

CHILDREN

Spiritual Gifts



SERIES BIG IDEA

All who are baptized with the Holy Spirit are spiritually gifted that they may be equipped to function as members of the body of Christ.

Lesson 2.1

The Difference between Gifts and Wages

Lesson 2.2

The Vocal Gifts

Lesson 2.3

The Revelation Gifts

Lesson 2.4

The Power Gifts





Spiritual Gifts:

The Difference between Gifts and Wages

BLUEPRINT

SERIES BIG IDEA

All who are baptized with the Holy Spirit are spiritually gifted to equip them to function as members of the body of Christ.

SERIES MEMORY PASSAGE

I Peter 4:10

LESSON BIG IDEA

We work for, earn, and deserve wages. We do not work for, earn, or deserve gifts.

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

I Corinthians 12:4

STUDENTS WILL identify that God gives spiritual gifts and these gifts are not earned.

Early Elementary (Grades 1-3)

TOOL BOX

FOUNDATION

- PowerPoint 2.1
- Styrofoam cups and money
- Sign for Drive-Thru skit
- Cardboard "window" and 3 "cars" (optional)
- "Pay It Forward" video: <http://abcnews.go.com/WNT/video/starbucks-pay-forward-21364791>
- Bedsheet

FRAME

- Series 2 memory verse poster (TRP)
- 2 medium-size, gift-wrapped boxes with I Peter 4:10 written on top.
- Ice, bottled water, and something to create steam (electric teapot, steamer)
- Series song and lyrics: "Canvas"
- Visual: Peter's Vision (TRP)
- Hats, masks, or biblical costumes
- Rug
- Sheet filled with stuffed animals (5 or more)
- 10 miniature candy bars
- Index cards numbered 1-10: Five "FREE GIFT" cards and five "WAGES YOU MUST EARN" cards

FINISH

- Activity papers and pencils

SELAH

- Whiteboard and marker

Late Elementary (Grades 4-6)

TOOL BOX

FOUNDATION

- PowerPoint 2.1
- Styrofoam cups and money
- Sign for Drive-Thru skit
- Cardboard window and 3 cardboard "cars" (optional)
- "Pay It Forward" video: <http://abcnews.go.com/WNT/video/starbucks-pay-forward-21364791>
- 20 stuffed or plastic animals in a bedsheet
- Timer, small prizes, paper, and pencils

FRAME

- Series 2 memory verse poster (TRP)
- Whiteboard containing grid on page 29 with cardstock squares numbered 1-20
- Visual: Peter's Vision (TRP)
- Hats, masks, or biblical costumes
- Rug
- Sheet filled with stuffed animals (5 or more)
- 10 miniature candy bars
- Index cards numbered 1-10: Five "FREE GIFT" cards and five "WAGES YOU MUST EARN" cards

FINISH

- Activity papers and pencils

SELAH

- Whiteboard and marker
- Series song and lyrics: "Canvas"

FOUNDATION

Early Elementary (1-3)

Late Elementary (4-6)

Kindness in the Drive-Thru

Prior to class, select three helpers to perform a short skit with you. Add to the feel of this skit by adding a cardboard window for the employee to talk through and perhaps three large cardboard cars that each driver can “drive” by carrying.

Characters needed: one drive-thru employee and three drivers in line.

Props needed: Styrofoam cups, money for purchases, “Kindness in the Drive-thru” sign 

Have two actors join you outside the classroom, awaiting their cues. To start the skit, your other helper plays the role of a Starbucks (or any other drive-thru eatery) employee, working the drive-thru window.

Enter the room as the driver of the first vehicle in line, approach the “window,” and receive your order from the employee. As you pay for it, say, “I want to pay for the person in line behind me as well.”

The employee says, “Well, that is a very kind thing for you to do!” She then tells you the amount, and you make the purchase, receive your beverage, and move forward, out of the scene.

The next helper then enters the room as the next driver in line and approaches the employee at the window. The employee informs the driver that her order has already been paid for by the previous driver. The driver then responds gratefully and says that she wants to pay for the order of the driver behind her. She receives her beverage, then pays for the order of the person behind her, and moves on out of the scene.

The final helper then enters the room as the next driver and approaches the window. The employee tells him that his order has been paid for by the previous driver, and he responds with a big “Well, thank you!”

Come back up to the front of the room and discuss the scene that just happened.

- **Why was the second driver motivated to pay for the third driver?**
- **If you were the third driver, what would you do? Why?**
- **Have you ever had anyone give something freely to you, for no apparent reason?**

Pay It Forward

Show the “Pay It Forward” video: <http://abcnews.go.com/WNT/video/starbucks-pay-forward-21364791>.

Today we are going to talk about gifts God has freely given us, and why we should freely share those gifts with others.

Animal Charades

In our Bible story today, God gave Peter a vision of a sheet coming down from heaven filled with a variety of animals. Peter took time to study what kind of animals were in the sheet. We will find out later why they were important. Let’s play “Animal Charades!”

Place a bedsheet in the center of the room. One at a time, students stand on the sheet and act out their choice of an animal. The student who guesses first becomes the next performer.

Bedsheet Memory Game

Before class, put twenty stuffed or plastic animals of various species (dog, cat, bear, fish, turtle, horse, etc.) on a bedsheet, and fold the sheet in such a way to hide the animals.

In our Bible story today, God gave Peter a vision of a sheet coming down from heaven filled with a variety of animals. Peter took time to study what kind of animals were in the sheet. We will find out later why they were important. But for now, let’s play a memory game!

Late Elementary (4-6)

Gather students in a large circle in the center of the room. Place the folded bedsheet in the center of the circle. Tell students they will have one minute to silently study which animals are in the sheet. Unfold the sheet to reveal the animals and time students for one minute.

At the one-minute mark, fold the sheet to hide the animals. Send students back to their seats or to tables; have paper and pencils already waiting for them. Give them two minutes to write as many of the animals as they can remember. No one is allowed to speak or suggest answers.

