



LifeGroup Discussion Packet

“Use Your Gift, Don’t Waste It”

1 Corinthians 12-14

November 8 and 9, 2025

Attached...

1. Discussion Questions: Long study (page 2-5)
2. Discussion Questions: Short study (page 6)
3. Five Day Devotional Guide (page 7-8)

Notice to LifeGroup Leaders

Based on the needs of your group, use either long or short study

LifeGroup Discussion Guide

(Long Study)

Question #1

Apostle Paul speaks of the various spiritual gifts stemming from the same *Source*. The *same Spirit* (αὐτὸ πνεῦμα, v. 4), the *same Lord* (αὐτὸς κύριος, v. 5), and the *same God* (αὐτὸς θεός, v. 6) are all in view in **1 Corinthians 12:4-7**. What are your thoughts concerning how all Persons of the Trinity are involved in the Church receiving and using such spiritual gifts?

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (NLT)

⁴There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. ⁶God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. ⁷A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

Write your answer here:

Question #2

"Spiritual gifts...are divine enablements or abilities that the Holy Spirit activates in your life for the purpose of building up others and glorifying Christ" (Pastor T.K. Anderson). Apostle Paul mentions several lists of spiritual gifts; from **1 Corinthians 12:8-10** we find *wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, distinguishing of spirits, tongues, and interpretation of tongues*. In **Romans 12:6-8**, Paul lists *prophecy, faith, serving, teaching, exhortation, generosity, leading, and mercy*. As a believer, what gifts has God given you? If you do not know, take an assessment here and find out: <https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/spiritual-gifts-survey/?id=902514>



1 Corinthians 12:8-10 (NLT)

⁸To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. ⁹The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. ¹⁰He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said.

Romans 12:6-8 (ESV)

⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one

who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Write your answer here:

Question #3

Apostle Peter supplies another list for spiritual gifts (**1 Pet. 4:10-11**) and indicates the purpose behind their use is to bring God glory (**v. 11**). In respect to the fact that God decides who gets which gifts (**1 Cor. 12:11**), "That means you or I can't manipulate or manufacture it" (Pastor T.K. Anderson). This same sentiment is found in **Hebrews 2:2-4**, that God distributes spiritual gifts in accordance with His own will. How does this idea safeguard us from putting emphasis on *us* and what *we* can do with *our* gifts? Are they *our* gifts or *His* gifts?

1 Peter 4:10-11 (NLT)

¹⁰God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. ¹¹Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

1 Corinthians 12:11 (NLT)

¹¹It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

Hebrews 2:2-4 (ESV)

²For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, ³how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, ⁴while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Write your answer here:

Question #4

At the end of **1 Corinthians 12 (verses 29-30)**, apostle Paul asks a series of rhetorical questions, designed to show that *every* Christian *does not* have *all* the spiritual gifts. In addition, he introduces the idea that some gifts are *higher* than others, *and* despite this, something else should be the focal point: *Love* (**1 Cor. 13:1-3**). "Without love, all our noise for God becomes chaos to

others. You can have perfect timing, a great instrument, and a lot of enthusiasm... You can sound spiritual and still not be serving God" (Pastor T.K. Anderson). How do you live in such a way as to not make your spiritual gift the main thing?

1 Corinthians 12:29-31 (ESV)

²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NLT)

¹If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. ³If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

Write your answer here:

Question #5

In the New Testament, three different words are used for *love* (*storge*=familial love; *philia*=friendship love; *agape*=godly, sacrificial love). In fact, in all the passages below the same Greek word (*agape*) is used. It is also used *19 times* in **1 Corinthians 13**. Apostle Paul is communicating nothing *general* about love, but that in the utilization of spiritual gifts (and in our general behavior as a Christian, for that matter), we are to live *selfless* lives. "Love [is] the environment where every gift finds its meaning... Love isn't how you *feel* about people, it's how you *treat* people" (Pastor T.K. Anderson). What can you do this week to home in on this essence of love?

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 (NLT)

⁴Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.

John 13:35 (NLT)

³⁵"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

1 Corinthians 13:13 (NLT)

¹³Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

Write your answer here:

Question #6

The employment of spiritual gifts is always *other* focused. To *strengthen the whole church* (1 Cor. 14:12), to *strengthen all of you* (v. 26), *for mutual upbuilding* (Rom. 14:19), and to build up the church (1 Cor. 14:4-5). Even the *gifts* of apostles, prophets, evangelists, and shepherd-teachers is for the express purpose *to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ* (Eph. 4:12). In each case above, the Greek word for strengthening/upbuilding is οἰκοδομή (oikodome). It is a term used to speak of construction, edification, and even spiritual strengthening (as a form of building up). "Every time you serve in love, you're laying another brick in God's spiritual house...the Church" (Pastor T.K. Anderson). This week, what bricks can you lay within the foundation of the Church, so that those within, can grow in the faith?

1 Corinthians 14:10-12 (NLT)

¹⁰There are many different languages in the world, and every language has meaning. ¹¹But if I don't understand a language, I will be a foreigner to someone who speaks it, and the one who speaks it will be a foreigner to me. ¹²And the same is true for you. Since you are so eager to have the special abilities the Spirit gives, seek those that will strengthen the whole church.

