

Spiritual Gifts and Prophecy



Teacher's Guide

Materials

a 100 or 500 piece puzzle; pens or pencils; copies of a spiritual gift survey from the Internet or other source

Surveying the Source

Acts 2:1–18; Rom. 12:6–8; 1 Cor. 1:4–7; 13:8–12; Eph. 4:10–13; 2 Thess. 2:9, 10.

Plotting the Course

The students will:

- ▶ Discover the different types of spiritual gifts.
- ▶ Learn about some of the characteristics of the spiritual gifts.

- ▶ Investigate their own response to the spiritual gifts and whether they are using them for God's purposes.

Preparing to Lead

We understand God to be unchanging—always the same throughout eternity. But we also understand Him to be different things to different people according to their needs at any specific time. Likewise, God works through each

of us differently to help meet those varying needs. To do this, God has given each of us a variety of abilities, talents, and gifts. The spiritual gifts come in different shapes and sizes, but all are to be used for the nurture and growth of His people.

Getting Started

A. Before class, separate a 100– or 500–piece jigsaw puzzle into piles of about 20 pieces each. When the class comes together, divide members into smaller groups, and give each group a pile of puzzle pieces to complete. Do not tell them their pieces are not a complete puzzle. When most groups realize they do not have complete puzzles, bring the groups back together. *Ask:* •“When did you realize you didn’t have a complete puzzle? •How did that make you feel? •What does this tell us about our need of each other and our different abilities, strengths, and gifts?”

B. Discuss: •“Has anyone broken a bone? Or has anyone had to care for someone with a broken bone?” •“What was life like while caring for an injured part?” •“How did the rest of your body cope?” (For example, a broken leg may result in the good leg getting tired quickly.) •“Just as the body suffers when a part of it is immobilized, so too can the church suffer if an area of giftedness is not functioning. Think of examples when a church can be missing an area of giftedness and what affect that would have.”

Delving Into the Word

A. Divide the class into smaller groups. Hand each group a copy of the Spiritual Gifts Bible Study Worksheet (p. 33). Each group should read the Bible refer-

ences listed and answer the questions on the worksheet for each Bible reference. Ask them to also note other comments or things they learned about spiritual gifts

from each of the texts. Once the groups have completed the worksheet, bring them back together to discuss their responses. If time permits, have one group read a Bible reference aloud before discussing all responses to the reference.

B. Have the class read Romans 12:6–8. Then discuss the following questions:

- Are all spiritual gifts the same?
- According to what are spiritual gifts given?
- How are we to exercise our spiritual gifts?

Next, have the class read 1 Corinthians 1:4–7. Then discuss the following questions: • In what are we enriched, and

why? • Does this mean that each of us has all the gifts? If not, who (or what) is this referring to? • What does this say about how we should interact with each other, especially with those who are different from us?

Have the class read Ephesians 4:10–13. Then discuss the following questions:

- What are some of the types of spiritual gifts?
- What might each gift look like in today's church?
- Why have spiritual gifts like these been given to the church?
- For what other purposes have spiritual gifts been given?
- How do you think spiritual gifts achieve these goals?

Discussing the Ideas

1. Why is the study of spiritual gifts important? Why is it important to know your own areas of spiritual giftedness?

2. Can someone have more than one spiritual gift? Give examples.

3. Can someone have more or less of the same spiritual gift as someone else? Why, or why not?

4. Are spiritual gifts the same as abilities? Why, or why not?

5. Can someone serve the church in areas outside of their spiritual giftedness and still be effective? Why, or why not?

6. Why do you think some people serve the church in areas outside their spiritual giftedness?

7. Are some spiritual gifts more valuable than others? How is God's view of spiritual gifts different from our view?

Closing the Activity

Conclude by reading 1 Corinthians 12:4–7 to the class. Remind them that although we have each been given different spiritual gifts, they all come from one God for one purpose—the common good of the church and humanity. Remind them that each of them has been given spiritual gifts. Challenge them to consider

their areas of spiritual giftedness and whether they are using them for God's glory, the nurture of the church, and the growth of the kingdom. Tell them to check the Internet for spiritual gift surveys or provide copies for them to complete in their own time.

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Spiritual Gifts Bible Study Worksheet

**To answer the questions below, read the following texts:
Acts 2:1–18; Romans 12:6–8; 1 Corinthians 1:4–7; 13:8–12;
Ephesians 4:10–13; 2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10**

How are spiritual gifts delivered or by what means are they given out?

What are the types of spiritual gifts?

What is/are the purpose(s) of spiritual gifts?

Note any other observations made from these texts regarding spiritual gifts.

List the characteristics of the spiritual gifts.