At the two-minute mark, have students stop writing and see who was able to remember the most animals. Give a prize to the winner.

FRAME

Early Elementary (1-3)

Late Elementary (4-6)

Memory Verse: “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God” (1 Peter 4:10).

Memory Verse Gift Race

Display the memory poster for 1 Peter 4:10 (TRP) . Recite the verse several times with the class.

Divide the class into two even teams, so everyone has an opportunity to play. Instruct students to form two straight, single-file lines. Give the gift-wrapped boxes to the first students on each team. Each person says one word of the verse and passes it to the next person in line. The last person in line walks it back to the first person in line, if there are remaining words. The team who finishes reading the verse first is the winner.

Reflection

- How does it feel when you receive a gift?
- How does it feel to give a gift?

Biblical Passage: 1 Corinthians 12:4

Guess the Gift

Explain the meaning of diversity. *Diversity* means “different.” God has given us different gifts by His Spirit.

Bring out the ice cubes, bottled water, and steam (use a steam-producing appliance, like an electric teapot or steamer). Have students compare and contrast the items by telling how they are the same and different.

Explain that all of these objects are different and serve different purposes, but they all come from the same source—water.

Color Coded Memory Shout Outs

Display the memory poster for 1 Peter 4:10 (TRP) . Recite the verse several times with the class.

Then say, “If you are wearing anything blue, stand up and say the verse!” Let the blue-wearing kids say the verse and then sit down.

Then say, “If you are wearing anything white, stand up and say the verse!” Do this several times, naming a different color each time.

After several colors are called, take the displayed verse down and see if the class can recite it from memory.

Reflection

Discuss the meaning of the verse with the class:

- **Think back to our Drive-Thru skit. How does this verse apply to what you saw in the skit?**
- **More important than buying someone’s coffee in a drive-thru, there are other kinds of gifts we can share with others. Can you name some?**

Biblical Passage: 1 Corinthians 12:4

1 Corinthians 12:4 Gifts Match Game

Show the Game title slide . Use the game grid below to draw a 4 x 5 grid on a whiteboard.

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------|--------|--------|
| DIVERSITIES | NOW | SPIRIT | THERE |
| THERE | DIVERSITIES | THE | SAME |
| BUT | SAME | OF | ARE |
| BUT | GIFTS | NOW | SPIRIT |
| ARE | THE | OF | GIFTS |

Create cards numbered 1-20 to cover each word in the grid. Tape each number in such a way that you can easily lift the number to reveal the word behind it.

Early Elementary (1-3)

It is the same with the gifts of the Spirit that we have been studying. Each gift looks different and serves a different, specific purpose, but all of these gifts come from the same Spirit—God.

Music

Teach students the series song, “Canvas,” providing copies of the lyrics. 📺 Have students watch the video 📺 and sing along.

Late Elementary (4-6)

Divide students into two teams. Let a member of the first team pick a number between one and twenty and reveal the corresponding words. Then let a second member of the same team pick one number, trying to find its match. If they make a match, they remove the two cardboard squares from the board, and that team receives a point.

Then it is the second team’s turn to try to make a match. Each time terms are matched, students remove the numbers. Note: even when a team makes a match, their turn ends and play continues to the next team.

Teams continue making matches until all ten matches are made. Reward prizes to the winning team.

Reflection

- **What does *diverse* mean?**
- **What are the different gifts God has given the church?**
- ☆ **What gift would you like to have and why?**

Bible Lesson: Peter’s Vision (Acts 10)

- **Have you ever had to eat something you didn’t like? If so, what? Describe your experience.**

Choose students to act out the role of Peter, the servants, and Cornelius. Give the characters hats, masks, or costumes. Have a rug for Peter to kneel on, as well as a sheet filled with stuffed animals.

Have students sit on the floor to pretend they are on a roof.

Until Acts 10, the New Testament church was made up of only Jewish believers. No one had preached the gospel to anyone who was not a Jew. God wanted to show the Gentiles, the non-Jews, the way of salvation. But He needed someone He could count on to bravely go to the Gentiles and convey the gospel message. Because going to the Gentiles was a big deal, God needed the right guy for the job. The good news is God did indeed have the right guy for the job. The man for the job was Peter. But first, Peter needed a little convincing. Let’s take a closer look at this story and imagine what may have happened that day.

Peter was visiting a friend named Simon in the city of Joppa. Joppa was a seaside town in Israel. White sands and delicate blue water bordered the quaint village. Sunburned fishermen docked their boats filled with the morning catch. The clamour of merchants peddling their goods could be heard in the local market place. Palm trees on the beaches

and in the city provided shade from the blazing noon sun. The aroma of broiled fish filled the streets, as moms prepared lunch for their hungry families. Gentle sea breezes blew across limestone terraces as Peter made his way to the rooftop to pray. He knelt on the warm rug and began talking to God.

Show Peter’s Vision visual (TRP) 📺. While he was praying, Peter saw a vision of a sheet coming down from heaven. In the sheet were many types of animals that the Jews were commanded not to eat. What animals do you think may have been in the sheet?

(Show the bedsheet with the stuffed animals.) In the vision, God told Peter to eat some of the animals, and Peter argued with God that eating those animals was against Jewish code. Perhaps Peter was hungry, but he knew God’s rules about food. What God was doing was telling Peter that He was sending Peter to go against his code to preach the gospel to people who were not Jews.

At the same moment that Peter was seeing the vision of the animals, three servants were on a journey from the house of Cornelius to find Peter. Cornelius was a Gentile, a commander of the Roman army. He was a religious man who wanted to know the way of salvation. While Cornelius was praying the previous day, God had told him to send men to find Peter and bring him back to Cornelius’s home so Peter could explain the gospel to him.

