

# The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

## Small Group Guide

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What is your favorite holiday? Explain.
2. What is one activity that rejuvenates you? Explain.

**Read the following passage:** 1 Corinthians 12:4-14.

God's Holy Spirit works through each of Jesus' followers for the good of other people. In this letter and in other places in Paul's writings we find that these manifestations of the Holy Spirit are quite varied, including the seemingly spectacular gifts of miracles and healings to the rather "ordinary" ministries of serving and showing mercy. No matter the expression, all such ministries should be pursued with the intention of loving people well.

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Do you have experience with any of the gifts of the Spirit that Paul itemizes in 1 Corinthians 12? Explain. Do you have a strong desire to exercise any of these gifts?
2. Why is it important to remember that gifts of the Holy Spirit are primarily for the benefit of loving and serving other people?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:13. Why do you think Paul inserts this reflection on love in the middle of his discussion of spiritual gifts? What aspects of Paul's description of love are most striking to you? How well do you feel you are loving others?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-5, 23-25. The Corinthians highly valued speaking in tongues. Why did Paul strongly encourage them to pursue the gift of prophecy?
5. Prophecy is communicating a message from God to others for their benefit. How do we recognize when we're really hearing a message from God that he wants us to share with others? What are some ways God may communicate such a message to us? Have you ever given a prophetic message to another person?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 14:18-19. Why do you think Paul so highly valued speaking in tongues in his own life? Have you ever spoken in tongues? If not, is this something you desire? Why did Paul put boundaries around speaking in tongues at public church gatherings where unbelievers might be in attendance?
7. What are one or two ways you think you could use your gifts or talents to help further the mission of the church? What are some practical steps you can take?

**Pray**