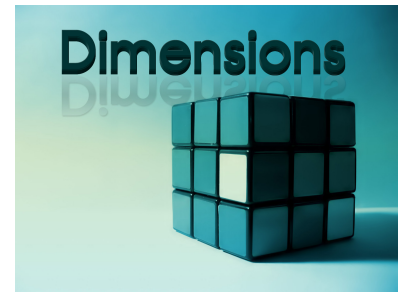


onechurch

bigIdea small group discussion



It is easy to overlook this powerful truth: God actually develops us through service. We sometimes fail to realize that we are the ones who are on the receiving end when we are doing the serving. Serving is about knowing why we are here and knowing how God has wired each of us up in particular ways to make a difference.

BIG IDEA: For a church to feel like family, you have to share and serve.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the one job you got the most satisfaction from?
2. Have you ever been benched during a game? How did that make you feel?
3. Have you ever played with someone who didn't feel like they needed the other members of the team? How did that make you feel?
4. How do you feel about serving others?
 - a. I do it mostly out of obligation
 - b. I seek it out on a regular basis
 - c. I'm uncomfortable stepping into a serving role
 - d. I'll do it when I have the time
 - e. When the opportunity presents itself, I'm happy to step up
 - f. I avoid it at all costs
 - g. Other
5. What do you think is the biggest barrier that keeps people from serving? What most often keeps you personally from serving?
6. *Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-30.* What does Paul wish for believers regarding spiritual gifts? (12:1) How do we decide what spiritual gifts we will receive? (12:4-6, 11)
7. According to *1 Corinthians 12:7*, how many people have been given spiritual gifts? Why would God see to it that everyone has at least one gift? Why does God give spiritual gifts?
8. What word picture does Paul use to describe the Church? (12:12, 27)
9. How should our spiritual gifts interact with each other? (12:12-20)
10. What do you think are the reasons why churches don't experience a more harmonious interaction of spiritual gifts?
11. *Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-30.* What conclusions can you draw about how the gifts are supposed to function in the church?
12. How would you describe spiritual gifts to a new Christian?

THINK ABOUT IT

So what are you waiting on? Will you do what countless volunteers do each Sunday? Will you take your ordinary stuff—time and ability—and make them available to your Heavenly Father? What is keeping you from being involved on Sundays?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Overwhelmed? Serving does not have to be long term. Over the next month find a time/place for you, your small group, or your family to serve at oneChurch, a school, a special interest group, or your community. Log onto www.onechurch.tv/#/give-online to give, and www.onechurch.tv/#/next-steps/our-teams to join a team.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have. The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ.
1 Corinthians 12:11-12

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Through spiritual gifts, Christians relate to one another in a perfectly balanced, God-designed system. Each believer serves a specific need in the church. This means that you and the gift you possess are vital. Without you, the church is like a three-wheeled car—bumping and scraping along.

1. Growing up, did you serve as a family? Was a serving heart modeled for you? Are you prepared now to set that example for the next generation?

One of the more obvious reasons why people volunteer is because they find something they are passionate about and want to do something good for others. People who volunteer in their community have a personal attachment to the area and want to make it a better place for themselves and for others. People who have themselves struggled with social issues usually have certain empathy for those in a similar situation and will often wish to help out. Many people who volunteer think that they are very fortunate to live the way they do and want to give something back to society, as a way of balancing the scales.

2. What are some motivations for serving that you've seen in others? What most often motivates you to serve?
3. *Read Romans 12:6-8.* What are some of your spiritual gifts? How have you used your spiritual gifts to serve in the past? How would you like to use them?
4. *Read Ephesians 4:15-16.* What does Paul say the church requires in order to function well? What do you think would happen if certain parts of the church body were absent or non-functioning (*see 4:11-14*)?
5. How does it make you feel to know that you are so needed for the church to relate well and grow?
6. *Read James 2:14-18.* Are you more likely to act without thinking or think with out acting? Why do you think this is? Are you using your words or your actions?

People volunteer for a number of different reasons, ranging from a desire to learn new skills, have fun or make a difference. Some are completely devoted to the cause, while others simply wish to do their bit where they can.

7. Is there an area/group in your community that you are passionate about or interact with on a regular basis that you could turn into a way to serve and give back to your community?

When you attend your church this Sunday, start looking for signs of a three-wheeled car. Find ways in which you can make your church run more smoothly. You just may be the part that's missing!

New Testament Lists of Spiritual Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:8-10	1 Corinthians 12:28	1 Corinthians 12:29-30
Word of Wisdom Word of knowledge Faith Healing Miracles Prophecy Distinguishing of Spirits Tongues Interpreting tongues	Apostleship Prophecy Teaching Miracles Healing Helps Administration Tongues	Apostleship Prophecy Teaching Miracles Healing Tongues Interpreting tongues
Romans 12:6-8	Ephesians 4:11	1 Peter 4:11
Prophecy Serving Teaching Exhorting Giving Leading Showing mercy	Apostleship Prophecy Evangelism Pastor Teacher	Speaking Serving