Early Elementary (1-3)

Late Elementary (4-6)

Soon after Peter had the vision of the animals, the men arrived to retrieve him and take him to Cornelius. Peter realized the vision of the animals was God telling him it was God's plan to have Peter step out of his Jewish comfort zone and preach the gospel to the Gentiles.

This story could have had a different ending. Peter could have refused to share the gospel with the Gentiles. He could have chosen to keep the gift of salvation to himself. He could have kept the message of what Jesus did for us to himself, and not shared what he knew about the gospel.

Peter understood when God gives a gift, He expects you to share it freely with others. As Jesus told the disciples, "Freely ye have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8). Apparently, Peter was paying attention when Jesus said that.

Because of Peter's obedience to God's plan, Peter was able to take the message of salvation that had been freely given to him and give it to the Gentiles. After Peter arrived at Cornelius's house, he preached Jesus to them, and as a result, Cornelius and everyone in his household were filled with the Holy Spirit and were baptized in Jesus' name.

So what about you and me? What gifts has God given you that you can freely share with others?

Is there someone in your world who needs to know about Jesus and is waiting for you to tell him? Is there someone who needs a word of encouragement or needs someone to pray with her? Maybe your friend needs help with a project, and God has given you the ability to assist them. If God has given you a gift, He gave it to you for the purpose of sharing it with someone else. Do not keep it to yourself!

In the next few lessons, we will learn about the nine gifts of the Spirit mentioned in I Corinthians 12:7-10. If you are a Spirit-filled believer, you may already possess one or more of these nine gifts. If that is the case, do not be guilty of keeping these gifts to yourself. Verse seven says that these gifts are given "for the profit of all." They cannot profit all if they are kept to oneself. They are given to be shared with others. As Jesus said, "Freely ye have received, freely give."

Free Gift or Earned Wages

Before class, number ten index cards 1-10. On the back of five random cards, write "FREE GIFT." On the back of the other five cards, write, "WAGES YOU MUST EARN."

Choose ten students to play the game. Place the cards, with the numbers showing, on a table in the front of the room. The first student chooses a number between one and ten. Turn over the card that has the number he chooses. If his card says "FREE GIFT" he gets the prize automatically and his turn is over. If his card says "WAGES YOU MUST EARN," he must perform a duty in order to earn his prize.

Five actions you could possibly require for the "wage" cards are:

- Do five push-ups.
- Hop on one foot ten times.
- Count backward from fifty to one.
- Clean a classroom window. (Provide window cleaner.)
- Sing the chorus of a Sunday school song.

Discussion Questions:

- **What gifts has God given you to use to help others?**
- ☆ **Have you ever ministered to anyone who was not in your "comfort zone"?**
- ☆ **In what ways can you use your skills and talents for the kingdom of God?**
- **Which was better: receiving the free gift or having to earn it? Why?**
- **How should you react when someone gives you a free gift?**
- **How should you react when God gives you a free gift?**

FINISH

Early Elementary (1-3)

Activity Paper

In Peter's vision, the sheet was filled with animals that, under the old Law, Jews were commanded not to eat. Ask students to unscramble some of those forbidden animals. Answers are on the back of the activity paper.

Late Elementary (4-6)

Activity Paper

In Peter's vision, the sheet was filled with animals that, under the old Law, Jews were commanded not to eat. Ask students to cross out the animals that they think were forbidden, then circle the animals that they think were good for food. Answers are on the back of the activity paper.

Family Connection

Go over the movie reel activity on the back of the activity paper. In the top set of frames, students will draw a picture of themselves receiving wages from working a job. In the bottom set of frames, students will draw a picture of themselves receiving a free gift from God.

Review the gift-exchange activity, discussing how students might carry out this assignment. If your class has consistent attendance, consider offering a reward for those who return the Family Connection, and provide time in the class to discuss the activity.

SELAH

Prayer

Ask the class this question: "Is there anyone in your life who does not know Jesus—someone who needs to hear that Jesus can save him or her?" Have each student tell the class who they thought of. Then lead the class in a group prayer for the courage to freely share the gift of salvation with others.

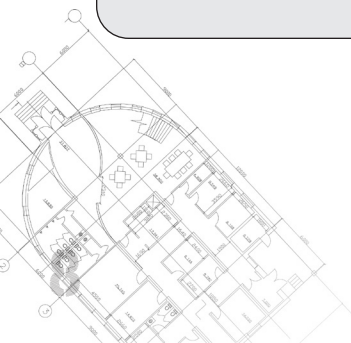
P Lord Jesus, You gave us the gift of salvation. It didn't cost us anything. Please give us the courage to share Your salvation. Help us to remember the gifts of the Spirit are also free and not earned. Help us to share all the gifts You give us with others. In Your name we pray, amen.

Reflection

List the nine gifts of the Spirit on a whiteboard: word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues. During the discussion, give your own examples of times when you have seen the operation of these gifts.

Over the next few weeks, we are going to discuss these nine gifts.

- **Who in this class thinks they have seen someone else using one of these gifts? If so, when and what happened?**



YOUTH

Spiritual Gifts

A series by Daniel Seagraves



SERIES BIG IDEA

All who are baptized with the Holy Spirit are spiritually gifted that they may be equipped to function as members of the body of Christ.

Lesson 2.1

Lesson 2.2

Lesson 2.3

Lesson 2.4

The Difference between Gifts and Wages

The Vocal Gifts

The Revelation Gifts

The Power Gifts

Spiritual Gifts

The Difference between Gifts and Wages

BLUEPRINT

SERIES BIG IDEA

All who are baptized with the Holy Spirit are spiritually gifted and equipped to function as members of the body of Christ.

LESSON BIG IDEA

We work for, earn, and deserve wages, yet we do not work for, earn, or deserve gifts.

LEARNING TARGET

To understand that spiritual gifts are not earned, but received freely from God.

