

WEEK 3

GOD RESTORES RELATIONSHIPS

GOD GIVES GIFTS TO SERVE

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

THE FOUR KEYS . . .

KEY VERSE

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10

KEY IDEAS

1. Spiritual gifts are given by God.
2. Spiritual gifts glorify God.
3. Spiritual gifts serve the church.

KEY PASSAGE

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

KEY PRINCIPLES



EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

God gives spiritual gifts to His followers to help them serve Him and build His church.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

inspired that God gives spiritual gifts to help us fulfill His calling for each of our lives.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

recognize that spiritual gifts are only given to those who are children of God, who have trusted in Jesus for salvation from sin.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

discover their gift if they are in Christ and use it to the glory of God to help build the church.

INTRODUCTION

Spiritual gifts are tools that are given by God when a person places their faith in Jesus and becomes a Christian. Every Christian is gifted individually for the purpose God has for their life and should desire to discover their unique gifting so that they may use it to glorify God and help build the church. God has a purpose for each and every Christian and He gives us all we need through the Holy Spirit to fulfill that calling. Spiritual gifts are meant to glorify God, serve one another, and build the church. When everyone in the church is using their gifts accordingly, God is glorified! Like different instruments in a symphony orchestra, the gifts in the body of Christ work together to build the church and praise our King!

OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Begin the class by demonstrating how spiritual gifts work together to create a masterpiece that God has designed using a canvas and paint. Take a paintbrush and make strokes with different colors, one at a time, forming an abstract pattern or design that covers the whole canvas. As you dip your brush into each color, explain that one person might be a green, and another a blue or a yellow and so on. The gifting of each Christian is unique but they all work together to create a harmonious, beautiful masterpiece.

KEY IDEAS

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 and the spiritual gifts chart attached. Then use the following points for guided discussion.

- Spiritual gifts are given by God.
 - How do we receive a spiritual gift? Spiritual gifts are given only to Christians at the time of salvation. They are given by the Holy Spirit.
 - How do we know what our spiritual gifts are? If you are saved, there are many quizzes you can take to help you begin to discover your gifting, but the best way is simply to start practicing the gifts and see what brings forth fruit. Others in the church can also help you identify your gifting by telling you what they have observed in you from how they have seen God use you for His glory and the good of others.
 - What are the spiritual gifts? See attached chart and read Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, and Ephesians 4.
- Spiritual gifts glorify God.
 - How do spiritual gifts glorify God? God has given each believer a purpose and has gifted us according to that purpose. When we use our gifts according to His purposes, as worship to Him, He is honored and glorified by it. Spiritual gifts are not for our glory, but for His.
- Spiritual gifts serve the church.
 - How can we use our gifts to serve the church? When everyone is using their gift according to God's purposes, the church grows! For example, someone with the gift of exhortation might be a really great encourager and they might also help someone who has fallen into sin get back on track following God. Someone with the gift of teaching might be able to help explain something in the Bible to someone who is struggling to understand.

Activity

Write several spiritual gifts on separate pieces of paper and tape them to the wall all around the room. Read the following situations and instruct the kids to go stand next to a gift they think would come in handy for that situation. No right answers as there could be more than one gift that would be helpful!

1. The church is hosting a dinner for the homeless in the community.
2. The church had some pipes break and needs major repairs.
3. Someone from the church is in the hospital.
4. There is a new believer in the church who needs help understanding what the Bible says.
5. Someone new visits the church and is crying during the service.
6. A new family visits and doesn't have enough money for diapers.
7. Someone in the church is having a hard time and needs counseling.
8. The church needs someone who can help create a budget.
9. The church is growing and we need to add on to the building.
10. Someone had a family member pass away.

Prayer

Thank God that He gives gifts and uses His people to do His will. Ask God to help you discover your gifts if you have trusted in Him for salvation.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

ACTIVITY

Memorize the key verse 1 Peter 4:10.

Take time this week to continue the discussion about spiritual gifts with your child, emphasizing what the gifts are, who they are given to and when, as well as the purpose for them.

Use the questions below and the spiritual gifts chart to help in your discussion.

DISCUSSION

- What are spiritual gifts?
- What is the purpose of gifts and who has them?
- How do we glorify God with spiritual gifts?
- If you have placed your faith in Jesus, begin thinking about what your gifting might be.
- What do others see in you? Where do you enjoy serving God most?
- What are some examples of how different gifts might be used?

PRAYER

Thank God that He gives good gifts and that He uses us to fulfill His purposes. Ask God to help you discover your gifts if you have trusted in Him for salvation.

Passage: 1 Corinthians 12	Meaning
Wisdom	Ability to understand and share biblical truth in such a way as to skillfully apply life situations with discernment
Knowledge	Ability to understand and share biblical truth with an insight that only comes by revelation from God; understands and articulates the deep mysteries of the Word of God; always consistent with Scripture
Faith	All believers possess some degree of this gift, but those who are particularly gifted demonstrate a strong, unshakeable confidence in God, His Word, and His promises in any circumstance; prays effectively
Healing	Primarily a gift belonging to the apostles in the first century as a means of affirming their message came from God, though God can still choose to heal today, it is less common than the first century
Miracles	Another gift belonging to the apostles in the first century who worked miracles in the name of Jesus to affirm their message was truly from the one true God, but God can do anything He wills to do at any time
Discernment	ability to differentiate the true message of God from the deceiver, Satan, whose methods include luring many away by false doctrines; help protect the church against what is false
Speaking in Tongues	Primarily a gift used in the early church to spread the gospel into all the world; involved divine ability to speak in real languages previously unknown to the one speaking; this is not a made-up language
Interpretation of Tongues	Someone who could understand and share what the tongues-speaker was saying even though he does not know the language being spoken (it would be a real language)

Passage: Romans 12	Meaning
Prophecy	divine inspiration that declares the purposes of God, whether by admonishing the wicked, comforting the afflicted, revealing things hidden, or foretelling future events; always consistent with Scripture and carefully discerned
Serving	Also referred to as "ministering"; rendering aid to those in need in a variety of ways, regards others above self
Teaching	Analysis and proclamation of God's Word; explains meaning, context, and application to bring greater understanding to the hearer
Exhorting	consistently calls upon others to heed and follow God's Word, which may involve correction or building up of others by strengthening weak faith or offering comfort through trials
Giving	Joyful sharing of resources with others in need including goods, money, and time; holds loosely to personal possessions
Leadership	Literally means "guide"; one who is able to motivate and manage others well, sees the big picture, and helps others grow, lives as an example to others
Mercy	Abundant compassion toward others who are in distress, shows sensitivity and sympathy with a desire to lessen the burdens of others, shares in suffering

Passage: Ephesians 4	Meaning
Apostles	Refers to "one sent as an authoritative delegate"; these were the first century followers of Jesus including the disciples and Paul who shared the gospel and were responsible for building the church and writing much of the NT; Ephesians 2:20
Prophets	Those who were given divine revelation to proclaim God's Word, particularly for believers of the first century and prior who did not yet have the complete Word of God that we have today; Ephesians 2:20
Evangelists	We are all called to go and proclaim the gospel, but some have a supernatural ability to relay the gospel in an efficient way that draws others to Christ
Pastors	Also referred to as "elders" or "bishops"; the overseers of the church who bear the responsibility of its teaching and care for its sheep
Teachers	One who teaches the Word of God to those in the church; not every teacher is a pastor, but all pastors should be teachers