

## SESSION TEN

# I HAVE SPIRITUAL GIFTS FROM GOD

We have a responsibility to use our spiritual gifts to build up other believers and serve God.

### KEY PASSAGES

*1 Corinthians 12:4-11,27-31;*  
*Romans 12:1-8;*  
*Ephesians 4:1-6,11-16*

### KEY VERSE

*Romans 12:3*

## SPARK THE CONVERSATION

As we study who God says we are as believers, we find confidence in who we are because of our relationship with God. No matter what the world around us says or believes, we trust in God's Word and His plan for our lives. As God continues to sharpen us to live our lives in a way that glorifies Jesus, we uncover that our identity is not only for our edification. We are called to live out our identities as Christ followers and build up others as we follow God. In our last session we talked about the Holy Spirit is a gift to us as believers. The Holy Spirit also gives believers gifts. These spiritual gifts are used to for serving others and glorifying God. Through this session preteens will learn about spiritual gifts that God gives and their responsibility of stewarding their gifts in service to God.

## IGNITE PDG

### YOU WILL NEED

- Preteen Discipleship Guides (1 per preteen)
- Item 11: Decoder (1 per preteen)
- Item 12: Spiritual Gifts Code (1 per preteen)
- Scissors
- Brads (1 per preteen)

### PREPARE

- Print Item 11: Decoder (1 per preteen).
- Print and cut apart Item 12: Spiritual Gifts Code (1 per preteen).

Guide preteens to complete "Out of Shape" in their discipleship guides (PDG, 78).

Distribute the decoder, scissors, and brads. Guide preteens to cut out the decoder circles and assemble. Distribute the Spiritual Gifts Code slips (1 per preteen). Guide preteens to align the letter A with the number 18 and use their decoders to discover the words on their slips.

**Say:** We have examined what is true about us as believers and the gifts God gives us as His children. Today we are going to continue exploring this truth as we look at spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts are gifts given by God to Christians to build up the kingdom of God. **We have a responsibility to use our spiritual gifts to build up other believers and serve God.**

# SHARPEN & STRENGTHEN PDG

## YOU WILL NEED

- Preteen Discipleship Guide (1 per preteen)
- Item 13: Spiritual Gifts Chart

## PREPARE

- Print Item 13: Spiritual Gifts Chart as a reference during the session.

Direct preteens to Sharpen & Strengthen in their discipleship guides (PDG, 79). Invite the group to follow along as you lead the Bible study.

## WHY DID GOD GIVE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

**Say:** Today, we are going to be learning about spiritual gifts and our responsibility to use them as followers of Jesus.

**Continue:** Spiritual gifts are gifts given to every believer for the purpose of building up other believers. Each believer has at least one spiritual gift. These are given by God and are to be used for serving others, not for drawing attention to ourselves. Let's discover what Paul said about spiritual gifts and their purposes. For the last several weeks, I have lead our discussions. Today, it is time for you to take the lead.

**Spiritual gifts:** Unique gifts given by the Holy Spirit to every Christian to build up other believers and serve God (Romans 12:1-8)

Form three groups of preteens.

**Say:** One group will research 1 Corinthians 12:4-11,27-31. The second group will examine Romans 12:1-8. The third group will examine Ephesians 4:1-6,11-16.

As you examine these passages, prepare to answer these questions in your discipleship guides:

1. What did Paul say about spiritual gifts?
2. What spiritual gifts did Paul list?
3. What do we learn from this passage?

Allow preteen groups appropriate time to read their passage and answer their questions. Invite them to check their answers against the Spiritual Gifts Chart (Item 13). Discuss preteens' discoveries.

**Continue:** Some of the principles Paul stated in all three of these passages is that God gave every believer at least one spiritual gift. God gives every believer spiritual gifts. We can better understand the gift or gifts God has given us as we grow in our relationship with Him. These gifts are not to draw attention to ourselves but to build up other believers.

