

Am I
GIFTED?

Discussion Guide



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KIA ORA

At Crossroads, we recognise that God has blessed the Church with spiritual gifts. They help unify us and carry out our mission to share the good news of Jesus. We also recognise that in our church community, there's a range of beliefs and experiences with these gifts, from powerful expressions to occasional misuse. So what are they and how do we make the most of these wonderful gifts?

In this series, we aim to clarify what we believe spiritual gifts are, their purpose, and how to use them. Our prayer is that this series will give you confidence in the ways God has gifted you, empowering you to step boldly into whatever God has for you next.

This Discussion Guide is designed to help you dive deeper into this series with questions related to the passages we will be exploring, as well as space to make notes during the sermons.

MANAAKI TE ATUA

MAKING THE MOST OF THIS DISCUSSION GUIDE

Key Question

We're introducing a new concept in this guide called Key Questions. For each week's set of discussion questions, we have initial questions designed to generate a whole evening's worth of discussion. This might be more appropriate to use if your group has a few people who aren't followers of Jesus yet, not requiring everyone to have a high level of Christian knowledge to engage in discussion. The types of questions that have been regularly a part of Crossroads Discussion Guides will then follow after the Key Questions if you'd prefer to continue your discussions using that format. Basically, we want to offer more flexibility in how these guides can be used.

Discovery Bible Method

At the back of this guide, you will find instructions on how to alternatively use the Discovery Bible Method as the basis for your discussions. This method can be a rewarding way to develop a deeper understanding of the Bible passage and personal application, relying on asking repeated specific questions. This may also be a better way to make the most of this guide if you're using it as an individual.



While we believe these Discussion Guides can be beneficial to you on your own, we think the best way to make the most of them is through discussion with others. God reveals things to us individuals, but when we team up with others and hear what God is revealing to them also, we can often build a more excellent and broader understanding of the passages we explore. At Crossroads we provide several ways to do this, primarily through our Connect Groups and Mentoring Framework. If you would like to explore the Bible in community or one-on-one with another, all the information on our Connect Groups and Mentoring Framework can be found at crossroads.co.nz. We encourage you to check them out!



MENTORING
AT CROSSROADS

WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

21 April | 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

1 Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. I don't want you to misunderstand this. 2 You know that when you were still pagans, you were led astray and swept along in worshipping speechless idols. 3 So I want you to know that no one speaking by the Spirit of God will curse Jesus, and no one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit.

4 There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. 5 There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. 6 God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

7 A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. 8 To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. 9 The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. 10 He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. 11 It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

21 April | What Are Spiritual Gifts?

Key Questions

What do you think your spiritual gift(s) are?

What do others in the group think your gifts are?

- What are your current beliefs on spiritual gifts?
 - Has this always been what you have believed about them?
- What has been your experience of spiritual gifts?
- How would you define each of the gifts listed in this passage? (wise advice, special knowledge, great faith, healing, miracles, prophesy, discernment, unknown languages, interpretation of unknown languages)
- What other spiritual gifts are you aware of that aren't listed in this passage?
 - Do you think all possible spiritual gifts can be found in scripture, or are we just given examples of a few?

WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS FOR?

28 April | 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

12 The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ.

13 Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.

14 Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. 15 If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?

18 But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. 19 How strange a body would be if it had only one part! 20 Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. 21 The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."

22 In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. 23 And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, 24 while the more honorable parts do not require this special care.

WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS FOR?

28 April | 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity.

25 This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. 26 If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.

27 All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it. 28 Here are some of the parts God has appointed for the church:

first are apostles,

second are prophets,

third are teachers,

then those who do miracles,

those who have the gift of healing,

those who can help others,

those who have the gift of leadership,

those who speak in unknown languages.

29 Are we all apostles? Are we all prophets? Are we all teachers? Do we all have the power to do miracles? 30 Do we all have the gift of healing? Do we all have the ability to speak in unknown languages? Do we all have the ability to interpret unknown languages? Of course not! 31 So you should earnestly desire the most helpful gifts.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

28 April | What Are Spiritual Gifts For?

Key Questions

How connected would you say you are to your church body?

What could you do to help the church body function better?

- What is a skill or passion you have that you don't normally tell people about?
- What does it look like for spiritual gifts to be fulfilling their purpose?
 - Can you think of any examples where you've seen this?
- After reading verse 26, how would you rate yourself for suffering with others?
 - How would you rate yourself at celebrating with other believers?
- How do these verses make you feel about your place in the body of Christ?
 - What about your need for others?

THE GREATEST GIFT

5 May | 1 Corinthians 12:31b - 13:13

31b But now let me show you a way of life that is best of all.

13

1 If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. 3 If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud 5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. 6 It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

THE GREATEST GIFT

5 May | 1 Corinthians 12:31b - 13:13

8 Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever! 9 Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! 10 But when the time of perfection comes, these partial things will become useless.

