SMALL GROUP / STUDY GUIDE

1 Peter 4:8–11 — Supernatural Service

SCRIPTURE

Read 1 Peter 4:8–11. Also read 1 Corinthians 12:4–11 and Ephesians 4:16 as you consider how God gifts each believer to serve others and build up the church.

KEY TRUTH

God has gifted each of us to serve one another in His strength, so that He receives the glory.

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS
(What does the passage say?)

- What priority does Peter give love in verse 8?
- What does Peter say love covers?
- What attitude should accompany hospitality in verse 9?
- According to verse 10, who has received a gift, and how should it be used?
- What instructions does Peter give those who speak and those who serve in verse 11?
- Who supplies the strength for serving, and who should receive the glory?

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS
(What does the passage mean?)

- How do love, hospitality, and serving with our gifts fit together in this passage?
- What does it mean for love to cover a multitude of sins? How is forgiving others different from concealing harm or ignoring sin that needs to be addressed?
- A steward manages something entrusted to them. How does being a steward of God's grace shape our understanding of spiritual gifts?
- The message described spiritual gifts as "supernatural service." How does that help explain both their source and their purpose?
- What does 1 Corinthians 12:4–11 teach about differences in gifting and the Spirit who gives the gifts?
- How does Ephesians 4:16 help explain why every person's contribution matters?
- Why does Peter emphasize serving with the strength God supplies? How does that connect to God receiving the glory?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS
(What does this mean for us?)

- Have you ever looked at someone else's gifts and wondered whether you had anything to offer? What led you to feel that way?

- What most often keeps you from serving: feeling unqualified, uncertainty about where to begin, fear of failure, busyness, or something else?
- Where might God be inviting you to show hospitality or extend patience without grumbling?
- Have you discovered an ability or area of gifting only after stepping out to serve? What happened?
- How could shifting from "What is my gift?" to "What is my brother's need?" help you take a practical step?
- What gifts or evidence of God's work have you noticed in other members of your group? Take time to encourage one another with specific examples.
- If you already serve regularly, what helps you depend on God's strength? What might indicate that you are relying mainly on yourself or becoming resentful?
- What is one need in your church or group that you could help meet this week?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a moment and ask:

- Do I believe God has given me something to share with others?
- Am I comparing my gifts with someone else's and overlooking what God has entrusted to me?
- Have I been waiting to feel completely ready before taking a step?
- Is love motivating my service, or am I looking for recognition?
- Am I willing to serve in ways that may go unnoticed?
- Whose encouragement could help me recognize how God is working through me?
- What need has come to mind during this discussion?

PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK

Identify a need, pray for God's help, and take one step to meet it this week.

Choose a specific person or situation in your church or group. You might encourage someone who is struggling, offer practical help, welcome someone into your home, or explore an opportunity to serve.

Pray: "Lord, thank You for giving me something to share. Help me recognize the needs around me, serve with love, and depend on the strength You provide. May You receive the glory."

As you serve, pay attention to how others are helped. Ask a trusted believer what strengths or areas of gifting they see in you. If you are unsure where to begin, consider Life Trail as a way to explore your gifts and opportunities to serve.

Come back next week ready to share what you tried and what you learned, even if it felt small or unfamiliar.

Remind yourself each day:
“I can begin meeting a need before I can name my gift.”

PRAYER

Thank Jesus for giving Himself for us and making us part of His body. Thank God for the different gifts He has entrusted to His people. Ask Him to deepen our love for one another, help us welcome others without grumbling, and give us courage to begin serving even when we feel unsure. Pray for those who feel overlooked or inadequate, and for those who are tired from serving. Ask the Holy Spirit to work through each person, strengthen the church, and bring glory to God through Jesus Christ.