

AMPLIFY

GROWING A
FAITH THAT LASTS

AMPLIFY: SPIRITUAL GIFTS
LESSON 1: THE GIFT GIVER

What we want students to learn: The point of the lesson is that students would understand that God's plan to serve and grow His Church is for the Holy Spirit to work in and through individual Believers.

What we want students to do with what they've learned: To consider their attitudes toward the gifts they've been given.

Scripture Focus: Exodus 31:1-5, Numbers 11:16-17, Ezekiel 11:5, Joel 2:28-29, Acts 1:1-8

Overview: Teenagers and adults alike are fascinated with the idea of spiritual gifts, and for good reason. It's pretty awesome to think that the Holy Spirit works through us in specific ways, empowering us to build up the Church! When we think of the Spirit working through people to do God's work, we usually think in terms of a post-Pentecost, New Testament understanding. But the Old Testament is full of instances where the Spirit worked in and through people to advance God's mission. More importantly, the Old Testament provides evidence of God's desire to one day send His Spirit to permanently dwell with His people, thus providing them with an ever-present power source for advancing God's Kingdom. In this first lesson, students will learn that the Holy Spirit has always been active, empowering Believers to serve alongside God in His work. This lesson will trace this concept through the Old Testament, setting the stage for Lesson 33 where your students will understand how the Gospel impacts the concept of spiritual gifts.

TEACHER PREP VIDEO

Each **Amplify** lesson comes with a Teacher Prep Video. These are short videos designed to help you grasp the main point of the lesson as you prepare to teach.

To access your **Spiritual Gifts** lesson 1 Teacher Prep Video, login to your Lesson Manager, navigate to lesson 1 and click on the "Background" tab. You'll notice the Teacher Prep Video near the top of the Lesson Manager window.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

The **Bible Background** is designed to help you provide some context for the Scripture you'll be studying. The Details gives you background info for each book, The Setting informs you what's happening in and around the passage, and The Main Point gives you an overview of how the passage will be used in the lesson.

- **What do we mean by "context"?** In every **YM360** Bible study lesson, you'll notice we make a point to encourage you to provide the context for the passages you study. By "context" we mean at the very least helping students know **who** wrote the book, **when** it was written, and **why** it was written.
- **What's the big deal?** When we teach the Bible without giving context, students don't get a "big picture" understanding of the story of the Bible. But this view is vital to grasping the story of God's plan of redemption for humankind. As you teach, use the **Bible Background** to help summarize the context.

THE DETAILS

Exodus and Numbers

WEEK 1: LESSON PLAN
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- **Author:** Exodus and Numbers are both two books from what's called the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible), so we'll deal with their contexts together. While neither book states the specific author, church tradition has always held Moses as the author.
- **Timeframe:** The dating of these books is a point of debate. The issue is that no one knows for sure when the Exodus occurred, whether it was in the mid-1400s BC or a later date around the mid-1200s BC. The writing would have occurred around those general dates.
- **Purpose:** Exodus means "a going out" or a "departure." Exodus was written to be a record of God's great rescue of His people from slavery in Egypt, and His commands to His people guiding them to live for His purposes in the midst of a new land. The Book of Numbers was referred to by the Israelites as "in the wilderness." God's people were made to wander in the desert for a generation because they had failed to trust in God's promises.

Ezekiel

- **Author:** Ezekiel is written as the prophet Ezekiel's visions from God.
- **Timeframe:** Ezekiel was written between 593 BC and 573 BC, which are the dates of Ezekiel's first and last vision in the book.
- **Purpose:** The prophet Ezekiel's name means "God strengthens." This is a good name for a prophet who proclaimed a message of judgment and a later restoration of God's people for His glory. The book is a series of visions showing Israel the work and ways of God, and their failure to follow His commands.

Joel

- **Author:** Joel is a book written by the prophet Joel.
- **Timeframe:** Joel has a range of possible dates anywhere from the ninth to the fourth centuries BC.
- **Purpose:** The prophet Joel, whose name means "Yahweh is God," writes of the coming "day of the Lord." This is a day of divine judgment on both Israel and Judah. The day of the Lord will be a day of judgment for those who do evil but also a day of hope for those who remain faithful to God. Joel shows God's faithfulness to protect His people, dwell in the midst of His people, and to pour out His Spirit on all peoples.

Acts

- **Author:** Acts has long been held to be a letter from Luke, a Gentile physician, to a man named Theophilus, possibly a benefactor of some sort.
- **Timeframe:** There is some debate over when Acts was written. The suggested dates are between 70 AD and 80 AD.
- **Purpose:** The Book of Acts is a second letter to Theophilus that tells the story of the early church following Jesus' resurrection. The book begins with Jesus' ascension and His command of His followers to proclaim the Gospel in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. The rest of the book traces this journey as the early church leaders proclaim the Gospel and plant churches.

