

Small-Group Discussion Guide (2/8/2025)

Sermon recap: God doesn't only want the "churchy" parts of your life—he wants all of you. Romans 12 shows that believers belong to one body in Christ, and God gives different gifts by grace so we can build one another up. Some abilities are formed over time through God's providence (skills, experience, wiring); others are given by the Holy Spirit for the church's good. Either way, none of your story is wasted when you bring it to God. The call is to steward our talents with humility, unity, and genuine love—so our gifts honor others, strengthen the body, and become concrete love in real life.

Main passage: Romans 12:1-13

All passages used in the sermon: Exodus 1:15–21; Exodus 31:1–6; 1 Corinthians 12:14–20 (body illustration); Mark 10:45; Romans 3:23; Acts 16:31

Additional Scriptures: 1 Peter 4:10–11; Ephesians 4:11–16; 1 Corinthians 12:4–7, 12–13; Colossians 3:23–24; Exodus 35:30–35

Brief definitions:

- **Providence:** *God's wise care shaping your life over time—through experiences, training, relationships, and even hardship.*
 - **Spiritual gifts:** *Grace-empowered abilities the Holy Spirit gives believers to build up the church and bless others.*
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Discussion Questions:

1. Where do you most naturally "come alive" when helping other people—what kinds of needs or tasks tend to fit you? When did you first notice that strength in your life?
2. Read Romans 12:4-8. What does this teaching reveal about God—especially his generosity and wisdom in giving different gifts to different people? How does seeing God as a giver reshape gratitude or trust for you right now?
3. Romans 12 says we are "one body in Christ." How does that identity challenge the way you think about your role in the church? Do you tend to feel unnecessary, or indispensable—and why?
4. What skills, experiences, or "ordinary" abilities has God formed in you over time that could become concrete love for others? Is there any part of your story you've assumed was irrelevant to God's purposes?
5. Which of the Romans 12 gifts (service, teaching, exhortation, generosity, leadership, mercy) do you resonate with most—and which do you feel least confident about? What's one piece of evidence (feedback, fruit, desire, need) that supports what you chose?
6. How do comparison and pride quietly sabotage giftedness in community? (1 Corinthians 12:14–20; Romans 12:9–10) When you use your gifts, do people feel honored and strengthened—or do they feel small and crowded out?
7. What is one specific step you can take this week to steward your talents with genuine love? (Romans 12:9–13) What's a realistic obstacle—and what's one simple plan to move through it?

Prayer

Father, thank you for your mercy in Jesus and for the varied grace you've given your people. Help us see our gifts clearly and humbly—without comparison or pride. Teach us to use what you've entrusted to us for unity in the body and genuine love toward others. Show each of us one concrete way to serve this week, and give us joy, endurance, and prayerful dependence as we do it. In Jesus' name, amen.