**1. Motivate**

What is the best thing about being a part of a group that has a “family feel” to it?

* belonging
* help whenever you need it

A Video Introduction is available. View at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_bp4wsagg> . If you have no wi-fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/5926yxne>

* you can be yourself and they still love you
* a place where you are accepted
* you are understood
* you have sanctuary from the rest of the world
* you help each other
* you know and understand the “rules”
* you know what is expected of you (unlike new and strange environments)

**2. Transition**

Believers *do* belong to a family … the Body of Christ, the Church

* We love and serve Christ when we love and serve His Body, the Church.
* The Holy Spirit brings us together as one church.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Spiritual Gifts for the Common Good

Listen for what is different, what is the same.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (NIV) There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

So what things were specified different, what things were the same?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Different | Same |
| * kinds of gifts
* kinds of service
* kinds of working
* manifestation of the Spirit to each
 | * same Spirit
* same Lord
* same God working all of them in all men
 |

Paul used different words to talk about something that is a “gift”? What does use of these different words have to say about the *purpose* of spiritual gifts?

* given for the common good
* service implies it is done for others
* they are to be *used* … they result in *actions*
* the gifts are not given just to be admired or shown off

How have you seen the principle in these verses play out in your church?

* the folks who play in the church orchestra or on the worship team have gifts and skills of music, that not everyone has
* some folks are really skilled at working with little children, and others with teens
* some are good organizers
* others are good at behind-the-scenes details
* people who are generous with their time or with finances
* depending on the size of the church, one or more folks are very dedicated at cleaning and maintaining the church building and grounds

Why is a person in no position to boast about his or her spiritual gift?

* it is God’s Spirit that gives the gift
* the choice of the gift is by God’s sovereignty
* it is not to glorify the person with the gift
* it is for the common good of the Body of Christ, the Church

What evidence do you see that Paul is addressing believers not only in Corinth but believers everywhere for all time?

* God works all of the gifts in all men
* God is still God, the church is still the church
* members of the church still need the common help, common good, the service

What reasons exist that Christians today are ignorant about Spiritual gifts?

* they don’t study what God has to say about it
* confusion and division exist concerning some of the gifts (speaking in tongues, so called holy rollers, etc.)
* they may not want to know … spiritual gifts are meant to result in service
* fear of what it might mean … God might call me or gift me (or my children) to go to some mission field where there are bugs, yucky food, and terrorists!

How would it affect a church, making it different if every believer understood and exercised his/her spiritual gift?

* people’s needs be met
* powerful outreach into community
* never begging for Sunday School or VBS workers
* programs well administrated
* special projects easily funded
* local believers better able to resist temptations

3.2 Variety of Gifts for Common Good

Listen for how Spiritual Gifts are vital.

1 Corinthians 12:8-11 (NIV) To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

Let’s note the specific gifts enumerated by Paul in this passage:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Gift | Meaning |
| 1. message of wisdom
2. message of knowledge
3. faith
4. gifts of healing
5. miraculous powers
6. prophecy
7. distinguishing between spirits
8. speaking in different languages
9. interpretation of language
 | 1. Put facts together for wise decisions
2. Gain new information, understanding from Scripture
3. Trust God in face of impossibilities
4. Successful praying for sick
5. Demonstrate God’s power supernaturally
6. Speak God’s message to others
7. Recognize presence/absence of an evil spirit
8. Several possible meanings(good linguist, miraculous speaking as at Pentecost, ecstatic utterances)
9. Able to interpret someone’s public speaking in tongues – for edification of whole group
 |

After listing the gifts of this passage, let’s consider the meanings of these terms as we understand them.

What could you say to someone who admits they are struggling with the feeling that they had nothing to offer to the ministry of their church?

* assure them that Scripture specifically states (in this and other passages) that God gives *every* believer a spiritual gift
* ask them what some of their skills are in their job or within their family
* often that is an indication of the direction that a spiritual gift might be of service to the Lord
* Consider a spiritual gifts inventory

3.3 The Holy Spirit Makes Us One Body

Listen for how the Church is One Body.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 (NIV) The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Now the body is not made up of one part but of many.

In what way is the church similar to the human body?

* one body, many parts
* all those parts work together to benefit the whole body, all the other parts
* when one part has a problem, the other parts pitch in to meet the particular need

What does this analogy tell us why every member of the church is important for its ability to function effectively?

* if you lost your hand, the rest of the body would suffer … not just the pain, but the loss of functionality
* same with your eyes or your hearing
* if important organs are not working up to normal capacity, the rest of the body can suffer in a variety of ways

Why should members not belittle the gift they have been given?

* may not seem important
* may not have high visibility or receive praise and renown
* but in God’s economy it is important
* sort of like the gall bladder … we get along fine until it must be removed, then we might be restricted in what we can eat

Why do you think some of the gifts/ministries are (incorrectly) held in higher regard?

* some gifts are more public
* they are closely linked with natural skills
* in some situations, those types of ministries are highly paid, they can demand more money

How can our group best use our gifts to serve Christ and His church?

* pray for one another that God would make our spiritual gifts apparent to us
* encourage each other to become involved in various church ministries
* think of how a boat must be moving in order for the rudder to have an effect … you must be active in church ministries in order to discover what “works” for you
* affirm one another’s gifts
* when you see someone’s involvement in spiritual ministries and it is obvious God is blessing, share your appreciation and how you can see God at work through their lives in this particular activity

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Think.

* Unfortunately, pride and jealousy are still present in our churches today regarding the administration of spiritual gifts.
* Pray for your church and ask the Spirit to empower and unify the members so that they can work together for the common good.

Decide.

* Even if you’ve previously determined your spiritual gift or gifts, it never hurts to reaffirm it.
* Take a spiritual gifts inventory to assist you in determining how the Holy Spirit has gifted you. <https://mintools.com/spiritual-gifts-test.htm>
* Decide to find out or re-affirm your spiritual gift.

Act.

* Surveys and inventories are one way to determine your spiritual giftedness but another effective way is to talk to a trusted believer.
* Ask a mature believer who knows you well to share what they see in you regarding spiritual gifts.
* Then speak to your pastor or a church leader about ways you can use your giftedness.

Fallen Phrases Puzzle



This is tragic. What was once UNITED has fallen apart, straight down. We need your help. Replacing some letters are easy to figure out, like where there’s only one blank in that column. Look for two or three letter words and figure what two or three letters in those columns make a sensible word. Your Bible Study leader is awaiting this message. Help and further Family Activities available at <https://tinyurl.com/5926yxne> .