11 When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. 12 Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

13 Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

5 May | 1 Corinthians 12:31b - 13:13

Key Questions

When in your life have you felt the most loved?

How did that love affect your life?

- Why does love play a vital role in the use of spiritual gifts?
 - What might happen when spiritual gifts are practised without love? Or can they even be used without love?
- How does love as described in this chapter compare to love as typically defined in our culture?
- Looking at the description of perfect love in verses 4-7, in which one of these characteristics of love are you the strongest?
 - In which one are you the weakest?
- How does it make you feel to know that you are fully known by God? (verse 12)?

10AM KIDS SERVICE/ 6PM STAND ALONE

12 May

Since this Sunday we'll be taking a break from the series for Mother's Day, we don't have a specific passage for you to discuss. Instead, we encourage your group to jump online and take the free spiritual gifts assessment found at spiritualgiftstest.com.

Once you've taken the assessment, discuss your results with the group.

- In what ways do you see your results currently playing out in your life? Your Strengths? Your Weaknesses?
 - How could you better utilise your strengths?
 - What could you do to help you be better aware of your weaknesses?
- Did anything surprise you about your results?
- When considering the other members in your group, can you think of any examples you've witnessed that affirm their strengths?

USING GIFTS WISELY

19 May | 1 Corinthians 14:1-21

1 Let love be your highest goal! But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives—especially the ability to prophesy. 2 For if you have the ability to speak in tongues, you will be talking only to God, since people won't be able to understand you. You will be speaking by the power of the Spirit, but it will all be mysterious. 3 But one who prophesies strengthens others, encourages them, and comforts them. 4 A person who speaks in tongues is strengthened personally, but one who speaks a word of prophecy strengthens the entire church.

5 I wish you could all speak in tongues, but even more I wish you could all prophesy. For prophecy is greater than speaking in tongues, unless someone interprets what you are saying so that the whole church will be strengthened.

6 Dear brothers and sisters, if I should come to you speaking in an unknown language, how would that help you? But if I bring you a revelation or some special knowledge or prophecy or teaching, that will be helpful. 7 Even lifeless instruments like the flute or the harp must play the notes clearly, or no one will recognize the melody. 8 And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear call, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle?

9 It's the same for you. If you speak to people in words they don't understand, how will they know what you are saying? You might as well be talking into empty space.

10 There are many different languages in the world, and every language has meaning. 11 But if I don't understand a language, I will be a foreigner to someone who speaks it, and the one who speaks it will be a foreigner to me. 12 And the same is true for you. Since you are so eager to have the special abilities the Spirit gives, seek those that will strengthen the whole church.

USING GIFTS WISELY

19 May | 1 Corinthians 14:1-21

13 So anyone who speaks in tongues should pray also for the ability to interpret what has been said. 14 For if I pray in tongues, my spirit is praying, but I don't understand what I am saying.

15 Well then, what shall I do? I will pray in the spirit, and I will also pray in words I understand. I will sing in the spirit, and I will also sing in words I understand. 16 For if you praise God only in the spirit, how can those who don't understand you praise God along with you? How can they join you in giving thanks when they don't understand what you are saying? 17 You will be giving thanks very well, but it won't strengthen the people who hear you.

18 I thank God that I speak in tongues more than any of you. 19 But in a church meeting I would rather speak five understandable words to help others than ten thousand words in an unknown language.

20 Dear brothers and sisters, don't be childish in your understanding of these things. Be innocent as babies when it comes to evil, but be mature in understanding matters of this kind. 21 It is written in the Scriptures:

"I will speak to my own people
through strange languages
and through the lips of foreigners.

But even then, they will not listen to me,"
says the Lord.

22 So you see that speaking in tongues is a sign, not for believers, but for unbelievers. Prophecy, however, is for the benefit of believers, not unbelievers. 23 Even so, if unbelievers or people who don't understand these things come into your church meeting and hear everyone speaking in an unknown language, they will think you are crazy. 24 But if all of you are prophesying, and unbelievers or people who don't understand these things come into your meeting, they will be convicted of sin and judged by what you say. 25 As they listen, their secret thoughts will be exposed, and they will fall to their knees and worship God, declaring, "God is truly here among you."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

19 May | Using Our Gifts Wisely

Key Questions

If you are or become a Christian, what exciting experiences do you/would you hope to have?

Which experiences do you wish Christians would tone down?

- What does it look like to healthily desire gifts of the Spirit?
- Should we expect all believers to experience certain gifts?
- What do you believe tongues are? (please be respectful of the possible differing views within the group).
- Why do you think Paul considers prophecy better than tongues?
 - What is the difference between the two?
- What do you do that edifies you alone?
 - What do you do that edifies the church?

