106** in the workbook

- 6 that my spiritual gift could be _____
- 7 that I need **guidance** and **correction** from other Christians in using my gifts
- 8 that the point of the gifts is so that I get to know the **Giver** better

AND I LEARNED HOW

to **discover** and **develop** my spiritual gift