



EQUIPPING

T H E W O R K O F M I N I S T R Y

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS



Week 1 - Give Credit

Text: Ephesians 4:1–16

Topic(s): Holy Spirit, Gifts, Godhead, Trinity

Big Idea of the Message: The Holy Spirit is responsible for giving us our spiritual gifts. He knows what will be best for us personally and for the body corporately.

Application Point: We must learn to trust the judgment of the Holy Spirit in his plan for our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4–7. How does knowing that the Holy Spirit disperses our gifts to us affect the way you value someone else's gifts? (For example, if you are married, how does it impact you knowing that the Holy Spirit has infused your partner with gifts to lift you up? And you for your partner? How about your children? Siblings? Fellow church members?)
3. How do you feel about the fact that God has distributed gifts as he sees fit? Have you ever questioned why you had one gift or didn't have another? How does this affect the calling or callings you have in your life?
4. Read Romans 12:1–3. How does knowing that we are to be living sacrifices speak to the way we use the gifts God has given us?
5. Consider for a few minutes that "grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift" (Ephesians 4:7). "Grace" likely means gifts here. How does it impact you to know that Christ apportioned a gift or gifts specifically for you—literally, with you in mind? What does that say to you about his knowledge of you? His hope for you? His hope for others through you?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 2 - Give Attention to the Gifts

Text: Romans 12:3–8

Topic(s): Gifts of the Spirit, Body of Christ

Big Idea of the Message: The gifts of the Holy Spirit are intentional and given for the sake of the community of believers.

Application Point: We cannot expect to serve God and one another with our gifts if we don't understand why they exist.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. As you read through the list of gifts, what stands out to you about them?
How do they point to ways to unify the body?
3. For a moment, think about the different fellowships you have been part of over the years. For some, this will be only a few, and for others, it might be quite a few. Thinking back, how did the way God distributed the gifts affect you personally? Consider people you knew who poured into your life in one way or another: a Sunday School teacher whose hard work shaped your maturity in Christ, and so on. How do you sense that God is doing that now through you for the sake of other people?
4. Read Ephesians 4:14–16. Paul explains that Christ called people to certain roles by gifting them to lead. We struggle with issues in the twenty-first century similar to those that concerned Paul in the first century. What are some of the "winds of doctrine" that toss us back and forth today?
5. How do our churches act as places to help people mature and face these challenges?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 3 - Give Away

Text: 1 Corinthians 12:7–26

Topic(s): Gifts, Church, Worship, Community

Big Idea of the Message: We will show ourselves to be of Christ by the way we use our gifts.

Application Point: Our spiritual gifts were intended to build up the body, leading to maturity in ourselves and others, while ultimately glorifying God. When we use our gifts as he has called us to, then we are preparing ourselves to be part of what he's doing.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Read Romans 12:4–8 and 1 Corinthians 12:12–31. These passages speak to the importance of how the body should function. Consider Paul's example of the "body" and how it relates to the church. Discuss how that relates to a local fellowship (different parts doing different things with the purpose of unifying the body). Can you think of another example that's a good illustration of different parts working together as one?
3. What are some examples for today that could be considered "gifts"? Consider different ways that God can use our talents to aid us in our giftings. (For example, someone with financial wisdom working on a finance team, landscaping to help around the church, etc.)
4. What are you currently doing that God has gifted you to do? How is it building and unifying the church? Glorifying God?
5. If you're not serving, what do you sense he is calling you to? How might it build up and unify the church? Glorify God?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 4 - Love

Text: 1 Corinthians 12:27–13:13

Topic(s): Gifts, Love, Honesty, Humility, Unity

Big Idea of the Message: Paul's goal for the Corinthian churches was that they act in unity and build up the body through the use of their gifts. So he gave them the most excellent way to do it.

Application Point: We cannot give away our gifts or even experience their true value if we cannot learn to do all things in love. Our gifts will not have a lasting difference if we can't show love as we use them.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. What do you understand Paul to mean when he speaks of a "more excellent way" in 1 Corinthians 12:31? How does this set the tone for 1 Corinthians 13:1–13?
3. How does Paul encourage the members of the church to value one another through the use of their gifts? How does he attempt to give them perspective about their gifts?
4. Could you relate to the "Love Is Patient" video? How so?
5. Why is love the most excellent way? How does knowing this influence the way you think about using your gifts for the body of Christ?
6. How can we pray for you?