

This weekend, we continued our *Love Serves* series with the message, *Gifted To Serve*. We learned that God has supernaturally gifted every follower of Jesus to serve one another in love within the community of believers—and that we cannot fully experience God’s perfect will for our lives if we are not connected in community and using our gifts to serve.

PAUSE

Before you start the study, take a few moments and focus on the following passage of Scripture:

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:1-2

STUDY

1. What are one or two key insights that stood out to you from the message this weekend, and why?
2. This weekend, we focused on Romans 12:3-8, which lists several spiritual gifts. There are five passages in Scripture that list a wide variety of spiritual gifts (listed below). Take some time to read these passages.
 - Romans 12:3-8
 - 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
 - 1 Corinthians 12:28
 - Ephesians 4:11-12
 - 1 Peter 4:10-11
 - a. Is there anything the Holy Spirit is highlighting for you as you read these passages? If so, what is it, and why?
 - b. What similarities do you see in these spiritual gifts lists? What about any differences that stand out to you?

- c. Why do you think God gives such a wide variety of gifts to His church?
 - d. How do you think God has spiritually gifted you?
 - e. How have you seen God use the gifts He has given you in the three areas Michael discussed: your closest relationships, our church community, and the culture at large (e.g., the workplace, school, neighborhood, online)?
 - f. The passages above are not an exhaustive list of all spiritual gifts. What do you think are some other potential gifts God has given to His people?
3. During the message, Michael suggested we cannot experience God's perfect will for our lives outside of serving (in most seasons of our lives). How does this statement challenge or encourage you?
4. One of the questions from the message was "*Do You Need ... A New Perspective?*" This question was based on Paul's teaching that, to experience God's will for our lives, we need to be connected in community and use our gifts to serve.
- a. Why is it tempting to think of God's will for our lives as simply being individualistic rather than communal?
 - b. Who is someone you know who uses their spiritual gifts in amazing ways to the benefit of others? What is so amazing to you about the way that person operates?
5. Michael's last question was "*Are You In The Stands ... Or On The Field?*"
- a. What's your initial answer to that question, and why?
 - b. Have you ever been in a church where you started "in the stands" and then moved "onto the field"? Or have you ever been "on the field" and then moved into "the stands"? If so, what is the story behind those moves?
 - c. What was the impact on your spiritual life with each move?
 - d. If you moved away from our church community tomorrow, do you think anything would change in how the community functions or serves? How does this question help you reflect on whether you are living in the stands or on the field?

REFLECT

Reread **Romans 12:1-2** at the top of this study. Because of God's love and compassion, we are challenged to offer our whole lives as an act of worship, and one way we do this is by serving with our gifts *in community*. Are there any practical steps you sense the Lord asking you to take to discover or use your spiritual gifts to serve others?

TOPICAL PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of each Life Group. Often those who are new to a Life Group are intimidated by praying aloud if they have never done it before. Others are so comfortable with prayer that they can take over the prayer time without meaning to. For these reasons, we suggest practicing topical prayer to help your group get comfortable praying together. Here are three basic guidelines:

- 1. Focus on a Single Topic/Request at a Time**
- 2. Pray Several Times Together**
- 3. Keep Requests/Prayers Short and Simple**