

Connect Group questions

For the week of 10th March 2019



Build Part 4 - Building up with Love Gifts

ICE BREAKER:

- When was a time that you felt depressed, alone or you didn't feel you belonged, and someone changed that? What did he/she do to change that?

DIGGING DEEPER:

START YOUR GROUP WITH ANY STORIES, QUESTIONS, CONCERNS FROM PREVIOUS WEEKS.

PRAY:

Watch the video by Jon Thompson from Canada:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=24&v=X3luk9sSNBI
(COPY THEN GO TO YOUTUBE SITE AND PASTE)

This week we will gain a better understand of the importance and use of 'LOVE' gifts.

Definition: **Love Gifts** demonstrate the love of God in very practical ways so that people feel God is real.

Read Romans 12: 3-8

1. Why does verses 3-5 say to all of us, about the way we should see ourselves and how we should think of our relationship with one another?
2. How does Verses 4-5 make the case for interdependence?
3. Look at the love gifts described at the back of this page and share examples of any you have witnessed in action?
4. When Paul said give generously and do it cheerfully, what message of encouragement is he trying to enter into?

MAKE IT HAPPEN

5. The Spiritual Love Gifts are generally the easiest to talk about. Read through the brief definitions of the Love gifts and brain storm how Jesus might have used any of the gifts. Then open the conversation up to any suggested ways that they have seen the gifts used in a particular way.
6. Groups get closer when they serve together. How could you as a group serve in a practical way?

Definitions of Love Gifts:

Love gifts demonstrate the love of God in very practical ways so that people feel God is real. These gifts point to a loving God who loves our hurting and broken world. They demonstrate God's work in people and attract others to seek a relationship with him. These are especially important in our lonely world.

1. **Administration** – 1 Cor 12:28 (or guidance), Acts 6:1-7
Definition: The gift of Administration is the divine enablement to understand what makes an organization function, and the special ability to plan and execute procedures that accomplish the goals of the ministry.

The word *Guidance* is a word for ship's helmsman. The captain sets the destination, the helmsmen sails the course. So, this is a love gift rather than a word gift as this gift organises and supports others so that others can prioritise their efforts.

You find joy when you serve others so that they get their jobs done. They have profound joy when they are organising something.

2. **Helps** (or serving) - 1 Pet 4:10, 1 Cor 12:28, Rom 12:6, Rom 16:1-2
Definition: The gift of helps refers to the capacity to unselfishly meet the needs of others through very practical means. The **central thrust** is the attitude and ability to aid others in practical ways.

The word means – "To take the place of someone"

This is the life blood of the church. They help in an unselfish way. They do any task at any time. We need to honour them. Churches die without helps. Helps is a very common spiritual gift in the church.

Hospitality. The divine enablement to care for people by providing fellowship, food and shelter. (Literal Meaning: To love strangers. This is a branch of helps.

3. **Mercy** - Rom 12:8,
Definition: The capacity to feel sympathy towards someone who is in need (especially suffering) and you manifest this sympathy in some practical and helpful ways with a cheerful spirit to encourage and help those in need. The central thrust is the empathetic care for those who are hurting.

The word means – "To have compassion"

The gift of mercy is the ability to love the unlovely and to alleviate suffering. It's also a very practical gift. It's the gift of a person who doesn't mind changing nappies in a nursing home. It's a person who can deal with people who most of us normal types don't have the stomach for. It's a person who can deal with suffering. That doesn't mean a person with the gift of mercy can't burn out, but it means you have a desire and you have a capacity that other people don't have.

4. **Giving** - Rom 12:8, Acts 4:36
Definition: The gift of Giving is the divine enablement to contribute money and resources to the work of the Lord with cheerfulness and liberality. People with this gift do not ask "How much money do I need to give to God?" but, "How much money do I need to live on?"

The word means - 'do it without a fold in the cloth'. In other words, there is no ulterior motive.

These people do not think about giving 10%. They are always wanting to give where the Spirit of God is moving. They have a profound sense of where God is about to move, and they begin to give towards it. The gift of giving is not about the amount.