**Explain:** Paul also spoke about how we are to live. **We have a responsibility to use our spiritual gifts to build up other believers and serve God.** Our behaviors often reveal what is really in our hearts. God wants us our hearts to reflect His holiness and lead to thoughts, actions, and attitudes that please Him. If we pretend like we love someone, but inside we really don't, we are not being authentic or living out the identity of who God says we are. Furthermore, it won't last. Eventually, what is in your heart will come out through your actions. (See Matthew 12:34; Luke 6:35.)

## **🔒 WHAT ARE SOME OF THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?**

Guide preteens to summarize some of the spiritual gifts listed in their passages they studied. Use the information from Item 13: Spiritual Gifts Chart as needed to reinforce the preteens' discoveries. Discuss the different gifts and what they mean.

**Ask:** Why are these gifts given to believers? What spiritual gift or gifts do you think God has given you? (Allow preteens to answer in their discipleship guides.)

**State:** If you are a Christian, you have at least one spiritual gift. As you grow in your relationship with God you will grow more in your understanding of spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts are different than talents or abilities. Every person has talents and abilities because they are made in the image of a creative God. Spiritual gifts, however, are gifts given only to believers for the purpose of encouraging and building up the church.

**Say:** If you do not know what your spiritual gift is right now, that is OK. As you mature in your faith, you will have opportunities to try new things and learn about how God has gifted you.

## 🔒 HOW CAN I USE MY SPIRITUAL GIFT?

Read *Ephesians 4:1-6* or invite preteens to read these verses aloud.

**Say:** Paul wrote that believers are called to live in unity—encouraging one another in truth, grace, and love. As we discover our gifts, we are to use them to encourage and build up other believers.

**Ask:** As a preteen you can use your gift to help other believers. What are some ways you can use your spiritual gifts to help other believers? (Allow preteens to respond in their discipleship guides.) Encourage preteens to look at the Spiritual Gifts Index to learn more about each spiritual gift and what it means (PDG, 128).

## MAKE THE CONNECTION

**Conclude:** God created us to live in a relationship with Him and community with other believers. He has gifted believers with spiritual gifts to support one another in faith and unity. **We have a responsibility to use our spiritual gifts to build up other believers and serve God.** As a follower of Jesus, it is your responsibility to learn about your gift through studying God's Word, learning your unique characteristics, and recognizing the gifts believers see in you. Spend time this week praying and asking God to show you opportunities to use your gifts to serve and encourage others this week.

## 🔑 KEY VERSE

*For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he should think. Instead, think sensibly, as God has distributed a measure of faith to each one. **Romans 12:3***

### YOU WILL NEED

- Clip-style clothespins
- Marker
- Yarn (approximately 5 feet)
- Stopwatch

### PREPARE

- Write the words of Romans 12:3 on the clothespins (1 word per clothespin).
- Tie a long strand of yarn between two chairs.
- Place the clothespins at the opposite end of the playing area.

*Read aloud Romans 12:3.*

**Say:** Let's play a game to help us remember Romans 12:3. The words of the verse are printed on these clothespins. One person will run to the clothespins and locate the first word, bring it back, and attach it to the yarn. I will keep track of how long it takes to put the clothespins in order. Play the game and announce the time. Replay, challenging preteens to beat the previous time. For an added challenge, create two sets of clothes pins and have a relay race.

**Continue:** What did Paul mean when he wrote these words? Do you know anyone who thinks he is better than everyone else? He may think he is smarter, richer, has more friends, or wears better clothes than someone else. Have you ever been that person? Paul said this can happen among believers too. Some people may think their spiritual gift is more important than another person's gift, but Paul reminded the believers that God wants believers to live in unity, working together to point people to Jesus. Everyone is created in God's image. All believers are equally forgiven. No one's gift is better than anyone else's gift. When each person uses his or her gifts to care and support others, God is glorified and the church grows stronger.

Call attention to the key verse cards in the Preteen Discipleship Guide. Suggest preteens attach this card to their phones, backpacks, or another place they are sure to see every day.