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

1 Corinthians 12:1-11; 14:40


SUPPLIES

gift boxes, wrapping paper, and a small item/prize

FOUNDATION

Peter was an apostle to whom Jesus had given the keys of the kingdom. On the Day of Pentecost he was baptized with the Holy Spirit and preached the first sermon in the church. Peter continued to be instrumental in the growth and expansion of the early church because of his boldness, divine calling, and the specific purpose he had been tasked by the Lord to accomplish.

Though he found himself greatly used by God through the working of miracles and at times received visions from the Lord, he continued to be guilty of the sins of stubbornness and racial prejudice. He knew his visions were from the Lord, but he refused to obey God's command. (See Acts 10:9-16.) Additionally, it would be somewhat reasonable to think Peter would have been cured of his prejudice by the outcome of his visit to Cornelius's household, but that was not the case, as can be seen by his behavior in Antioch.

Peter had eaten with Gentiles—which was a hopeful sign of recovery from prejudice—but when some Jews arrived from Jerusalem, Peter demonstrated he had not abandoned this sin by once again refusing to have anything to do with Gentiles. Paul described Peter's behavior as well as that of Barnabas, another apostle, as hypocrisy. Peter had preached on the Day of Pentecost, but now neither he nor Barnabas were "straightforward about the truth of the gospel" (Galatians 2:14, NASB). 

However, Peter was not alone in his struggle with prejudice and stubbornness. When Paul and Barnabas decided to return to the places where they had previously preached in order to visit the people there, they fell into a sharp disagreement over whether to take John Mark with them. John Mark had not completed the previous trip, and Paul was determined not to give him another opportunity. Barnabas, on the other hand, was equally determined to take John. The

LESSON BIG IDEA: Not Earned, but Received

contention between Paul and Barnabas escalated to the point that they decided they could no longer work together. Barnabas took John Mark with him, and Paul chose Silas for his traveling ministry companion.

We tend to think of our leaders as being spiritually mature, but because their abilities are gifts, they are freely given, like all other gifts. They are not rewards. This can be seen by looking at events in the lives of New Testament people like Paul, Barnabas, and Peter.

Opening Discussion:


- Why does having a spiritual gift not necessarily mean you are spiritually mature?
- Why do you think we automatically assume those who are in leadership are spiritually mature?

Middle-School Exercise:

1. Before class, acquire many different sizes of boxes (one per student). Place a small object inside one of the boxes and wrap them all as if they were birthday presents.
2. Arrange the boxes at the front of the classroom.
3. Have each student choose a box. At the end, have students unwrap their boxes.
4. The one with the item in it is the winner (consider making the prize box an inconspicuous one).
5. Explain that today's lesson is about gifts from God and how we receive those gifts.

Senior-High Exercise:



1. Before class, acquire many different sizes of boxes (one per student). Place a small prize inside one of the boxes and wrap them all as if they were birthday presents.
2. Weight the other boxes in a way that seems like they all contain something.
3. Arrange the boxes at the front of the classroom.
4. Have students play a game of white elephant. The first student chooses a present. The next student is able to either choose a new present or take the one the first student chose. Repeat this process until everyone has gotten a present.
5. Once everyone has a present, all students open their presents. The one with the prize is the winner.
6. Explain that today's lesson is about gifts from God and the many packages they can come in.

 *Arrange in advance to have one or two students share an experience of being ministered to by others who are spiritually gifted. Allow some time for discussion of these events by others in the class.*

FRAME

I. Faith, Not Works


A. The Church at Corinth


1. There were those in the church of Corinth who denied the death and resurrection of Jesus.
2. Knowing that, you probably wouldn't consider Corinth a place of maturity or biblical truth.
3. Even more, many members of the church were involved in terrible and immoral actions of perversion.
4. Perhaps the most amazing thing of all is the church in Corinth cheerfully tolerated this behavior. They arrogantly gloried in their broadmindedness. (See I Corinthians 5:2, 6.) 
5. In spite of these failures and others, Paul wrote that this church did "not lack any spiritual gift" (I Corinthians 1:7, NIV). 


B. **From beginning to end, the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives is God's gift.**  

1. The Greek word commonly translated "gift" in the New Testament refers to something that is "given freely and generously."
2. It is not a reward for good behavior or diligent study.
3. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is God's free gift. We do not earn or deserve it, and we must not think repentance and water baptism are works we do to qualify for the gift of the Holy Spirit.



C. A faith response to the commands of Scripture is not "works" in the sense that it earns free gifts.


1. When the word "works" is used in a negative way in the New Testament, it refers to activity done, not from genuine faith, but from the attempt to earn favor with God to deserve salvation. (See Romans 9:30-32.) 
2. Although it is clear that we must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, this is not a work we do in order to deserve the gift of the Holy Spirit.
3. At Cornelius's house, people were baptized with the Holy Spirit before they were baptized in water, and so were the disciples of John the Baptist. (See Acts 10:44-48; 19:1-6.)
4. This frequently happens today.

 *Why do you think the Lord chose to endow the Corinthian church with spiritual giftedness even though they were spiritually immature?*


 *What does this say about who God is and His purpose for the church?*

II. Motivational Gifts



- A. These motivational gifts include prophecy, ministry (*i.e.* serving), teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, and showing mercy.
1. The spiritual gifts of I Corinthians 12-14 are not the only gifts mentioned in Scripture.
 2. In Romans 12:6-8, Paul discussed what may be called the motivational gifts. Other terms may be used to identify these gifts, but they seem to describe the giftedness that motivates us in Christian service.
 3. Each person has a specific ability upon which to focus, and each ability is a free gift of God.
 4. These are not natural talents; they are gifts of grace. Even Paul's ability to offer instruction on these gifts was a gift of God's grace.
- B. **They do not reflect the character of the persons who receive the gifts; they reflect the character of the Giver of the gifts.**  

 *How are natural talents and spiritual gifts the same?*

 *How do spiritual gifts differ from natural talents?*

 *This would be an excellent time for a personal testimony. Alternatively, consider asking ahead of time for a volunteer in the class to share his or her story.*

III. Positional Gifts

- A. The positional gifts include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers.
1. Ephesians 4:7-11
 2. Although we could identify these gifts with other terms, they may be called positional gifts because they relate to people who are gifted to fulfill specific roles in the church.
- B. **These gifts are often described as the five-fold ministry.**  
1. In this case, it does not mean all teachers are pastors, but that pastors are also teachers.

