



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 3rd March 2024



1 Corinthians 12 Gifted

Warm Up

What is the best present you have ever received? What made it the best? The cost, the use or the person who gave it? (no going all spiritual on me and saying "Jesus" or "my life"!))

Background and context

Paul is very keen to clarify teaching on gifts and to remove confusion and misunderstanding about the role of spiritual gifts within the church. Sadly, throughout church history the issue of gifts has been divisive, causing a great deal of pain. The gift of tongues has caused particular issues, with some Christians claiming it is an essential marker of true faith. Paul is clear, it is not! All people are given gifts by the Holy Spirit, some receive the gift of tongues, not all.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

***READ 1 Corinthians 12.** What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.*

1. **Read v1-3.** How does Paul suggest that the Holy Spirit **is or is not** present within a person? Is it just words or is it deeper than that?
2. Based on your answer to Q1, what is the purpose of Spiritual gifts? How can we spot if a gift is being used incorrectly by an individual?
3. **Read v4-6.** If two believers have the same gift, will they demonstrate it in the same way? For example, how could the gift of teaching be worked out in different contexts? Would this be the same for all gifts? Why should this encourage us?
4. **Read v7-11.** How does this section stop believers from becoming proud about their gifting?
5. What should be the outcome of the use of our gifts?
6. **Read v12-30.** Whilst Paul says "eagerly desire the greater gifts," what does this passage emphasise the importance of? Why is this vital for the health of the church?
7. **Read v 29-30.** The greater gifts are the ones that build up the church. What would they be? How do they build the church?
8. Gifting without Godly character can destroy a church and its leaders. How does **Ch13** help us in balancing the gifts we have with the character we need?

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.

