



## A LIFE OF BEING A DISCIPLE

### LESSON 2 – TALENTS FOR OTHERS

#### Opening Prayer

#### INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

**Spiritual Gifts Draft:** In Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, and 1 Peter 4, God gives us a listing of spiritual gifts. Below is a sample listing of 12 of the more common gifts given to the members of Christ's Church.

Let's imagine for a moment that God is going to let you pick the gifts you can select for the members of your church. Of the 12, you get to select 6. With a partner, discuss the following:

- **Knowledge** – Able to understand deep biblical truth.
- **Wisdom** – Able to apply knowledge. (e.g., counselors)
- **Faith** – Incredible confidence in God's promises. (e.g., motivators)
- **Teaching** – Able to explain and apply God's Word in an understandable way.
- **Evangelism** – Eager and able to explain God's truth to those not yet part of the body of Christ.
- **Service** – Providing behind the scenes support.
- **Encouragement** – Has the exceptional gift to uplift and reassure.
- **Contributing** – "Extra" generous individuals.
- **Leadership** – Guiding and inspiring others to follow in a single direction.
- **Showing mercy** – Seeing those who need help and giving that help.
- **Administration** – The big picture person who can organize and delegate to get things done.
- **Pastor/Teacher** – Person who has been called to shepherd a group of Christians (Ephesians 4:12-13)

What are the 6 gifts you would select for your church?

Describe the characteristics of “your church” with concrete examples (the blessings as well as what your church lacks):

God-willing, this exercise led you to see...

## WE NEED EACH OTHER!

1. Each of you has been given spiritual gifts. Why are the underlined truths important to keep in mind as we use those gifts?
  - “Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.” (1 Corinthians 12:7)
  - “For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” (Romans 12:4-5)
  
2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-26. Paul compares the church to a body. List at least 4 points Paul is trying to make with this comparison.
  - With Paul’s points in mind, what are the dangers for our congregation?
  - What are the blessings for our congregation when we realize that we are one body (i.e. the body of Christ)?

3. As we use our God given gifts to serve our neighbors in our lives, in what ways to these passages shape our attitudes?

*“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:25-28)*

*“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 2:3-5)*

### GROUP ACTIVITY

- As a group, discuss your spiritual gifts. Each person needs to identify at least one gift in themselves and one gift in one of their tablemates. Come up with at least one way those gifts could be used to serve others, either in the church or in the community. These may be things that are already happening!

**My spiritual gift:**

**How I could use that gift:**

- Many times, congregations lament that there are not enough volunteers for the ministry opportunities before them. The reasons are many and varied: *“I don’t have time . . . scared of the unknown . . . had a bad experience in the past . . . don’t have the skills . . . let the younger members chip in . . . don’t want to serve until Jesus comes again!”* Take 4 minutes at your table and brainstorm things that your church could consider doing to help recruit and retain volunteers.

- On the bottom half of this sheet of paper, take a minute and write down suggestions to your pastor(s) as to how your spiritual gift(s) could be used to serve others. Again, this area of service may be inside or outside of church. Perhaps, you are simply recording what you discussed in the first discussion question. Are your gifts not being used or do you think they could be used in a different way?

## CLOSING ACTIVITY

### Haiku!

Haiku are 3-line poems with the syllable structure of 5-7-5.

Take 3 minutes to write a Haiku illustrating truths about using our gifts to serve others.