LESSON BIG IDEA: Not Earned, but Received

- Teachers are not always described as pastors in Scripture, but pastors are also to be able to teach. (See I Corinthians 12:28-29; James 3:1; I Timothy 3:2.)

IV. Spiritual Gifts

A. There are nine spiritual gifts in I Corinthians 12:8-10.

- These gifts include the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, faith, the gifts of healing, the working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, kinds of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues.

B. It is possible to be spiritually gifted but spiritually undisciplined and biblically illiterate.

- This is because these are gifts, not rewards given in recognition of spiritual and biblical achievements.
- They are not trophies.
- They tell us nothing about one's achievements.
- They tell us something only about the merciful and generous God who gives them.

FINISH

A young Italian boy in the 1700s named Antonio loved music, but he was not a naturally talented musician. He was not a good singer and struggled to learn the violin. The only thing Antonio seemed to be good at was whittling and working with his hands.

Some people believe that Antonio struggled under the shadow of his musically talented peers in their hometown, and many question how this unlikely boy became connected so deeply with music. What we do know is that Antonio refused to give up on his dream to do something of significance with his life.

We can imagine young Antonio struggling with his longing to play the violin like one of his fellow pupils or his frustrations about not being able to sing like another classmate. Instead he turned his attention to his growing love for carving and crafting small works of art. In whatever way history played out, it seems young Antonio sought out Nicolo Amati, an aging but renowned violin maker in his town. We can just picture the eager Antonio charming the aged violin craftsman with his youthful passion and yet vulnerable request to learn from the master.

Most historians agree that Amati took Antonio on as an apprentice, leading to a fruitful journey under Amati's guidance. In fact, Antonio—known to the world as Antonio Stradivari—is today lauded as the greatest violin maker of all time. His remaining violins are highly sought after as a prized possession for their unequalled craftsmanship.

Antonio was not and never will be known as a great singer or musician, but the young boy could work with wood. That was his gift—an ability given by God that Antonio dedicated himself to pursuing and developing.

By now we should be free from the idea that we can be used in spiritual gifts only if we have reached some height of spiritual maturity and theological development. Although we certainly want to reach these goals, we must not wait until we have done so to allow the Holy Spirit to work through us with spiritual gifts.

So which gifts interest you? That is the first question in identifying your spiritual gift or gifts. Since it is God who works in you to give you right desires and right abilities, think about what you desire to do. The thing you desire to do, if it is not born of a proud desire to promote yourself, is probably what God has gifted you to do. If you read the list of nine spiritual gifts prayerfully and one or more of them seem to be especially interesting to you, ask God to show you how you can be used in this giftedness. Ask Him to open doors of opportunity to you to use and develop these gifts.

Discussion Questions:

- Concerning spiritual gifts, what are you able to do?
- What spiritual gifts do others see in you?

Middle-School Finish:

1. Discuss the importance of the gifts of the Spirit within the church.
2. How can they be of benefit to an individual or a body as a whole?
3. Encourage your students to share a time when they experienced the gifts, whether it be by witnessing their use, the gifts being used upon the student, or the student using a spiritual gift to minister to another.
4. Be open to questions and expound upon any question your students may have.

Senior-High Finish:


1. Discuss the impact of spiritual gifts within the church and the benefit to the body as a whole.
2. How can spiritual gifts lead to revival?
3. How can spiritual gifts strengthen the church?
4. Is there a downside to spiritual gifts? How so?
5. Field any questions your students may have as this is a deep topic that may require further instruction beyond the classroom.

The Big Picture:

- We all have the ability to work in spiritual gifts.
- Stop trying to work for gifts. Ask God to use you, and humble yourself to His will for your life.

Final Reflections

- Why is the evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in someone's life a good indication of spiritual maturity?
- Do you see evidence of faith, hope, and love in your life? How?
- Do you see evidence of faith, hope, and love in the life of your church? How?
- Why do you think the greatest virtue is love?

 *Allow students time to share what they have written.*

SELAH

Using the following points, take this time to guide your students in prayer.

- Lord, we thank You for the great gifts You offer us on a daily basis.
- We may not always understand their purpose; instead we fight for the right to use these gifts.
- Help us to understand they are gifts from above, and they come from You simply because of Your grace and love.
- Teach us to love Your gifts and use them for the betterment of the church.

 *Allow time for students to update their Personal Discipleship Guide.*

ADULT

Spiritual Gifts

A series by Daniel Segraves



SERIES BIG IDEA

All who are baptized with the Holy Spirit are spiritually gifted that they may be equipped to function as members of the body of Christ.

Lesson 2.1

Lesson 2.2

Lesson 2.3

Lesson 2.4

The Difference between Gifts and Wages

The Vocal Gifts

The Revelation Gifts

The Power Gifts



Spiritual Gifts:

The Difference between Gifts and Wages

A series by Daniel Segraves

Lesson Big Idea: Though we work for, earn, and deserve wages, we do not work for, earn, or deserve gifts.

Foundation

Scripture Focus: I Corinthians 12:1-11; 14:40

Tell the story of Peter's prejudice on page 54.

