



HELPING KIDS DISCOVER THEIR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

MINISTRY DIRECTION

Important truths kids can understand about spiritual gifts. . .

- God gives each person different gifts and abilities (Matthew 12:14-29; Romans 12:6a).
- God gives us gifts to use in serving others (I Peter 4:10; I Corinthians 12:7; Mark 10:43, 44).
- God wants us to develop and use the gifts he has given us (Matthew 25:14-29; I Peter 4:10).
- God will help us develop our spiritual gifts and He will give us opportunities to use them to serve others. (The lives of various Bible characters such as Moses illustrate these truths.)
- When each person uses the gifts God has given him, the body of Christ works properly (I Corinthians 12:14-26).

Ways you can help kids in your ministry recognize, develop and use their spiritual gifts. . .

- *Develop a personal understanding of spiritual gifts.* Passages to study include I Corinthians 12; Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 4:11.
- *Let children discover various spiritual gifts by involving them in character studies.* For example, a study of Dorcas will help kids understand the gift of serving.
- *Help children discover their spiritual gifts by allowing them to complete gift inventories and participate in activities that utilize various gifts.*
- *Provide opportunities for children to develop and use their gifts.*

IDEAS YOU CAN USE!

Together We Can Do It!

Preparation: Make a list of six tasks children do each day such as—call a friend to get a homework assignment; collect and take trash out; eat breakfast. Write each task on a large note card.

Have six different colors of paper cut in small squares (3X3). On each color write one body part. For example, on all the red squares write the word “nose” or draw a picture of a nose.

Learning Activity:

Give each child a colored square. Ask them to find every other person with that same colored square to form a team. Give each team a task card. Challenge them to perform their task with the body parts they have been assigned. Very quickly they will begin to complain that they cannot perform the task. Respond with, “*Why not? What do you need to perform the task?*”

Ask them to make new teams. This time they are to form teams of six with every person holding a different colored square. Ask them to read the task card and determine how they will accomplish the task using every team member.

Discussion:

Why weren't you able to complete the task the first time? Why were you able to complete the tasks this time?

Have the students turn in their Bibles to I Corinthians 12:14-20. Read the passage.

The writer of these verses wanted us to understand that being a member of Christ's body is just like being a body part. Could you finish the task you were given with just one body part? Is one body part any more important than another body part? Why not? What are some of the tasks we have to do because we are Christ's body? How will we be able to do them?

GIFTED

Age level: upper elementary

Preparation: Make a chart of spiritual gifts and brief definitions—discernment, evangelism, giving, hospitality, knowledge, leadership, showing mercy, prophecy, pastor, serving, teaching, wisdom. Write the name of a Bible character that exemplifies each spiritual gift and Scripture references on large note cards. Some suggestions are included below.

The Woman Who Lived at Shunem	I Kings 4:8-17	(Hospitality)
Philip	John 1:45, 46; Acts 8:26-35	(Evangelism)
Joseph	Genesis 41:28-49	(Leadership)
Dorcas	Acts 9:36-41	(Serving)
The Samaritan	Luke 10:30-37	(Showing Mercy)
Abigail	I Samuel 25:1-35	(Wisdom)
The Widow	Mark 12:41-44	(Giving)
John the Baptist	Luke 3:7-14	(Prophecy)

Learning Activity: Have students form pairs. Give each pair a note card with the name of a Bible character and Scripture references written on it. Instruct each pair to study the Bible verses, determine what spiritual gift the Bible character exercised, how it was used to serve, and what happened because the character used his spiritual gift. Give each pair a ball of clay. Instruct them to create a sculpture that symbolizes the spiritual gift of their Bible character.

Discussion: Let the each pair share their sculpture. Ask others to guess what gift the sculpture symbolizes. As each pair shares their discoveries make sure they answer the questions, “How was the spiritual gift used to serve others?” and “What happened because this gift was used?”

Name Your Gift!

Preparation:

Romans 12:6a on poster or transparency
Gifts and definitions written on note cards

Affectionate. I like to show love.
Giving. I like to share.
Server. I like to help others.
Leader. When there is a job to do, I take charge.
Mercy Shower. I feel sorry for people who are sad, or sick, or in need.
Teacher. I like to help others learn how to do things.
Patient. I can wait without getting upset.
Humorous. I make people laugh by things I say and do.
Hard worker. I don't quit until the job is done.
Dependable. You can depend on me to do what you ask.
Friend. I am kind and willing to be a friend.
Honest. I tell the truth.

Presentation:

Read Romans 12:6a with the students. Discuss:
Do we each have the same gifts and abilities?
Who gives these gifts and abilities to us?
What are some of the gifts and abilities God gives to us?
As the students share, write their contributions on a large sheet of poster board or newsprint.

Learning Activity:

Divide into groups of four or five. If possible, have an adult or teen lead each group.

Give each group a gift bag containing 12 cards. On each card has been written a gift or ability and its definition. Ask each group to sit in a circle. One at a time, a child is to pick a gift card from the bag and read the definition. If he feels he has that gift he may keep the card. If not, he may give it to the next person in the circle who feels he has that gift.

Discussion:

- Bring the groups back together and discuss:
- *Was there a gift you hadn't realized you had until doing this activity?*
- *Why do you think you never recognized this gift before?*
- *How did you feel when someone described a gift and you knew that you had that gift?*
- *Was there a gift or ability that you don't have but would like to have? What could you do to develop that gift or ability?*
- *Why do you think God has given you certain abilities?*