

## S.H.A.P.E. – Spiritual Gifts

### ABOUT THIS WEEK

As we continue our SHAPE series, this week your group will consider how gifts are discovered, how Satan attempts to keep believers from discovering and using their gifts, and where each person is in their personal gift discovery process.

#### ITEMS NEEDED

- Prayer Journal       Bibles       Pens       Paper for Each Person

#### CHECKLIST BEFORE YOUR GROUP ARRIVES

- Pray for the meeting       Print & Read Discussion Guide       Clean meeting room  
 Clean bathroom       Refreshments (Optional)       Front door cracked open

### OPENING (5-7 MIN)

*Briefly welcome everyone and say: We have just celebrated Christmas, a season of gift giving and receiving. To get started today, let's go around and answer:*

#### WHAT IS THE FAVORITE GIFT YOU RECEIVED THIS CHRISTMAS?

*Say: We will be looking at how spiritual gifts may be discovered and how Satan attempts to keep believers from using their spiritual gifts.*

### OPENING PRAYER (1 MIN)

*Say: But first, can someone start us off with a brief prayer for our time together?*

### SCRIPTURE AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCOVERY (10 - 15 MIN)

*After the prayer say: Each believer has been given one or more spiritual gifts.*

#### HOW DO YOU THINK YOU COULD BEST DISCOVER YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

**NOTE:** Allow plenty of time for discussion. The goal is to create interest in discovering spiritual gifts and putting them to use.

*Say: There are 2 keys to discovering our spiritual gifts. The first key is to examine what gifts you think you may have. Let's look at what God identifies as spiritual gifts in the Bible. I'll ask someone to read each passage for us.*

**ROMANS 12:6-8**

**1 CORINTHIANS 12:8-10**

**1 CORINTHIANS 12:28**

**EPHESIANS 4:11**

**1 PETER 4:9-10**

#### WHAT GIFTS DO THE SCRIPTURE WRITERS LIST?

## WHAT SPIRITUAL GIFTS DO YOU THINK YOU MIGHT HAVE?

Say: The second key is to serve in various roles to see which bring the greatest fulfillment for you AND the greatest results for God.

## WHAT ARE ROLES THAT YOU HAVE SERVED IN OR MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN?

### SATAN TRIES TO INTERFERE (10 – 15 MIN)

Say: Satan does not want us to use our spiritual gifts to grow God's kingdom. He sets traps Paul gives us insight into one way in which people may not be making best use of their spiritual gifts. Let's read

#### 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-3

## WHAT DO THESE VERSES SAY MAY INTERFERE WITH USING OUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Say: Satan has 4 common traps that he uses to trip up believers and make them ineffective. Let's take a brief look at each of them: COMPARISON, PROJECTION, REJECTION, DECEPTION.

## HOW DOES EACH OF THESE INTERRUPT THE USE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

## IN EACH OF THESE TRAPS HOW DOES THE TRAP EFFECT SOMEONE?

## HOW CAN THESE TRAPS BE AVOIDED?

### WHERE ARE YOU NOW (10-15 MIN)

Say: To help understand where we are in identifying our spiritual gifts we're going to do a little pen and paper exercise.

On a piece of paper draw a large +. Next beginning at the TOP LEFT label the quadrants KNOW, DON'T KNOW, WANT TO KNOW, DON'T WANT TO KNOW.

After everyone has completed the chart say: On your chart put an X where you think you are in discovering your spiritual gifts and a circle where you are in serving to discover your "gift fit".

NOTE: You may wish to have a model of the completed image ready to show your group.

After everyone has completed marking their chart say: Let's take some time to pray privately about where we are in discovering our spiritual gifts and making use of them.

NOTE: Allow several minutes for private prayer.

## Discussion Guide

### CLOSING PRAYER (7-10 MIN)

Say: Are there any prayer requests today. [Please write them in your group prayer journal.]

*After prayer requests have been taken, say:* To close in prayer we are going to begin by praying with a partner about discovering and making best use of our spiritual gifts. Then we will pray around the circle. I'll start the prayer and we will go to my left. I will also finish the prayer with the other specific prayer requests.

**NOTE:** Allow plenty of time for the “partner prayers”, several minutes before continuing with the circle prayer.