- » *Why does having a spiritual gift not necessarily mean you are spiritually mature?* ⚙️
- » *Why do you think we automatically assume those who are gifted in spiritual leadership are spiritually mature?* ⚙️

Frame

A. The Church at Corinth

- » I Corinthians 1:2
 - » I Corinthians 1:14-16
 - » I Corinthians 5:2, 6
 - » I Corinthians 1:7
 - » *Why do you think the Lord chose to endow the Corinthian church with spiritual giftedness even though they were spiritually immature?* ⚙️
 - » *What does this say about who God is and His purpose for the church?* ⚙️
 - » Galatians 5:22-23
 - » *Why is the evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in someone's life a good indication of spiritual maturity?* ⚙️
1. From beginning to end, the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives is God's **gift**.
 2. A faith response to the commands of Scripture is not "works" in the sense that it earns free gifts.
 - » Romans 9:30-32

B. Motivational Gifts

- » Romans 12:6-8
 - » Philippians 2:13
1. These motivational gifts include prophecy, ministry (i.e., serving), teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, and showing mercy.
 2. These motivational gifts do not **reflect** the character of the persons who receive the gifts; they reflect the character of the Giver of the gifts.
 - » *How are natural talents and spiritual gifts the same?* ⚙️
 - » *How do spiritual gifts differ from natural talents?* ⚙️

C. Positional Gifts

- » Ephesians 4:7-11
- 1. The positional gifts include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.
 - » Ephesians 4:12-13
- 2. These positional gifts are often described as the **five-fold** ministry.

D Spiritual Gifts


- » I Thessalonians 1:3
- » *Do you see evidence of faith, hope, and love in your life? How?* ⚙️
- » *Do you see evidence of faith, hope, and love in the life of your church? How?* ⚙️
- » I Corinthians 13:13
- » *Why do you think the greatest virtue is love?* ⚙️
- 1. The **nine** spiritual gifts of I Corinthians 12:8-10
- 2. It is possible to be spiritually gifted but spiritually **undisciplined** and biblically illiterate.

Finish

Tell the story of Antonio Stradivari on page 57-58.

- » I Timothy 4:14
 - » II Timothy 1:6
- ✳️ *Arrange in advance to have one or two students share an experience of being ministered to by others who are spiritually gifted. Allow some time for discussion of these events by others in the class.*

Foundation

Scripture Focus: I Corinthians 12:1-11; 14:40 

Peter was an apostle to whom Jesus had given the keys of the kingdom. On the Day of Pentecost Peter was baptized with the Holy Spirit and preached the first sermon in the church. Peter continued to be instrumental in the growth and expansion of the early church because of his boldness, divine calling, and the specific purpose he had been tasked by the Lord to accomplish.

Though he found himself greatly used by God through the working of miracles and at times received visions from the Lord, Peter continued to struggle with stubbornness and ethnic bias. He knew his visions were from the Lord, but he refused to obey God's command. (See Acts 10:9-16.) Additionally, it would be somewhat reasonable to think Peter would have been cured of his prejudice by the outcome of his visit to Cornelius' household, but that was not the case as can be seen by his behavior in Antioch.

Peter had eaten with Gentiles—which was a hopeful sign of recovery from prejudice—but when some Jews arrived from Jerusalem, Peter demonstrated he had not abandoned this sin by once again refusing to have anything to do with Gentiles. Paul described Peter's behavior as well as that of Barnabas, another apostle, as hypocrisy. Peter had preached on the Day of Pentecost, but now neither he nor Barnabas were "straightforward about the truth of the gospel" (Galatians 2:14, NASB).

However, Peter was not alone in his struggle with prejudice and stubbornness. When Paul and Barnabas decided to return to the places where they had previously preached in order to visit the people there, they fell into a sharp disagreement over whether to take John Mark with them. John had not completed the previous trip, and Paul was determined not to give him another opportunity. Barnabas, on the other hand, was equally determined to take John. The contention between Paul and Barnabas escalated to the point that they decided they could no longer work together. Barnabas took John Mark with him, and Paul chose Silas for his traveling ministry companion.

We tend to think of those who fill these positional leadership roles as being spiritually mature and doctrinally accurate. And that is ideal. But because these abilities are gifts, they too, like all other gifts, are freely given. They are not rewards. This can be seen by looking at events in the lives of New Testament people like Paul, Barnabas, and Peter. It is possible to be gifted to function in one of the positional gifts mentioned in Ephesians 4:11 and still be in need of spiritual growth and doctrinal accuracy.

 **Why does having a spiritual gift not necessarily mean you are spiritually mature?**


 **Why do you think we automatically assume those who are gifted in spiritual leadership are spiritually mature?**

Frame

The Church at Corinth


What would you say if you met someone who claimed to have a spiritual gift, but who denied the resurrection of Jesus Christ, was involved in a civil lawsuit against a fellow church member, and abused the Lord's Supper? Would you question that person's claim?


If you found out that this person was considered a member of a church known for widespread drunkenness, extortion, and toleration of sexual immorality, would you think your suspicions had been confirmed?

If so, you would have passed judgment on the church at Corinth. Paul identified each of these problems in his first letter to this church, which he addressed as “the church of God which is at Corinth” (I Corinthians 1:2, NKJV).  The situation in this church was so bad that it was known as a quarreling church.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is essential to the gospel message, but there were those in the church at Corinth who denied this core doctrine. Believers should be able to settle their own differences between themselves, but members of the church were going to civil courts before unbelievers in order to do wrong and cheat one another. During what they called the Lord’s Supper, church members were gathering into cliques, shoving one another aside, and getting drunk. Because of this, many were weak and sick, and many others had died prematurely.


You probably wouldn’t think of the Corinthians as examples of spiritual maturity and doctrinal accuracy. There were those in the church at Corinth who were identified as brothers—and we can safely assume as sisters also—who were involved in sexual immorality so disgusting that it was not practiced even by those who made no claim to knowing Jesus.

Perhaps the most amazing thing of all is that the church in Corinth cheerfully tolerated this behavior. They arrogantly gloried in their broadmindedness. (See I Corinthians 5:2, 6.) 



In spite of these failures and others, Paul wrote that this church did “not lack any spiritual gift” (I Corinthians 1:7, NIV). 