1 Corinthians 14:26 (NLT)

²⁶Well, my brothers and sisters, let's summarize. When you meet together, one will sing, another will teach, another will tell some special revelation God has given, one will speak in tongues, and another will interpret what is said. But everything that is done must strengthen all of you.

Romans 14:19 (ESV)

¹⁹So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

1 Corinthians 14:4,5,17(ESV)

⁴The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. ⁵Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up...¹⁷For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up.

Ephesians 4:11-14 (ESV)

¹¹And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

Write your answer here:

LifeGroup Discussion Guide (Short Study)

Main Idea: Your gift wasn’t given to elevate you but to empower others. Godly people use their gifts to serve, not to shine.

Key Verse: “*God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.*” — 1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)

Opening Discussion

1. What part of the message stood out to you most, the Van Gogh story, one of the Scriptures, or a specific example Pastor Todd. shared? Why?
2. Have you ever seen someone use a simple gift (like a smile, encouragement, or act of service) that made a lasting difference? Share that story with your group.

Dig Deeper

1. Read *1 Corinthians 12:4–7 (NLT)*
 - What does this passage teach us about the source and purpose of spiritual gifts?
 - Why is it important that “the same Spirit is the source of them all”?
2. Read *1 Corinthians 13:1–3 (NLT)*
 - *Why do you think Paul calls love “the more excellent way”?*
 - How can love give purpose and power to the way we use our gifts today?
3. Read *1 Corinthians 14:12, 26 (NLT)*
 - What does Paul mean when he says, “Seek those gifts that will strengthen the church”?
 - How can we ensure our gifts build up the church instead of drawing attention to ourselves?

Personal Reflection

1. Which of the spiritual gifts or talents God has given you do you feel you’ve used well? Which one might be sitting “unopened”?
2. What holds people back from using their gifts, fear, comparison, busyness, or something else?
3. How would Compass Church look different if every believer actively used their gift to build others up in love?

Next Step Challenge

This week, take one step to *use your gift instead of wasting it*.

- Pray for God to reveal or rekindle your spiritual gift.
- Join or explore a **Compass Compassion Team** or another area of service.
- Encourage one person in your life using your unique gift, whether through words, prayer, or an act of love.

Remember: *Don’t die with God’s gift still wrapped inside you.*

Five Day Devotional Guide

November 10-14, 2025

Day 1: You're Gifted by the Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:7

⁷But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (NASB)

Each believer has been given various gifts by the Spirit. *Manifestation* here communicates the idea that an announcement or disclosure has been made. God does not want us to be in the dark here! He desires and has made it obvious what He has given us! If it is not clear to you today, do two things: 1. Ask those closest to you what gifts they see you display and 2. Take a spiritual gifts assessment!

Reflection: You want us to serve You well, Lord. And part of this service unto You requires we know what our job description is as well as the tools required to do the job. Help me today to get to work in discovering the tools You have given me, so that I can serve Thee well.

Day 2: You're Called to Serve in Love

Galatians 5:13

¹³For you were called to freedom, brethren; only *do not turn* your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. (NASB)

We can either be selfish or selfless, Me focused or Other focused. We can't do both. In the text above Apostle Paul makes this distinction. We have been given a great freedom, the question becomes, *What will I now do with this great privilege?*

Reflection: I am reminded in this moment, Lord, that I am called to love You and love others (Matt. 22:37-39). I notice that I am listed *last* (love God...love neighbor as I love *myself*)! Help me today to put this into practice more. Help me to get this *order* right.

Day 3: You're Designed to Build, Not to Boast

2 Corinthians 10:8-9

⁸For even if I boast somewhat further about our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I will not be put to shame, ⁹for I do not wish to seem as if I would terrify you by my letters. (NASB)

There may be times in which we could rightly boast, in the Lord though. But even if this is the case, it is to never be the focus in our relationship with other believers. The goal is always to edify, always to help grow, always to serve, always to love. Even if we have the right to boast, let it be not about what we have done, but what God has done and continues to do through us for His glory.

Reflection: Today, Father, I choose to meditate upon the words of Jeremiah: *Thus says the LORD, "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD (Jer. 9:23-24).*

Day 4: You're Moved by Love

1 John 4:7-8

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. (NASB)

What a force love is! What makes it the thing that should move the Christian? Well, can it not be because *God is love*? As King Solomon said, *Many waters cannot quench love, nor will rivers overflow it (Songs 8:7)*. Why can love not be overcome? Precisely because God cannot be overthrown.

Reflection: You were moved by love, Lord, in sending Your Son (**Jn. 3:16**). And You put on full display to what extent You were willing to prove this love: *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 8:38-39)*. Ah, bless Your Holy Name!

Day 5: You're Focused on Others

Philippians 2:4-7

⁴do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. (NASB)

On this last day, *the Spirit* speaks to us through the words of Paul. Lay aside *your own personal interests...change your attitude...do not grasp for equality...and empty yourself*. And prior to these words we find these: *Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves (v. 3)*.

Reflection: O Lord, You know me, You know my heart thoroughly. O Father, please purify me today. Help me to step outside of myself, my cares and concerns, my schedule, my supposed time constraints, and hear the prayers and cries of the saints. Today, by Your power, I will go and serve others, being an encouragement to my brothers and sisters.