



Small Group Discussion Guide

Not in a group? Email us at smallgroups@myriversidechurch.com

Ice Breaker: Without getting into a political argument, discuss how involved or uninvolved you become in the political process during a presidential election.

Instructions: If your group meets bi weekly, answer questions 3, 4 and 5.

1. Pastor Tom explained that God-given talents/abilities are not the same as spiritual gifts. What is the difference? How have you experienced both of these in your life? What would you say is the outcome of a spiritual gift used in the Body versus a natural talent/ability?
2. Pastor Tom quoted Wagner stating, "While spiritual gifts help define what a Christian does, the Fruit of the Spirit helps define what a Christian is." Read Galatians 5:22-24 and 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28. How do the Fruit and the gifts complement one another in a person's life and in the life of the church? Why is it important to have the Fruit of the Spirit if we are going to use our spiritual gifts?
3. Read 1 Peter 4:10 and Hebrews 11:6. Have you discovered how God has gifted you? Are you using your gift(s) in your small group and church family? What outcomes have you seen as you have used your gifting?
4. Read 2 Timothy 1:6. Paul told Timothy to develop his gift so that it would become a vibrant part of his life. Pastor Tom gave us six key principles to keep in mind as we discover and develop our gifting. Review these principles from the message notes together and discuss. How are you going to take a step to either discover or use your spiritual gift this week?
5. Take some time to go around the room and affirm others in how God has gifted them and how they have ministered to you.

Personal Guides Available Each Week!

Looking for a personal study to enhance what you're hearing on Sunday morning? Pick up a copy of the Personal Guide by either entrance or at www.myriversidechurch.com/smallgroups.



MESSAGE NOTES & DISCUSSION GUIDE

"Gifted...or Talented?" (part 2) - Week of Feb. 21st, 2016



“Gifted...or Talented?” (Part 2)

[Senior Pastor, Tom Lundeen]

(You can sign up for Pastor Tom’s e-newsletter for his thoughts on various subjects at pastortom@myriversidechurch.com)

MESSAGE NOTES

What we have learned so far is this: The main way we engage the culture without losing the gospel is by demonstrating a counter-culture reality as followers of Jesus that is primarily expressed in _____ (with God and others).

Jesus is _____ in His Church a counter-culture to the prevailing culture...and spiritual gifts are an important and significant factor in making this new community/family real and _____.

So part of God’s design for how followers of Jesus are to engage the culture without losing the gospel is that we put into use the graces/gifts God has p_____ into our lives, because these graces/gifts...help produce a radically different community doing life together in s_____ empowered ways.

1. Common Ways Spiritual Gifts are Misunderstood or M_____

- A. Mix up God-given talents/abilities with spiritual gifts—natural talents help shape our personality, but spiritual gifts give us a spiritual _____.
- B. Confusing c_____ gifts with spiritual gifts—note II *Corinthians 11:14; Matthew 7:21-23; Matthew 24:24*—“_____” itself doesn’t prove something is of God (note I *John 4:1-4*).
- C. Make spiritual gifts more important than the _____ of the Spirit (note *Galatians 5:22-23*) - “fruit” (singular) = “_____” - While spiritual gifts help define what a Christian _____, the fruit of the Spirit helps define what a Christian _____. (Wagner) - spiritual gifts are temporary, but the fruit of the Spirit (love) is _____ (note I *Corinthians 13:13*). Without the fruit of the Spirit, spiritual gifts are mostly _____ or even counter-productive (note I *Corinthians 1:7 with 3:1*).
- D. Use the _____ of a spiritual gift as an excuse to not do something all Christ-followers are to be/do (note *Hebrews 11:6*).

2. Helpful Principles

No _____/instructions in the Bible on how to “discover” spiritual gifts. We are told (note I *Corinthians 14:1*). Timothy told (note II *Timothy 1:6*).

- A. Ask God for _____ (note *James 1:5*).
- B. Commitment to r_____ serve—spiritual gifts are given so we can _____, not watch; so we can serve and not sit and _____.
- C. Identify what you _____ - balance is needed, but we need to reject the idea that we have to be m_____ in order to serve God.
- D. Honestly _____ our effectiveness.
- E. Expect confirmation—personal evaluation and feelings are important, but neither are _____. Confirmation from the Body of Christ is a _____ on all these other principles.
- F. TRY SOMETHING! - look for needs and try to meet them. Be useful. Be a_____.

When we allow God to “Re-New” us personally and as a church, we will be able to engage the culture without losing the gospel:

- When we use what God has given to us, it makes a huge difference in helping us to engage the culture without losing the gospel, as people around us see live and in color right before their eyes people who are living life differently and experiencing genuine community in ways that _____ all their relationships.
- Help us help you discover and develop the gift (s) God has given you.

Fill out the special connect card today and try a First Serve! Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey.



“Gifted or Talented? (Part 2)”

[Sr Pastor, Tom Lundeen]

(You can sign up for Pastor Tom’s e-newsletter for his thoughts on various subjects at pastortom@myriversidechurch.com)

MESSAGE NOTES

What we have learned so far is this: The main way we engage the culture without losing the gospel is by demonstrating a counter-culture reality as followers of Jesus that is primarily expressed in relationships (with God and others).

Jesus is creating in His Church a counter-culture to the prevailing culture and spiritual gifts are an important and significant factor in making this new community/family real and visible.

So part of God’s design for how followers of Jesus are to engage the culture without losing the gospel is that we put into use the graces/gifts God has poured into our lives, because these graces/gifts help produce a radically different community doing life together in spiritually empowered ways.

1. Common Ways Spiritual Gifts are Misunderstood or Misused

- A. Mix-up God-given talents/abilities with spiritual gifts natural talents help shape our personality, but spiritual gifts give us a spiritual identity.
- B. Confusing counterfeit gifts with spiritual gifts note 2 Corinthians 11:14; Matthew 7:21-23; Matthew 24:24 “power” itself doesn’t prove something is of God (note 1 John 4:1-4).
- C. Make spiritual gifts more important than the fruit of the Spirit (note Galatians 5:22-23) “fruit” (singular) = “love” *While spiritual gifts help define what a Christian does, the fruit of the Spirit helps define what a Christian is.* (Wagner) spiritual gifts are temporary, but the fruit of the Spirit (love) is eternal (note 1 Corinthians 13:13). Without the fruit of the Spirit, spiritual gifts are mostly useless or even counter-productive (note 1 Corinthians 1:7 with 3:1).
- D. Use the lack of a spiritual gift as an excuse to not do something all Christ-followers are to be/do (note Hebrews 11:6).

2. Helpful Principles

No formula/instructions in the Bible on how to “discover” spiritual gifts. We are told (note 1 Corinthians 14:1). Timothy told (note 2 Timothy 1:6).

- A. Ask God for wisdom (note James 1:5).
- B. Commitment to regularly serve spiritual gifts are given so we can work, not watch; so we can serve and not sit and soak.
- C. Identify what you enjoy balance is needed, but we need to reject the idea that we have to be miserable in order to serve God.
- D. Honestly evaluate our effectiveness.

- E. Expect confirmation personal evaluation and feelings are important, but neither are infallible. Confirmation from the Body of Christ is a check on all these other principles.
- F. TRY SOMETHING! look for needs and try to meet them. Be useful. Be available.

When we allow God to "Re-New" us personally and as a church we will be able to engage the culture without losing the gospel:

- When we use what God has given to us, it makes a huge difference in helping us to engage the culture without losing the gospel, as people around us see live and in color right before their eyes people who are living life differently and experiencing genuine community in ways that transform all their relationships.
- Help us help you discover and develop the gift(s) God has given you.

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