Why do you think the Lord chose to endow the Corinthian church with spiritual giftedness even though they were spiritually immature?

What does this say about who God is and His purpose for the church?


When many of us were growing up in the church, we assumed that people who were used in spiritual gifts were “spiritual” people. That meant to us they were spiritually mature and doctrinally sound. No doubt there were many who were. But as we can see with the example of the Corinthians, this is not necessarily the case. The thing that indicates spiritual maturity is not the degree of one’s giftedness, but the presence in one’s life of the fruit of the Spirit. (See Galatians 5:22-23.)  But in spite of the fact that spiritual gifts are no measures of spiritual maturity or doctrinal accuracy, we must desire them, for they are given for edification, exhortation, and comfort.

Why is the evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in someone’s life a good indication of spiritual maturity?


From beginning to end, the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives is God’s gift.   The Greek word commonly translated “gift” in the New Testament (*charis*) refers to something that is “given freely and generously” (*Louw-Nida, Greek-English Lexicon of the NT*). A gift is something we don’t earn, work for, or deserve. It is not a reward for good behavior or diligent study. This is why the Corinthians did not come behind in any gift. God had given them these gifts freely and generously, not as a reward.


Another word used in the New Testament translated “gift” is *dorea*. This word also means “free gift.” It is “used only of spiritual and supernatural gifts that are freely given by God to believers” (*Analytical Greek Lexicon, Friberg*). This is the word used in Acts 2:38. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is God’s free gift. We do not earn or deserve it, and we must not think repentance and water baptism are works we do to qualify for the gift of the Holy Spirit.


LESSON BIG IDEA: Though we work for, earn, and deserve wages, we do not work for, earn, or deserve gifts.

A faith response to the commands of Scripture is not “works” in the sense that it earns free gifts. When the word “works” is used in a negative way in the New Testament, it refers to activity done, not from a basis of genuine faith, but from a vain attempt to earn favor with God and thus to merit or deserve salvation. (See Romans 9:30-32.) 

Although it is clear that we must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, this is not a work we do in order to deserve the gift of the Holy Spirit. If it were, no one would ever be baptized with the Holy Spirit who had not first been baptized. At Cornelius’ house, people were baptized with the Holy Spirit before they were baptized in water, and so were the disciples of John the Baptist. (See Acts 10:44-48; 19:1-6.) This frequently happens today.

Motivational Gifts (See Romans 12:6-8.) 

The spiritual gifts of I Corinthians 12-14 are not the only gifts mentioned in Scripture. In Romans 12:6-8, Paul discusses what may be called the motivational gifts. Other terms may be used to identify these gifts, but they seem to describe the giftedness that motivates us in Christian service. They are abilities given to us by God. Along with the abilities, God gives us the desire to do these things. As Paul explained, “It is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13, NKJV).  In other words, God gives us the desire and the ability to do what pleases Him.

These motivational gifts include prophecy, ministry (i.e., serving), teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, and showing mercy. There is some overlap here with the gifts mentioned in I Corinthians, and to a certain degree, all of us should be involved in all these things. Each person has a specific ability upon which to focus, and each ability is a free gift of God. These are not natural talents; they are gifts of grace. Even Paul’s ability to offer instruction on these gifts was a gift of God’s grace. As with all other gifts, these are not rewards. **These gifts do not reflect the character of the persons who receive the gifts; they reflect the character of the Giver of the gifts.** 

 **How are natural talents and spiritual gifts the same?**


 **How do spiritual gifts differ from natural talents?**

Positional Gifts (See Ephesians 4:7-11.) 


Another group of gifts is described in Ephesians 4:7-11. Although we could identify these gifts with other terms, they may be called positional gifts because they relate to people who are gifted to fulfill specific roles in the church. They could also be called ascension gifts because they were given by Christ in conjunction with His ascension. (See Ephesians 4:8.)


The positional gifts include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. (See Ephesians 4:11.) In this case, these gifts are persons God has enabled to equip the saints for the work of ministry (i.e., service), and for the edifying (i.e., building up and strengthening) of the body of Christ.


Ephesians 4:12-13 


These positional gifts are often described as the five-fold ministry,  but because of the structure of the Greek text here, some refer to them as the four-fold ministry, with the fourth person on the list being both a pastor and teacher. In this case, it does not mean all teachers are pastors, but that pastors are also teachers. Teachers are not always described as pastors in Scripture, but pastors are also to be able to teach. (See I Corinthians 12:28-29; James 3:1; I Timothy 3:2.)

Spiritual Gifts


When Paul wrote his letters, it was typical for him, early in each letter, to commend his audience for whatever good he could find. Then he would address the problems that needed correction. Usually, the virtues Paul looked for were faith, hope, and love. Sometimes he was able to commend his readers for all three, as in I Thessalonians 1:3.  But when he could not, he sought to correct the deficiency in the virtues not readily seen in the lives of those to whom he wrote.

 **Do you see evidence of faith, hope, and love in your life? How?**



 **Do you see evidence of faith, hope, and love in the life of your church? How?**

When he wrote to the Corinthians, the church was in such a state of spiritual immaturity and doctrinal error that he could not commend the people for faith, hope, or love. Instead, his letter is targeted at their deficiency in these areas. Indeed, an entire chapter is devoted to a discussion of this problem. In it, Paul explained that the three abiding virtues are faith, hope, and love, and that the greatest of these three is love. (See I Corinthians 13:13.) 

 **Why do you think the greatest virtue is love?**

The nine spiritual gifts of I Corinthians 12:8-10 , are the word of the wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, the gifts of healings, the working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, kinds of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues. If we did not know about the spiritual condition of the Corinthians and started reading this letter at this point, we would probably think anyone with these gifts was highly advanced spiritually and biblically literate. But we have seen this is not the case.

It is possible to be spiritually gifted but spiritually undisciplined and biblically illiterate.

