

# GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING

## THEOLOGICAL QUESTION

What are spiritual gifts, and how do I discover mine?

## BIG IDEA

Spiritual gifts are free gifts God has given to the body of Christ—that are different but all equally important—for the building up of the Church and for the glory of God.

## SCRIPTURE USED

**Romans 12:4-8:** *Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.*

**1 Corinthians 12:4-7,11:** *There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other...It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.*

## PRE-LESSON PREP

For this lesson you will need:

- A few wrapped gifts as “props.” Wrap the presents in an eye-catching manner with plenty of bows and ribbons.
- Multiple different types of candy. The aim here is variety. This need not be expensive or full bars of candy. Most bulk candy stores will allow you to create an assortment of different individually wrapped candies by weight. Ideally, there should be enough for each student to choose a different kind of candy (or different flavor/color) and a few extras to provide options.
- Copies of SCRIPTURE handout found at the end of the lesson.
- Writing utensils, including markers or colored pencils.

- For groups that have a close relationship, there is a highly recommended activity in the closing section that will require some preparation before your group meets.

## OPENER

After placing the large decorated presents on display in a highly visible location (along with the students' presents for the optional closing activity, if you decide to do it), announce that you will be talking about spiritual gifts. Dump out the candy pieces where students can sort through them and study the selection, and ask them to choose one piece of candy each.

**ASK** (Let a few students share their responses to each of these questions)

- **Is there anything you noticed about the selection of candy?** (most of them or all of them are different from each other)
- **Why did you pick the particular piece that you did?**
- **What is the primary ingredient in all of these pieces of candy?** (sugar, or high fructose corn syrup)

## TRANSITION

### EXPLAIN

**I think we can agree that all of these objects are candy! They have a common main ingredient: sugar, but they are all slightly different in color or appearance, in taste, and in some other ways.**

**Hopefully, you have been told before that you are completely unique, one of kind, and exactly like nobody else. What you may not have heard though, is that this applies to your spiritual gifting too. Like candy relies on sugar as a commonality, believers in Christ have our faith in Him in common. We have the Holy Spirit living inside us, and this unites us. However, each of you who have put your faith in Jesus were also made to bring God glory and encourage others in special unique ways that God knew would best fit your personality, your desires, and your talents. So, let's spend a little bit of time talking about spiritual gifts.**

### ASK

- **If you have heard this term before, what immediately comes to your mind when I say "spiritual gifts"?**
- **How would you simply explain it to someone who had never heard of spiritual gifts before?**