THE MAIN POINT

These passages work together to show us that throughout the Old and New Testaments, the Holy Spirit has always been empowering God's people to be about His work. The passages in Exodus, Numbers, and Ezekiel come together to show us that in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit worked through specific people, at specific times, to give them the power to be a part of His work.

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In Joel and Acts, we see that there would come a time when the Holy Spirit would work through all people instead of just specific people. This transformation means that being a part of God's work is not just for some people, but for all people who have a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. All Believers have been given specific giftings by and through the Spirit so that they can be a part of serving the Church and growing God's Kingdom.

LESSON PLAN

The **Lesson Plan** contains three elements: An introductory activity called **The Lead In**; the Bible study section called **The Main Event**; an application-focused segment called **The Last Word**.

THE LEAD IN

- **Goal:** The idea is to get the students thinking about gifts they've been given that they didn't really use. You want your students to think of the importance of using the gifts that they're given.
- **Set-Up:** If possible, bring a gift that you've received that you didn't really have a use for. (Make sure the gift giver is not in the room to avoid a potentially awkward moment.) Even if you can't bring the gift, be prepared to share the story. You could also benefit from a dry-erase board if you have one.

Be prepared to share the story of your useless gift. Think about these questions to guide you as you consider what gift you might share:

- **Were you a victim of a chronic bad gift giver? (Like, maybe your crazy Aunt Edna?)**
- **Why did you not find a use for the selected gift?**
- **What would you have rather had?**

FIRST, share your heartbreaking story of epic gift failure. Don't hold back. This is your chance to vent. Then, explain to students that you're going to open up the conversation to allow them to share similar stories of useless gifts they've been given.

THEN, if you have a dry-erase board, make a chart on the board with the columns "Useless Gifts" and "Awesome Gifts." Allow students to share some of the most useless gifts they've received. As they share, record their answers on the board. Have some fun with this.

NEXT, shift gears. Ask students to try and think of some of the best gifts they've received. Again, let them share stories as you write the good gifts under the "Awesome Gifts" column. Allow this to go on for a few minutes. Then, transition to a time of discussion. Say something like:

- **What good is a gift that sits in your closet or drawer?**
 - Answer: No good at all.
- **Why is getting a new phone or new pair of shoes better than getting sheets for your bed, or undershirts?**
 - Answers will vary. Emphasize the idea of usefulness. Let's face it: some gifts are just better because using them enriches our lives so much.

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FINALLY, explain to students that this lesson will focus on an important and useful gift that all believers in Jesus Christ have been given, one that we tend to forget the importance of. Say something like:

- **Sometimes the idea of spiritual gifts can leave us scratching our heads. You may find yourself asking, “What are they really? Do I have them? And what’s the big deal about them, anyway?” These are valid questions. Over the next three lessons, we’ll answer all of these questions. And we’ll learn that the value of these gifts are found both in their usefulness and in the value of the One who gives them to us. Let’s get started!**

Transition into *The Main Event* portion of your lesson.

THE MAIN EVENT

- **Goal:** The goal is for the students to understand the difference in how the Holy Spirit worked in and through Believers in the Old Testament, as opposed to how He works in the lives of Believers from the New Testament until the present day.
- **Set Up:** None needed.

FIRST, ask the following question:

- **What do you think about when you hear the word “spiritual gifts”?**
 - Answers will vary. Allow students to answer freely. Encourage them to answer, even if their response is “I don’t really know what to think.”

THEN, explain that you want to make sure everyone is on the same page about spiritual gifts. To do so, read students the following definition from theologian Wayne Grudem’s book *Systematic Theology*: “A spiritual gift is any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in the ministry of the church.”

Explain that we might be likely to think of spiritual gifts as only applying to a select group of people (i.e., mature Christ-followers, or “professional” ministers, such as pastors, or youth pastors, missionaries, etc.). Explain that you’re about to learn that nothing could be further from the truth. Explain that in this lesson you’re about to see how God works through all Believers to give them unique gifts to serve the Church and grow God’s Kingdom. But explain that the way the Spirit works today in the lives of Believers isn’t the way He’s always worked. Explain that you are going to read three different verses from three different books of the Old Testament to get a picture of how the Holy Spirit worked through His people in the Old Testament and how this has changed.

NEXT, ask for three volunteers to read the following verses: Exodus 31:1-5, Numbers 11:16-17, and Ezekiel 11:5. As students are finding the passages, give a brief context for the three books using the Bible Background. When they’re ready, have the students read the three passages in sequence. (Instruct each student who reads to keep their Bibles open to their passage.)