GIFTS IN GATHERINGS

26 May | 1 Corinthians 14:26-40

26 Well, my brothers and sisters, let's summarize. When you meet together, one will sing, another will teach, another will tell some special revelation God has given, one will speak in tongues, and another will interpret what is said. But everything that is done must strengthen all of you.

27 No more than two or three should speak in tongues. They must speak one at a time, and someone must interpret what they say. 28 But if no one is present who can interpret, they must be silent in your church meeting and speak in tongues to God privately.

29 Let two or three people prophesy, and let the others evaluate what is said. 30 But if someone is prophesying and another person receives a revelation from the Lord, the one who is speaking must stop. 31 In this way, all who prophesy will have a turn to speak, one after the other, so that everyone will learn and be encouraged. 32 Remember that people who prophesy are in control of their spirit and can take turns. 33 For God is not a God of disorder but of peace, as in all the meetings of God's holy people.

34 Women should be silent during the church meetings. It is not proper for them to speak. They should be submissive, just as the law says. 35 If they have any questions, they should ask their husbands at home, for it is improper for women to speak in church meetings.

36 Or do you think God's word originated with you Corinthians? Are you the only ones to whom it was given? 37 If you claim to be a prophet or think you are spiritual, you should recognize that what I am saying is a command from the Lord himself. 38 But if you do not recognize this, you yourself will not be recognized.

39 So, my dear brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and don't forbid speaking in tongues. 40 But be sure that everything is done properly and in order.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

26 May | Gifts In Gatherings

Key Questions

What do you find to be the most inspiring aspects of attending a church service?

What aspects do you not connect with?

- Have you ever been in a worship service that was chaotic and disorderly? If yes, what did you take away from that experience?
- In what ways does your worship experience parallel what Paul says in this passage?
 - In what ways does it differ?
 - What could we learn as a church from Paul's advice to the Corinthians?
- How do you feel about the use of tongues and interpretation and prophecy in worship gatherings today?
- By what standards should Christians 'evaluate what is said'? (verse 29).

SPIRITUAL GIFTS PANEL

2 June

This week we will host a panel of people from our church community to hear their experiences and perspectives on spiritual gifts. Because we don't have a specific passage to discuss, we encourage you to use this week to discuss the biggest questions and takeaways you have from the series so far. One suggestion would be for each person in your group to bring one question and take away to discuss.

Key Questions

What are your biggest questions from this series of teachings/discussions so far?

What is your main takeaway so far?

BENEDICTION

9 June | Romans 12:1-8

1 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

3 Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. 4 Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function,⁵ so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

6 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. 7 If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. 8 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.

9 Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.¹⁰ Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. 11 Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. 12 Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. 13 When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

BENEDICTION

9 June | Romans 12:1-8

14 Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. 15 Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!

17 Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. 18 Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

19 Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say,
"I will take revenge;
I will pay them back,"
says the Lord.

20 Instead,
"If your enemies are hungry, feed them.
If they are thirsty, give them something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap
burning coals of shame on their heads."

21 Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

9 June | Benediction

Key Questions

What characteristics should be clearly visible in all Christians?

What characteristics would you be surprised to see displayed by a Christian?

- Paul warns us not to conform to this world. In what areas do you think you easily conform to the world around you?
- What does it mean to offer your body as a living sacrifice?
- Do you think anything is holding you back from using your gifts more fully?
- In the ways we are called to live from verse 9 onward, which two characteristics do you find the easiest to embrace?
 - Which do you find the most difficult?

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

In this Discussion Guide, you will find questions provided each week based on the passage that will be spoken on. Alternatively, you may want to try using the Discovery Bible Study Method. There are two ways to utilise it; one way for individuals and one for a group. This page and the next explain how it works:

For Individuals

Read the Scripture passage.

- Re-tell: what do you observe?

Reread the passage.

- What does it say about God?

Reread the passage.

- What does it say about people?

Application:

According to this study, what am I doing well?

What do I need to change/obey?

Pray:

Talk with the Lord about what you've learnt and what you need His help with

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

For Groups

Care

How are you doing? (Highs & Lows)

Who else needs our help?

Loving Accountability:

Give an account of your obedience to the “Fish & Follow” goals you set last week.

Scripture

Read & Retell:

One person reads the Bible passage out loud, and the rest follow along.

- Someone else retells the passage by memory, if possible.

Read the passage out loud again.

- Discuss what this passage says about God (Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit) or His plan.

Read the passage out loud once more.

- Discuss what this passage says about people.

Application

Follow:

According to this study, what am I doing well?

What from today’s lesson does God want me to obey?

The step I will take this week is...

Fish:

Who will I share with this week?

Commission:

Pray and ask God for his power to help you fish and follow.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

This discussion guide was created with the help of the following resources:

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- Serendipity Bible for Groups © 1998 by Serendipity House.



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