



## Gifted

**5-Apr:** The heart behind using our gifts

**Series Summary:** Every believer has been empowered by the Spirit and gifted by God to fulfill the mission of the Church. Our goal in this series is to help students see this is true. They have unique gifts and abilities that they are called to use for the glory of God.

**Question/Big Idea:** It is vital that we not only use our spiritual gifts, but that we use our spiritual gifts for the right reasons and with the right mindset.

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## GET THEM TALKING

It is vital that we not only use our spiritual gifts, but that we use our spiritual gifts for the right reasons and with the right mindset. What could be a wrong mindset to have when you serve others?

**Leader Note:** There are plenty of valid answers to this question. But as with many “get them talking questions”, the goal is not to find every last possible answer. Especially so when the rest of the night is dedicated to answering this question.

## GROUP DISCUSSION

(We need one another)

**Read 1 Corinthians 12:21-26 together as a group**

What wrong mindset is the Apostle Paul addressing in this passage?

**Leader Note:** Paul is addressing the prideful mindset that some spiritual gifts are greater than others. Our spiritual gifts should not lead to us being prideful ever. The church needs every believer to use their gift just as our bodies need every body part to fulfill its purpose.

Why is the mindset of “I don't need you” (referring to other believers) so dangerous to the church as a whole, and to us as individual followers of Jesus?

**Leader Note (answer):** simply put “I don't need you” is a terrible mindset because it is not true. The analogy of the church functioning as a body is there to point out the fact that we do need one another. The Great Commission (Matt 28:18-2).

**Transition:** Paul addresses another harmful mindset that we can have concerning spiritual gifts in the next chapter.

## VIDEO TEACHING

Prideful divisions are harmful in the church, especially when they are fueled by the false belief that my spiritual gift is more significant or important than yours. But that is not the only harmful mindset we can easily adopt concerning spiritual gifts.

**1 Cor 13:1-3** *If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.*

We can do amazing things in the name of Jesus, **but if the love of Jesus is not at the center of what we do** so that everyone sees that this is all about our loving savior... we have missed the mark.

**1 Cor 13:11** *When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.*

**Using our gifts (whatever they may be), but not using them in a way that conveys God's love, mercy and compassion is childish.** To be more specific it is a sign that we are spiritually immature.

**Transition to groups:** But what does it mean to serve in the name of Jesus in a way that shows that we love people.... That is what we are going to talk about in small groups.

## GROUP DISCUSSION

(on-the-job training)

As you read the passage, think about this question: In order for us to serve in a way that shows Christ's love we must be \_\_\_\_\_.

### *Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 as a small group*

In order for us to serve in a way that shows Christ's love we must be \_\_\_\_\_.

**Leader Note (answers):** Here are the ones that I see.

1. We must be patient
2. We must be kind
3. We must not envy what others do or have
4. We must not boast about what we can do or have
5. We must not be self-seeking or self-serving
6. We must not be easily angered
7. We must not keep score of everyone else's past mistakes
8. We must run away from and call out what is evil and sinful
9. We must value Truth that comes from God
10. We must always protect, trust and persevere as the church

Which one of these sticks out to you?

Why is it so important that as you serve, and use your spiritual gift, you show Christ's love by doing that (be patient, kind, etc...)?

Which one of the characteristics of love convicts you?

**Leader Note:** It would be good here to point out that this list is not a buffet. We don't get to choose which aspects of serving with love we get to display. Jesus displayed all of these attributes in his life. Our goal is to act, think, talk, and love like Jesus. Strive for nothing less.