

LESSON 11: SPIRITUAL GIFTS: WHAT'S MY GIFT?

Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-31; Exodus 31

Parents Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- **Read:** Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-31; Exodus 31:1-11
- **In This Passage:** The Holy Spirit gives each Christian a spiritual gift. The Bible lists examples of spiritual gifts. In the Old Testament, we see another spiritual gift in action when a man named Bezalel is filled with the Spirit of God to be a master of crafting.
- **Bible Point:** The Holy Spirit gave each of us a special gift.
- **Summary Verse:** "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord" (1 Corinthians 12:4-5).

Dig Deeper

- **You'll Be Teaching:** The Holy Spirit gave each of us a special gift. Kids generally love personality assessments, and identifying their spiritual gifts goes right along with that. At the same time, some kids may walk away still not being confident in what their gifts are. Make sure kids know that the best way to find out their spiritual gifts is just to serve God and see what fits best!
- **Think About:** How do you use your spiritual gifts at church? How did you find out those were your gifts?

Dig In to Prayer

- Ask God to use the kids in your class in mighty ways as the Holy Spirit empowers them with gifts.

Quick Tip

Do your kids have opportunities to serve at your church? Letting them serve is a great way for them to discover and use their gifts. That could look as formal as a planned day of service, or it could mean giving kids small jobs in the classroom such as picking up trash, welcoming and befriending new kids, helping lead worship motions, distributing snacks, helping with tech, or praying your opening prayer. Don't put kids on the spot to do something that's not their gift, but find ways to involve kids in serving and leading in your classroom.

OPENING

Welcome

Supplies

Bible
large gift box from Week 10
gift bows (1 per child)
tape
Pens

Easy Prep

Set out the large box you wrapped for Week 10.

Welcome

Thank kids for coming.
Make announcements.
Introduce new kids.
Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we're going to learn about some spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts are special skills God gives everyone who loves Jesus. When we became friends with Jesus, the Holy Spirit gave each of us a special gift.**

- Distribute a bow and a piece of tape to each child.

- Have kids tape their bows all over the outside of the box.
- You'll continue to add to the gift box for the next couple of weeks, so leave it in the room.

Share

- Tell kids the best gift someone could give *you*.
- Ask kids to share the best gift someone could give *them*.

Summarize

Open a Bible to Romans 12, and say: **Everybody loves getting a good gift. And what's really neat is that when we're friends with Jesus, the Holy Spirit gives each of us a special gift. Let's find out more about what kind of gifts the Holy Spirit gives, according to the Bible. The Bible isn't like other books; it's special. The Bible is another gift from God! And God is here right now, ready to talk to you. Let's talk with him now.**

Pray, thanking the Holy Spirit for the special gifts he's given us.

TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Max's Story

Discuss and Watch "Max's Story"

Say: **We're learning that the Holy Spirit gave each of us a special gift. That means we have qualities that God can use to help us serve him and others better!**

- **Ask:** • What's something you're good at?
- Say: Let's learn about a kid named Max who God made good at science!
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Watch "Max's Story." [here](#)

- **Ask:** • How would you describe Max?
- **Max is definitely good at science. But what *character qualities* did you see in him?**

Say: **Max is creative and curious. He likes to find solutions that help solve other people's problems. The Holy Spirit gave each of us a special gift. That means there are parts of our characters and personalities that make us feel extra drawn to doing certain things. And the Holy Spirit can guide us to use those gifts to serve God!**

MUSIC VIDEO

"Let's Go!" [here](#)

"Living by the Spirit" [here](#)

"Ready to Serve" [here](#)

CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Spiritual Gifts: What's My Gift? (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-31; Exodus 31:1-11)

Supplies

Bibles
pony beads (2 per child)
5-10 clear glass jars, glasses, or vases (ideally the same size)
Legos
paper
markers
scissors
tape
pencils

“Spiritual Gifts” handout set (optional) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

Make a label for each glass, using some of the following ideas or coming up with your own ideas of ways people serve at your church: lead pastor, janitor, worship leader, Sunday school teacher, church secretary, the person who counts the offering, prayer team member, parking lot attendant, security, kid in Sunday school. Print the full set of “Spiritual Gifts” handouts or make 8½x11 signs for each of the following spiritual gifts: prophecy, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, kindness, wise advice, special knowledge, great faith, healing, miracles, discernment, speaking in unknown languages, interpreting unknown languages, apostles. Hang the signs around the room.

Vote

Say: **We’re learning about spiritual gifts. The Holy Spirit gave each of us a special gift. Here at our church, people use those gifts to serve God! But which gifts are the most important? Let’s vote. Give each child two pony beads. Say: You get two votes, and you’ll vote by dropping your bead in a glass. You’ll be voting on which of the roles are most important to our church, choosing between these options. Read the labels on the glasses, then have kids vote with their beads.**

Ask: • **Why did you vote the way you did?**

- Hold up the glass with the most beads.

