



Living New | Week 9

Spiritual Gifts: Taking SHAPE as Servant

[Note: Bring an easy children's puzzle to this session to use later in the session. But at the beginning of the session give to each LifeGroup member one piece to the puzzle.]

Ask your group members to share something that especially stood out to them, that especially encouraged them, or that they found especially helpful from the message or FONL study material this week. If your group is large, you may only have time for four or five responses.

Ask someone to read the five truths about our value under the heading "You are fearfully and wonderfully made" (found in Week 9, Day 1). Ask, "How differently should we live in light of these truths?"

The definition of a spiritual gift is that it is "a supernatural ability activated and empowered by the Holy Spirit that enables a believer to build up the body of Christ in a unique way." Read 1 Peter 4:10 and ask, "Who has received a gift?" and "What are we to do with the gift?" Reinforce the truth that will help everyone to see that they are indeed gifted to serve.

Ask persons in your LifeGroup to read a section of Scripture: Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 1 Corinthians 12:28, and Ephesians 4:11. As each passage is being read, on a large Post-it, write down each of the gifts listed. Ask, "Which of these gifts is most confusing to you?" Read and talk through the definitions of the gifts in Week 9, Day 2 for the gifts that your group finds the most difficult to define and understand. Be ready to share some personal experiences you may have had with gifts.

On a large post-it, write S.H.A.P.E. down the left side. Take five minutes (max!) to summarize and review the material in Week 9, Days 3 and 4. Ask your LifeGroup to build and complete the puzzle. Make the point that just as each shape is needed to complete the puzzle, so each S.H.A.P.E. is needed for the church to be effective.

Ask each person to share his/her answers from the CVC Spiritual Gifts Inventory that they were to take in preparation for this session. After each person shares what they think their top gifts might be, ask other group members to respond, "Yes. I see that in you because..."

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. Give each person an opportunity to tell a story about a painful experience that he/she thinks God might want to use as a blessing to others. As the leader, be the first to share one of your painful experiences and how God has used that to help you be a blessing to others.

End your time in prayer, each person praying for the one on his/her left. Pray specifically that God will heal the hurts from the painful experiences and that He will use your friend according to his/her SHAPE.

For additional study on this topic, you may want to watch/listen to message from CVC's 2013 series titled "Common Good." These messages may be found at:

<https://vimeo.com/album/2266332>