

APPLICATION

- Which gifts has God given you? How can you use it for His purpose?
- What's one thing that you appreciate about the church? How can you continue to share life in the church as you serve God together?
- What is one thing you can actively do to serve your community this week?

PRAYER

- Thank God for the gifts He has given us, with which we serve others. Thank Him for the opportunity to share life with others who walk in fellowship with Him.
- Ask God for opportunities to serve others and speak God's words.
- Pray that the gifts God has given you will achieve His intended purpose and goal. Pray that many others would come to know God through your life, talents, and testimony.



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FORWARD

WEEK 9

Shared Life

NOTES

WARM-UP

- What is your favorite board game? Why do you like it so much?
- Tell us about a time you stayed up all night talking with a family member or friend. How did it happen? How did you feel?
- Recall a time when someone taught you a new skill or idea. How did you feel?

WORD

¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. **1 PETER 4:10,11**

(Read also **1 CORINTHIANS 12:31**.)

The gospel—what Jesus did for us through His life, death, and resurrection—transforms and enables us to live the way God intended, with humility, love, and forgiveness. Fellowship with believers is about sharing life together, using our gifts to serve one another, and honoring God as His church. In this lesson, we will look at three aspects of the gifts God has given His church.

1 The Source of the Gift

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace . . . **1 PETER 4:10**

(Read also **LUKE 1:15-17**.)

Each of the believers has received a spiritual *gift* from God. We do not earn any of these gifts through our own effort or merit. They were given by God to share with the church, not to keep to ourselves or for our own gain. Recognizing this is the starting point to using our gifts for their intended purpose. What would happen if we did not look to God as the source of our gifts?

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2 The Purpose of the Gift

¹⁰. . . use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies . . . **1 PETER 4:10,11**

Peter describes gifts that involve speaking and serving. Our God-given gifts are meant to *serve one another*. Knowing this, we have a responsibility to *steward* them well. Those with speaking gifts should use them to share the words of God with the community; those with gifts of service should serve others with the *strength that God supplies*. How have you learned to steward the gifts God has given you?

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3 The Goal of the Gift

. . . in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. **1 PETER 4:11**

The first time the gospel was preached in Acts 2, 3,000 believers were added. The number grew by the day, not just because of the preaching of the gospel, but also because of the fellowship of the church community. These spiritual gifts were designed to glorify God and point others to Christ. As we use them to *be used to*, we engage our culture and community with the gospel. How can more people know God as you use your gifts and talents?

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