Ask: • **Why do you think this role is considered the most important?**

Say: **We’re not the first ones to think some jobs are more important than others. We’re going to read about some spiritual gifts a guy named Paul wrote about in the Bible. He was writing a letter to people living in the city of Corinth who thought the ability to speak in unknown languages was the best gift. It probably seemed the coolest. But it turned out they had their priorities wrong, because it wasn’t the most *helpful* gift.**

Read 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 and 29-31. As you read, pause after each gift and have kids run to the matching sign. Repeat with Romans 12:6-8.

Work Together

Say: **Whew! That’s a lot of spiritual gifts! It would be exhausting if you had to have *all* of them by yourself. The Holy Spirit gave each of us a special gift. That’s why we need to work together!**

Those passages are commonly used to give us a list of possible spiritual gifts. But that’s not all the gifts there could be. Paul was just writing a list of examples; he didn’t mean to provide us with a complete list of gifts.

In fact, in the Old Testament—waaaay before Paul was even alive—the Holy Spirit gave a special gift to a couple of guys named Bezalel (BEZ-ah-lel) and Oholiab (oh-HO-lee-ab).

Read Exodus 31:1-5.

Ask: • **Tell about something you’ve created.** Share your own example first.

Say: **These verses tell us that the Spirit of God filled Bezalel with wisdom and expertise in all kinds of crafts. So being good at making things is a spiritual gift, too!**

Let’s work in groups to make things.

Have kids form groups of four or five. Give each group a Bible, and set out Legos to share.

Say: **Bezalel worked with another guy, Oholiab, and other craftsmen to make the Tabernacle. That was kind of like a church in a tent that the Israelites could take with them wherever they traveled. So you’ll work in your groups to make a church out of Legos. You’ll also need pictures or curtains to decorate your church, so some people in your group can draw those, cut them out, and tape them to the church. And you’ll need items that go inside the church, matching what the Bible lists in Exodus 31:7-11. So one person in your group can look at that list and make sure you have everything you need. As you work together, look for gifts in the other people in your group. Look especially for the gifts posted on our signs around the room. While you’re working, I need you to be “gift detectives”!**

Allow about five minutes for kids to work in groups. Then have groups stop building and affirm the gifts they saw in each other.

Ask: • **What gifts did you observe as you worked together?**

• **Was there a way someone described you that surprised you? Explain.**

Say: **The Holy Spirit gave each of us a special gift, and you just saw some of those gifts in action! Maybe someone saw a gift in you that you didn’t know you had. Or maybe you think you have another gift no one mentioned.**

Have kids each go to a sign that represents a gift they think they may have and write their names on the

sign. Later, you'll refer to these names as an affirmation during the Life Application Wrap-Up.

Say: **The Holy Spirit gave each of us a special gift.** Some of us have more than one, but all of us have at least one. Some of the gifts, like kindness, giving, and encouraging, are things we're all called to do. But if you have the spiritual gift of kindness or encouragement, that means it comes more naturally to you. You can use your spiritual gifts to serve God wherever you go!

Save the signs for this week's Life Application Wrap-Up and next week's Core Bible Discovery.

DEEPER BIBLE

How Do I Know for Sure What My Spiritual Gift Is?

Supplies

Bibles

"Spiritual Gifts Guide" handout (download [here](#))

Pencils

Set It Up

Say: **When we're friends with Jesus, the Holy Spirit gives each of us a special gift.** That's pretty cool! But maybe you're not sure what your spiritual gift is. Maybe you feel like you don't have one. But if you believe in Jesus, you do have one! So how can we know for sure what our spiritual gifts are? Let's dig in to that.

Dig Deeper

Say: **First, let's review the spiritual gifts listed in our Bible passages.**

Read Romans 12:6-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:8-10.

Ask: • **Which of these gifts have you seen Christians use? Talk about that.** Share your own example first.

• **What are some other gifts the Christians you know have shown?**

Say: **These Bible passages list some examples of spiritual gifts. But we know that Bezalel and Oholiab had a gift that's not on this list—the ability to build and make things.** (See Exodus 31:1-11.) There may be all kinds of gifts people in this room have besides what's listed in the Bible passages!

Take a Spiritual Gifts Test

Say: **We've reviewed what the gifts are, but maybe you're still wondering which one you have. Let's use a guide to help you figure out from the list in Romans and 1 Corinthians what your gift might be. Don't worry, this isn't a school kind of test! This one is all about *you*, so there are no wrong answers.**

Give each child a "Spiritual Gifts Guide" handout and a pencil, and have kids complete the handout. For each statement, kids will put a 3 if it's usually true about them, a 2 if it's sometimes true about them, a 1 if it's rarely true, and a 0 if it's never true. Afterward, kids will add up the total score for each category and see which one has the highest number.

Ask: • **How did your result match with what you thought your gift might be?**

• **Do you think your result is right or wrong? Explain.**

Say: **A spiritual gift guide like this can help you understand how what you're already doing might show your spiritual gifts. But it's not foolproof, so maybe you still don't feel sure what your spiritual gift is. That's okay! If you're still not sure, or even if you think you are...just serve God! He'll start to show you what comes easiest to you. When you see God working through you to do something amazing, chances are you just used your spiritual gift! And the closer you grow to God, the more he'll help you grow in your ability to use your spiritual gift. Remember, the Holy Spirit gave each of us a special gift.**

OBJECT LESSON

Pay Artistic Attention

Supplies

drawing supplies (1 per child)

paper

Tip

Provide drawing supplies that are all the same medium, such as only crayons or only colored pencils, so everyone has the same kind of drawing tool.