THEN, lead students in a short discussion. Ask:

- **In each of these passages, God says He will use a particular person. Who is it in each passage?**
 - Answer: Exodus: Bezalel; Numbers: 70 of Israel’s elders; Ezekiel: Ezekiel
- **What kind of work does the Spirit empower these people to do in each case?**

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- o Answer: Exodus: the Spirit empowers Bezalel to do building and craftsmanship to build the tabernacle where the people would worship God; In Numbers, the Spirit helped the elders lead; In Ezekiel, the Spirit helped Ezekiel speak God's words to His people.
- **In each of these passages, we see a description of how the Spirit actually began to empower these people to serve God. Go through each passage and pull out how the Spirit is described as actually coming into contact with these people to empower them.**
 - o Answer: Exodus: God said that He had "filled [Bezalel] with the Spirit of God." Numbers: God said He would "take of the Spirit that is on you and put the Spirit on them." Ezekiel: Ezekiel said that there was a moment where "the Spirit of the LORD came upon me."

Explain to students that what they just discovered is really profound, even though at first it's easy to miss. Say something like:

- **These passages show that the Holy Spirit has always worked through people to empower them for service. But the implication in each of these passages is that there was a point where the Holy Spirit was not with these Believers, but then at a certain point, He was. There are numerous other examples of this in the Old Testament. And even instances like Samson and Saul where we see the Spirit leaving people. This is pretty important because this is NOT how the Holy Spirit works today. We're about to look at two other passages that will begin to help us see how the nature of the Holy Spirit's "empowerment" ultimately would change.**

Explain to the students that they're about to see the prediction of this shift. This is a huge shift: from some of God's people being empowered by the Spirit (and that not even necessarily a permanent empowering) to all of God's people being gifted to serve and grow the Kingdom.

THEN, instruct students turn in their Bibles to Joel 2:28-29. Provide a little context while they're finding it. Explain that this passage is a promise given by Joel to God's people who were seeking to be faithful to Him, though many people around them had forsaken God. Explain that these verses are a promise of hope that God would one day work in and through His people in a way that they had never seen before.

Select a student to read Joel 2:28-29 aloud, then ask:

- **This passage says that one day, "all people" would be empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve God. Then, it gives some examples of "all people." Who does it refer to?**
 - o Answer: Everyone! Sons, daughters, old, young, male servants, and female servants.
- **Just to be clear, how is this different than how the Holy Spirit empowered people in the Old Testament?**
 - o Answer: Remember, the Holy Spirit came on specific people at specific times for a specific task. That's a lot different than the "all people" pictured here!
- **What kinds of gifts do you see being predicted in Joel?**
 - o Answer: We see different gifts being used by different people – "prophesy," "dreaming dreams," and "seeing visions." These were all different gifts given to different people, but they were all to be used for a single purpose – advancing God's Kingdom.

Reinforce that even in the Old Testament, we see God pointing to a day when the Holy Spirit would empower all believers to work for God's purpose. Explain to the students that this verse did not refer to Joel's time but a time to come.




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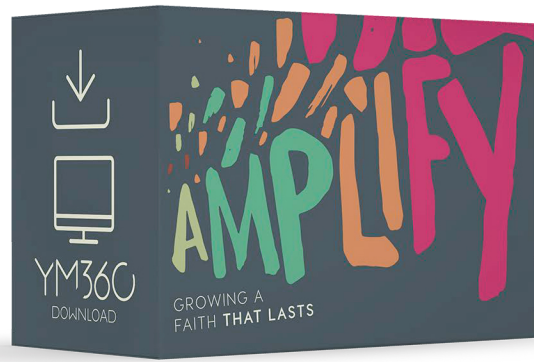
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We hope you have enjoyed this sample of this **Amplify: Growing a Faith That Lasts** study. Each **Amplify** lesson has a Leader Guide in PDF and DOC format that you can adjust to fit the needs of your group.

Do you have questions about this study? We're here to help! Contact our world-class Customer Care team at (888) 969-6360, email us at customercare@ym360.com, or Live Chat us through our website.



THE HOLY SPIRIT
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SPIRITUAL GIFTS
SERVICE
HUMILITY
KNOWING GOD
PRAYER
STEWARDSHIP
THE UNCHANGING GOD



This study is one of the 3-lesson studies in the Amplify curriculum.

Amplify is a 52-lesson youth ministry Bible study curriculum that will help your students lay the foundation of a lasting relationship with God through a study of the core concepts of their faith.

Included in each Amplify 3-lesson study:

- 3 Bible study lessons
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