  This is because these are gifts, not rewards given in recognition of spiritual and biblical achievements. They are not trophies. They tell us nothing about one's achievements. They only tell us something about the merciful and generous God who gives them.

Finish

In 1658 a young Italian boy named Antonio was apprenticed to the great violin maker Nicolo Amati. Legend has it, that like his townfolk, Antonio loved music. Cremona was a town in which musical ability was highly valued. But poor Antonio was not a very accomplished musician. When he tried singing, his friends nicknamed him "squeaky voice." When he tried to learn the violin, he was all thumbs. About the only thing Antonio could do was to whittle on a block of wood with his knife.

One day Antonio sat whittling by the roadside as three of his very musical friends were entertaining. The air filled with their beautiful playing and singing. One gentleman stopped longer than any of the others and even asked the friends to sing a song again. After they finished he dropped a gold coin into the hand of the singer. Then he moved on down the street.

A gold coin was a princely sum for a street singer. "Who was he?" asked Antonio. "It was Amati," his friends proudly replied. "Nicolo Amati, the greatest violin maker in all of Italy!"

That planted a thought in young Antonio's mind. The next morning he went to Nicolo Amati's house and waited for the great master to come out. When Amati opened the door, Antonio bounded up and told him that he wanted to become a violin maker. "I cannot sing and I cannot play, but I can carve. Would you take me on as an apprentice?"

LESSON BIG IDEA: Though we work for, earn, and deserve wages, we do not work for, earn, or deserve gifts.

Amati agreed and the eleven-year-old went to work for him. Years later Nicolo died and Antonio took over the business. Antonio's full name? Antonio Stradivari, the greatest violin maker of all time.

When Antonio died, he left over 1,500 violins, each one bearing a label that said "Antonio Stradivari." Today they are the most sought after violins in all the world. The clarity of tone and careful craftsmanship remain untouched by the centuries. Antonio couldn't sing, Antonio couldn't play, but he could carve. That was his gift."

(<http://storiesforpreaching.com/antonio-finds-his-gifting/>)


By now, we should be free from the idea that we can be used in spiritual gifts only if we have reached some height of spiritual maturity and theological development. Although we certainly want to reach these goals, we must not wait until we have done so to allow the Holy Spirit to work through us with spiritual gifts.


So which gifts interest you? That is the first question in identifying your spiritual gift or gifts. Since it is God who works in you to give you right desires and right abilities, think about what you desire to do. The thing you desire to do, if it is not born of a proud desire to promote yourself, is probably what God has gifted you to do. If you read the list of nine spiritual gifts prayerfully and one or more of them seem to be especially interesting to you, ask God to show you how you can be used in this giftedness. Ask Him to open doors of opportunity to you to use and develop these gifts.

The second question on the way to discovering your spiritual gifts is equally simple: What are you able to do? God gives us not only right desires, but right abilities. If you attempt to be used of God in a gift and there is no good result after a period of time, prayerfully reexamine the list of gifts and ask God for further direction. Do not give up too quickly, though, because there is a learning process in discovering how the spiritual gifts operate in your life. For instance, those who are gifted as pastors and teachers may have some early difficulty in their ministries, but over time they learn how to function more successfully in the areas to which they are called. There is a learning curve to hearing God's voice. This includes learning how God speaks to us and how He does not.

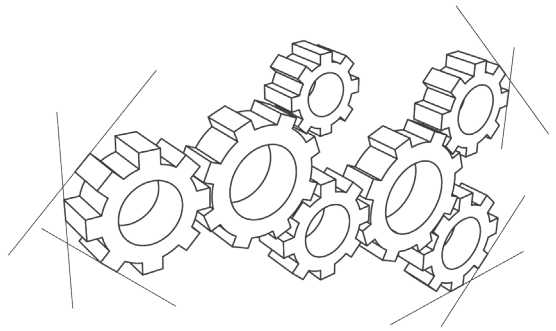
The third and final question is this: What gifts do others see in you? If you have been given specific gifts, you will not be the only person who knows it. Your gifts will be confirmed by the body of Christ. Over time, the church will recognize the validity of the gifts working in your life.

I Timothy 4:14 

II Timothy 1:6 

 *Arrange in advance to have one or two students share an experience of being ministered to by others who are spiritually gifted. Allow some time for discussion of these events by others in the class.*

Small Group Leader's Guide



Spiritual Gifts: *The Difference between Gifts and Wages*

Opening Question: What is the best gift you have ever received? What is the best gift you have ever given to someone?

Scripture Focus: I Corinthians 12:1-11; 14:40

Tell the story of Peter's prejudice on page 54.

Group Discussion:

- Why does having a spiritual gift not necessarily mean you are spiritually mature? ⚙️
- Why do you think we automatically assume those who are gifted in spiritual leadership are spiritually mature?
- Why do you think the Lord chose to endow the Corinthian church with spiritual giftedness even though they were spiritually immature?
- What does this say about who God is and His purpose for the church?
- Why is the evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in someone's life a good indication of spiritual maturity? ⚙️
- How do spiritual gifts differ from natural talents?
- Do you see evidence of faith, hope, and love in the life of your church? How?
- Why do you think the greatest virtue is love? ⚙️
- What does maturity mean?
- What does it mean to be spiritually mature?
- What might immaturity indicate in a Christian's life? ⚙️
- Why do you think God has given the various gifts mentioned in Scripture?
- What do you think God teaches us through the use of these gifts?
- Why is faith so important for us to be able to please God?
- Though some see love as risky, why is loving God not risky? ⚙️
- How is loving God and loving others connected?

Prayer Focus

Lord, I pray You would help me to become spiritually mature. I want the fruit of the Spirit to be evident in my life. Show me what You have equipped and gifted me to do in the kingdom of God. Increase my faith so that I may please You in everything I do. Fill me with a greater capacity to love You and others.