

Sermon Discussion Questions

Gifts of Giving, Encouragement, Mercy – Matt Slocum
Sermon Text: Romans 12:6-8

AGENDA

- Allow people to arrive, talk, and snack – 15 min
- Thank everyone for coming. Open in prayer – 30 sec
- Worship – 5-10 min
- Icebreaker question – 10-20 min
- Discussion Questions – 35-45 min
- Prayer – 20-30 min

INTRODUCTION

Today we continue our sermon series on the Gifts of the Spirit. In this series we will take a look at the Gifts of the Spirit and just what they mean to us as we live out our lives as followers of Christ. Let's all approach this series with openness and a desire to see if just maybe there's something new the Holy Spirit wants to teach us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-45 min)

1. Last week we were challenged to look at our lives and find areas where you might be resistant to change or how you can be open to a new thought or ideas about the Holy Spirit. Share an area that you found or an area that you may be working on.
2. What is something that stuck out or challenged you from the sermon this week?
3. Matt showed a demonstration about how being filled is not the same as overflowing in the Holy Spirit. How did this example challenge or maybe change the way you see your life as being filled with the Holy Spirit?
4. In 1 Thessalonians 5:19, it tells us that as Christians we should not quench the Holy Spirit. This means that we should not stop the overflow of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Matt shared that when we feel the tug at our heart to pray for someone or share encouragement to them, and we choose not to, this is stopping the overflow of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Where in our lives are we quenching the Holy Spirit? What can we do to let the Holy Spirit overflow more freely in our everyday lives?
5. Forever, there will be an argument about how much Christians should be giving to the church. What will never be debated, is that Christians are called to give generously, because God gave generously to us. We should always be praying that God will help us live more generously with what we have been generously given.

Icebreakers

Pick one of the icebreaker questions below and go around in a circle (starting with the leader) and have everyone answer. (If you have new members or guests have each person introduce themselves.)

1. Would you rather always be cold or always hot?
2. What is the worst trouble you got into as a kid?
3. When was the last time you did something for the first time? How did it go?

Is there a way that you can be living more generously with either your time, talents, or resources? What is going to be your first step towards living more generously this week?

APPLICATION

At the end of the sermon Matt asked us to look at the three gifts that we talked about this week (encouragement, giving, and mercy) and pray and ask God to show us how He wants one of those to overflow out of us and to others. This week, continue to pray and ask for God to show you ways to use one of those gifts to show Christ to others. Next week, share how God may have opened your eyes to use one of those gifts to bless someone you may not even know.

PRAYER (20-30 min)

Ask for prayer requests. Pray that God will fill us and that we will allow the Spirit to overflow in our lives and spill over to those around us. Pray for anyone who may have indicated there is an area where they need to be more open to what God wants to teach them and lead them into.

COMING UP

To join a small group, sign up at vckceast.com or at one of the weekend services. Study materials are available to download on the church website (<https://vckceast.com>) or on the Facebook page.

All-Church Small Group Sermon Series – 9 Jan – 27 February

Youth Events

28-30 Jan – High School Winter Camp

FINAL THOUGHT

We are not truly filled until we overflow.