



Day 4 Equipping, How do I do it?

Verse: 1 Peter 4:10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Lesson: God gives each of us gifts

Prep: a box or gift bag, 12 piece puzzle, cups

We love birthdays and Christmas because we get to celebrate and get gifts. We all love to get gifts. Think of one of your favorite gifts you have ever been given. What was it?

Now imagine that you never opened the gift. You never got to use it or even know what it was inside. You just had the box to look at. Would that be fun or helpful?

The Bible says that God gives us each gifts to use. These aren't new toys or cool clothes, these are gifts to help us and to help others.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-10. There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, ^[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

Read Romans 12:6-8 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your ^[a] faith; **7** if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; **8** if it is to encourage, then give

encouragement; if it is hospitality, then give generously; if it is to lead,^[b] do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

What are the gifts? (Open the box/bag, read each item to the kids and read the explanation of the gifts)

- **prophecy**- You are able to proclaim a message from God.
- **knowledge**- God shares information with you that you didn't know before.
- **wisdom**- God gives you the ability to make the right decision in difficult situations.
- **healing**- God shares with you his ability to use his healing power to restore someone who is sick, injured or suffering.
- **miracles**- God shares with you his ability to do otherwise impossible things like multiplying food or calming the weather.
- **tongues**- God shares a prayer language with you so that you can pray with sounds and words that you might not understand. You can use this when you don't know how to pray. God can also share languages with you so that you can speak to others about God in their language. .
- **interpretation**-God shares with you the meaning of the words or message when someone else is using their prayer language.
- **discernment**- God shares with you the ability to determine if a message, person or event is truly from God.
- **faith**- God shares with you a supernatural ability to trust in him and encourage others even in the most difficult of circumstances.
- **servng**- God shares with you the ability and desire to help others around you to get a task accomplished.
- **hospitality**- God shares with you the ability to make others feel welcomed, loved, relaxed and taken care of.
- **teaching**- God shares with you the ability to educate others around you in a clear and helpful way so that they can learn more about God, the world around them and themselves.

We have access to all these gifts from God but there are some that will come easier or more natural to you.

When you watch someone on their birthday get cool gifts, sometimes it's hard not to be jealous or upset. God has given us each gifts and we shouldn't be upset by the gifts that someone else has. All of our gifts have incredible value and we need all of the gifts in order to be complete when we are together.

Let's take a look at the human body to help us understand what we are saying. Our bodies are amazing and can do incredible things. Look at your hands. What are some things that your hands can do? Now look at your feet. What can your feet do? Look at your tongue. What can your tongue do? Do all these body parts have the same job? Have a child volunteer to hold and drink from a cup. Now have that child hold and drink from the cup by only using their feet. Is that easy? Does that feel or look natural?

Each of our body parts has a very special job. Normal life isn't easy if we can't use that body part. The same goes for the gifts that God gives us. Each gift is equally important to us and to others. Whatever our gift is, it's our job to use it the very best that we can to glorify God and help others.

Now we are going to take a look again at our gift from earlier. As you may have noticed, all the gifts are puzzle pieces. Puzzles are lots of fun to put together. Have a volunteer put together the puzzle. Here is a question for you, which of these puzzle pieces is the most important? Which piece can we not live without? The answer is that all the pieces are very important. No one piece is better than the others. The same goes for the gift we are given from God. They are all very important and have amazing value.

Since we now know that these gifts are special, that we all have different gifts, and that each gift is very important, our next question is what are some ways that we can use the gifts that God has given us? How can we use faith? How can we use healing? Can you think of some ways to use wisdom?

Are there any gifts that you would like to have? We know that God is kind and he wants to give us good gifts so we are going to take a minute and ask him for them. I want you to think of one of the spiritual gifts that we learned about today and you are going to ask God for that gift in your head.

Have a moment of silence where the kids ask God for spiritual gifts.

Remind the kids of the three things we learned today

- The gifts that God gives are for everyone
- All gifts are important
- These gifts are for helping and not hurting

Have the kids check the room for a clue