## FIRE IT UP!

### NOTES OF ENCOURAGEMENT

#### YOU WILL NEED

- List of senior adults and mailing addresses
- Note cards and envelopes
- Pens

**TEACHING TIP** Recommend preteens write neat and in large letters.

**Say:** One of the spiritual gifts is encouragement. Let's put this gift into practice by writing notes to encourage some of the adults in our church. Distribute note cards and pens. Assign names to preteens and guide them to write notes of encouragement. When they finish, gather the cards and invite the preteens to pray over the individuals on the cards.

Place the note cards in the church office for mailing.

## SPIRITUAL GIFT SEARCH **PDG**

### YOU WILL NEED

- Preteen Discipleship Guides (1 per preteen)
- Item 14: Spiritual Gifts Definitions
- Tape

### PREPARE

- Print 2 sets of Item 14: Spiritual Gifts Definitions.
- Cut apart one set and tape the cards around the room. Keep the other set for reference.

Invite preteens to complete "Spiritual Gift Search" in their discipleship guides to help them remember the gifts discussed during the session (PDG, 80.)

**Explain:** Let's see if you can discover which gift(s) you would use in specific situations. I will read aloud a statement. After you hear the statement, walk to the gift card you believe fits the description and stand by it. Call attention to displayed cards.

Read the following statements or ask preteens to read the statements aloud from their discipleship guides. Read aloud the definitions of spiritual gifts as needed.

- Carrington has a friend who is not a Christian. Her friend asked you how she could become a Christian. Which spiritual gift would Carrington put into practice? **Evangelism**
- Jayden's Sunday school teacher needs someone to help plan a local mission trip for the preteen class. Which spiritual gift would Jayden put into practice? **Administration**
- Destiny's teacher asked her to tell about the most important decision she has ever made. Destiny decides to share with her class about her decision to ask Jesus to be her Savior and Lord. Destiny is bold and speaks with confidence as she shares. Which spiritual gift would Susan put into practice? **Prophecy/Evangelism**

- VBS (Vacation Bible School) is a few months away. Jada has wanted to help for several years. Finally she is asked to work with the first grade class. Which spiritual gift would Jada put into practice? **Teaching**
- Cameron hears one of his friends saying something about God that is not true. When Cameron talks with his friend, his friend asks him to help him learn more about God. Which spiritual gift would Cameron put into practice? **Pastor/Shepherd**
- Denise is confused. She does not know if she can believe what she hears about God. Amanda shares with Denise how she trusts God even in difficult situations. Which spiritual gift would Amanda put into practice? **Faith**
- Anderson writes a letter to Mrs. Stephenson when he hears she recently had surgery. Which spiritual gift would Anderson put into practice? **Encouragement**
- Anthony is a new Christian. He has read his Bible for the last three months but does not understand a lot of what he is reading. Samuel offers to help Anthony understand the verses. Which spiritual gifts would Samuel put into practice? **Wisdom/Knowledge**
- Hailey's family was traveling to visit her grandmother in another state. While on the way, their car broke down. Hailey's mother was extremely concerned. She did not have enough money to pay for the car repairs and a hotel. A lady at the service center offered to let Hailey and her mother stay with her until the car was ready. Which spiritual gift would the stranger put into practice? **Hospitality**

**Conclude:** This was a fun activity to get us thinking. We are surrounded by similar situations every day where we can use our gifts to encourage others and point them to Jesus.

Guide preteens to the daily discipleship pages found in their guides. Print any pages for preteens without a discipleship guide (Item 3).

## BREAK IT DOWN

**Finish:** God gifts each Christian with spiritual gifts. Some Christians cause division because they forget their identity. They think they are better than others and try to define their own identity by their standards instead of God's standards. As believers, we must remember who we are and who God made us to be—living out our true purpose and calling in ways that point others to Jesus. This week you will study God's Word to discover more about these gifts and how you can use your gift or gifts to serve God. Talk with your parents about the spiritual gifts you believe God has given you.