



NOVEMBER 10

THE GOSPEL OF GOD CREATED FOR COMMUNITY



GETTING STARTED

This weekend we continued our series, *The Gospel of God*. We learned that we are created for community and have been gifted by God to serve the body of Christ.

Each of us has been created by God for a unique purpose and designed to bring Him glory. While we are saved by His grace, we are also saved to accomplish the works for which He has prepared us. As we begin this study, spend a few moments in prayer reflecting on this truth in Ephesians 2:8-10.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:8-10



STUDY QUESTIONS

1. In Romans 12:3-8, Paul compares each person’s role in the “Body of Christ” to the different parts of a human body.
 - a. Have you ever had a part of your body that wasn’t working well? How did that impact your ability to do your day-to-day activities?
 - b. What impact do you think it has on the Body of Christ if we are not each playing our part?
 - c. Similarly, what impact do you think it has on the church when one part of the Body is in conflict with another? How do you think anger, strife, and division in the Body affect our ability to be who Christ has created us to be?
2. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul introduces many important principles to help us understand how the Holy Spirit gifts us to serve the new community of Jesus.
 - a. **Read 1 Corinthians 12** and jot down in your journal as many principles as you can find about spiritual gifts.
 - b. Paul lists many different spiritual gifts in **1 Corinthians 12:8-10** and **12:28-29**. Make a list of these gifts in your journal. Add to this list the seven gifts he mentions in **Romans 12:6-8**. As you look at this list, do you believe God has given you any of these gifts? If so, which ones?

3. This weekend, Michael asked, *Are You . . . Using Your Gifts?*

- a. How has the Lord used your gift(s) to impact others in the Body of Christ? How has using your gifts helped your spiritual growth?
- b. Michael's final question was *What . . . Is Holding You Back?* Are there any gifts you have been neglecting to use? Or are there any gifts you are using but are not using to their fullest? If so, what are some of the obstacles that are holding you back?
- c. If you are not sure what your gifts are, what are some ways you might be able to better understand which gifts He has given you?
- d. As you think about your Life Group and church community, can you think of people who have some of the spiritual gifts you listed above (question 3.b.)? If so, who are they, what gifts do they have, and how have their gifts made an impact on your life?

4. This weekend in the message, Michael quoted Rick Warren in his book, *The Purpose Driven Life*. Let's revisit that quote:

The best way to discover your gifts and abilities is to experiment with different areas of service. . . . Just start serving, experimenting with different ministries, and then you'll discover your gifts. Until you're actually involved in serving, you're not going to know what you're good at.

Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life*

- a. Have you found this to be true in your own life? Have you ever discovered your gifts simply by just starting to serve somewhere? If so, what was that like?
- b. Do you sense that God may be calling you to step into a new area of service now? If so, what is it? Is there anything slowing you down from stepping into that area?

5. This weekend, Michael asked the question, *Are You Connected . . . To The Community?* God wants to use us to build the church by connecting with other believers.

- a. What would it look like to approach your involvement in Life Groups and ministry with a fresh understanding that He wants to use you supernaturally to build His body?
- b. How would this approach change your expectations and attitude in normal gatherings with others in the church?
- c. What is one step towards connecting in community that you could make this week?