

Being family in Christ's Church

Week 4: Gifts

PROP LIST large pieces of paper, thick pens, post-it notes, pens

WELCOME

Spend time relaxing and sharing together.

What is the best gift you have ever given to someone?

What is the best gift you have ever received?

Share your answers and discuss what made those gifts so special.

WORSHIP

Focus on Romans 8 v 31 & 32 and use a large piece of paper and some thick pens to write down some of the gifts God has given us. Turn these into prayers of thankfulness (you could use Psalm 113 or another psalm of praise if you prefer).

Alternatively (or in addition) sing a praise hymn/song.

WORD

Choose from the following questions the ones which are the best fit for your group – you probably won't have time to do them all

1. What spiritual gifts do you think we use at Christ Church?
2. What's the difference between a spiritual gift and a natural gift?
3. What's the difference between spiritual gifts and spiritual fruit? (refer to Galatians 5 v 22 & 23 if you get stuck.)
4. Read these three passages and make a list of the spiritual gifts you find in them:-

Romans 12 v 3 – 8, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4 v 11 – 16

Growth Group Notes

Autumn 2019



We are not told that this is an exhaustive list, though it's reasonable to assume these are the main ones.

5. What is the purpose of spiritual gifts and where do they come from?
(1 Cor. 12 v 7 and 11, Eph 4 v 12 & 13).

6. What spiritual gifts do you have?

It may be hard to know what gifts you have yourself, so try giving everyone a small pad of post-it notes and pen, ask God to help you identify the spiritual gifts the other people in your group have, write each one on a sticky note and place it on that appropriate person's back. When you've done this each person can then read what's on their back.

(This is meant to be helpful and encouraging, so be thoughtful in what you write!).

7. Are we using all the gifts we have been given? If not, do you have any ideas on how we could grow in the use of these gifts at Christ Church.

8. What gifts do you think we may lack as a family at Christ Church? What could we do about this?

9. Which spiritual gifts are best used in church and which ones are best used in living out our daily calling (being a Mum/Dad, manager, teacher, business person, working as part of a team).

10. How are we to use all spiritual gifts? (Romans 12 v 9, 1 Corinthians 13 v 1)

Summary

Spiritual gifts come from the Holy Spirit and are given to build up the whole church to be the mature Body of Christ. Different gifts are given to different individuals as the Spirit determines, not for that individual's benefit, but rather for the entire fellowship. The Spirit also seeks to grow his fruit in the garden of every individual disciple's heart. No gift is greater than any other – all are needed if the body is to be complete. We need courage to use our

Being family in Christ's Church

gifts and practice to develop in using them well. We can ask the Spirit to give us other gifts, but perhaps we should check we're using the ones he's given us first. All gifts, spiritual and natural, should be used with love and humility – after all we didn't create them or deserve them. The greatest gift of all is knowing the Father through the Son and being given the Spirit to live always in our hearts.

WHAT NEXT?

Take some time (either in silence or with some appropriate music playing) to allow people to prayerfully reflect on their spiritual gifts, how they are doing using them, and what other gifts God might have for them.

If your group would like to be accountable to each other, you could share and pray for each other.

Pray for other needs as necessary including follow-up from previous weeks.

If you have questions about any of the spiritual gifts, make a list of them.

Think about whether you would like to go forward for prayer ministry in church about using your gifts/ asking God for other spiritual gifts.