Follow Directions to Draw a Picture

Say: **It's exciting to learn today that the Holy Spirit gave each of us a special gift. Our gifts from the Holy Spirit can be as different as we are. Draw kids' attention to a few ways they differ, such as what toys they like to play with most, the prints or colors of their clothing, and their names. Let's do something fun that'll show us another way we're different.**

- Distribute paper and drawing supplies.
- You'll call out the following directions for all the kids to follow for drawing a picture of a house without telling them what they're drawing. Kids will interpret and visualize each direction you give differently, so even with the same drawing tool and same directions, their pictures will look different. Be sure to pause long enough between directions for kids to draw.
 - o Say: Draw a big square. "Draw" a square in the air to help any kids who need a reminder of a square's shape.
 - o Draw a smaller square inside the big square.
 - o Draw one more small square inside the big square.
 - o Draw a door inside the big square.
 - o Draw a pointy triangle sitting on top of the big square. Use a finger to draw a triangle in the air.
- Kids can put their crayons down and hold up their drawings so everyone can look at each other's and see the differences. Explain to kids that they've all drawn a house, if they have not yet figured this out.

Talk About It

Say: **You all had the same supplies to draw with and the same directions to follow to draw a house, but your pictures aren't the same. Your brains all think differently, and you each understood the drawing directions in your own special way.**

- Ask:
- **What things look different about your pictures?**
 - **What do you like about all the different pictures?**

Say: **It's great that our pictures are different and that we're different! None of us are exactly the same, and neither are our gifts from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gave each of us a special gift.**

CRAFT

Gift Stars

Supplies

Bible

solid-color wrapping paper (two 6x6-inch squares per child)

pencils

rulers

scissors

markers

tape

scrap paper

gift ribbon

“Gift Star Instructions” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))

“Constellations” handout (several copies) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make Gift Stars

Show kids the sample craft you made. Give each child two squares of wrapping paper. Set out the remaining supplies to share, and lead kids through the directions on the "Gift Star Instructions" handout to make gift stars.

- Fold one square of wrapping paper in half, and then unfold it. Rotate the paper and fold it in half again in the opposite direction.
- Measure each fold line and mark 1½ inches away from each edge of the paper.
- Cut along each fold line up to the 1½-inch marks.
- Use markers to decorate the colored side of the wrapping paper.
- Fold each corner as shown, and tape it together.
- Repeat all the steps above with the second square of wrapping paper.
- On a small piece of scrap paper, write a spiritual gift you think you might have. You can refer to the signs hanging around the room for ideas.
- Crumple the scrap paper and place it between the two star sides you created. Rotate the sides so there are eight points to the star, and tape the sides together with the spiritual gift hidden inside the star.
- Add a hanger by taping a loop of gift ribbon to one point of your star.

Say: Your stars have special gifts inside them. But you couldn't tell just by looking! Spiritual gifts are kind of like that.

Ask: • How would you or someone else know what spiritual gift is inside you?

Make Constellations

Say: Let's use our stars to make constellations!

Distribute the “Constellations” handout, and have adult or teen helpers guide kids to work together to arrange their stars in one of the constellations shown. If the number of kids you have doesn't work for any of those constellations, have kids make up their own constellations. Then read Philippians 2:15 from the handout.

Talk About It

Ask: • How are constellations like the church?

Say: When we're friends with Jesus, the Holy Spirit gives each of us a special gift. You might not have known what it was right away or felt a magic moment, but just like your star, there's a special gift in you. As you serve God, you and others

will see your gift at work. And when Christians all work together, we can shine like constellations! Hang your star as a reminder of the special gift inside you.

Have kids take their gift stars with them and show them to their friends and families as they share what it means that the Holy Spirit gave each of us a special gift.

LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Show Your Gift!

Give Action to a Name

Have kids sit in leader-led circles.

Say: **Today we learned the Holy Spirit gave each of us a special gift. Think about what gift you think God's given you.** Pause. **I think God's special gift to me is** [name your gift]. Show an action to go along with the gift you named. For example, if you say God gave you a special gift to teach, pretend to write on a whiteboard. For encouragement, hug yourself. For leadership, put your hands on your hips. For serving, pretend to serve a tray of food. For generosity, pretend to count bills. If you have a large group, have your adult or teen helpers lead kids through this process.

Ask: • **What gift do you think God's given you?** Invite kids to share one of the examples of gifts above. Lead them to show the corresponding action listed above.

Pray

Say: **When we're friends with God, the Holy Spirit gives us a special gift. Let's thank God and ask him to help us use our gifts to love and help others.** Lead kids in praying for each individual child and the gift he or she mentions. You might say, "God, please help James use his gift of encouragement to help others." If you have a large group, have adult and teen helpers lead their kids through this process. Finally, close in prayer.