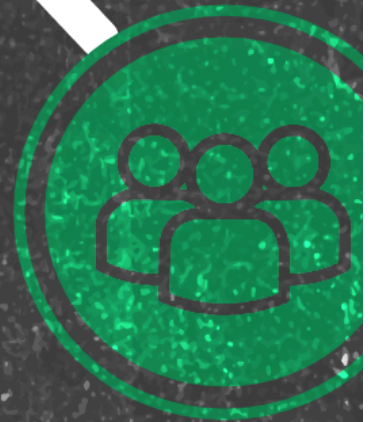


# GIFTED TO --- SERVE



STUDY GUIDE

## GIFTED TO SERVE

### Summary

*“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.” (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)*

*“For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.” (Romans 12:4-8)*

During this series, we'll be exploring the way God has gifted all His children for service in His Kingdom and in our world. Pastor Jeff Greenway has been a student of spiritual gifts throughout his pastoral ministry. He completed his doctoral work on spiritual gifts and how to align the ministry of a church around the giftedness of God's people. In some ways, he's been preparing this series for the last 25 years.

His long-time conviction is: God has gifted every believer with gifts to be used for His glory in our world. Some of these gifts are hard-wired into all of humanity—and God activates them for Kingdom work. Others are given by God for the purpose of edifying—or building up—the Church. And still more are given at a specific time and specific place to accomplish a supernatural purpose and may or may not be counted on all the time.

The goal is to help individuals discover and use any gift—at any time. The gifting of God's people comes with no caveats—you are gifted by God to serve and to make a unique contribution in this world. We encourage you to approach this series with a sense of humility and be open to discovering something about yourself and your unique role in our church and God's Kingdom.

One of the most appropriate descriptions of the church is that of a body—where each part plays a crucial role in the success and functioning of the whole. When each part does its part, the Body of Christ is a beautiful thing to behold—but when we're not all making our unique contribution, the Body of Christ limps along in its effort to fulfill its mission. God has given us every gift, grace, and resource we need to be faithful in doing what He's called and equipped us to do.

One way to determine what we do best in the Body of Christ is by operating according to the way God has gifted us. The Greek word *charism* is interpreted as “gift”—and is used to describe the divine enablement God gives followers of Jesus to make their unique contribution to the Body of Christ.

Every follower of Jesus receives at least one charism—one gift—to be used to help the Body of Christ. We don't get to pick and choose which gifts we receive because the scripture teaches us they are distributed by the Holy Spirit according to God's will. We intentionally don't receive all the gifts—for the express purpose of creating our need for one another. We understand that no one can do everything—but everyone can do something—and if everyone does something, then everything will get done.

Over a year and a half ago, our Church Board charged our leadership team with finding a way to assess and mobilize our church family to discover and use their unique, spiritual gifts. During this series, we're introducing the process by which we hope to accomplish that goal. We've grouped the various lists of spiritual gifts listed in the scripture and recognized by the church into five larger sub-sets: **PRAYER—LEADERSHIP—POWER—OUTREACH—and HELPS.**

Throughout this series, we'll provide a cursory explanation of each subgroup, share how they might operate, and invite each person who calls this church their spiritual home to take a step forward in faith to discover and be willing to use their spiritual gifts.

To help us see the need and power of operating within our spiritual gifts, we'll be looking at the life of Moses to see how God shaped, called, equipped, and then used him to deliver a rag tag group of slaves from Egypt—and strategically shape them into a cohesive people. Moses couldn't accomplish everything that needed to be done to deliver and shape God's people—but the story of his leadership, the advice he received and gave, the decisions he made, the mentoring he offered, and the mistakes he made can all serve as instruction for us as we set out to respond to God's call for us to do what we're equipped to do best in the Body of Christ.

We'll be inviting our congregation to take a gift assessment survey and to attend a **"Day of Discovery"** which will be held on Saturday, February 24 from 9:00am until 1:00pm.

# WEEK ONE – JANUARY 7

## PRAYER GIFTS



Begin by praying—asking the Holy Spirit to guide and direct your time together, to open God’s Word up to you, to grow you in your walk with the Lord and with each other, and to show you how you might apply what you learn in your daily discipleship.

**BOTTOM LINE:** Moses was a man whose life was shaped and characterized by his encounters with God. The Lord God called Moses through a burning bush and gave him the law on the same mountain. When he was leading God’s people through the wilderness, Moses would often meet with the Lord in the Tent of Meeting and speak with Him like a friend speaks with a friend. Moses was known to intercede with God on behalf of God’s people—especially when their rebellion and disobedience deserved God’s judgment. We need people today who’ll exercise their prayer gifts on behalf of our community of faith and world.

**PRAYER GIFTS:** All believers of Jesus receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit gives every Jesus follower at least one spiritual gift—usually a mix of gifts—for the purpose of building up the Body of Christ and empowering us to fulfill His mission in the world. Each church—each community of faith—has the gifts (divine enablements) it needs to fulfill the mission to which God has called it in that community.

The mix of **prayer gifts** is essential for our church to operate and fulfill God’s mission for our church in our community and world. This gift mix includes:

- **Discernment**—the divine enablement to tell the difference between good and great, falsehood and truth, and religion and relationship. This gift is often combined with knowledge. Someone with the gift of discernment often exhibits wisdom that is proven to be true over time.
- **Knowledge**—a supernatural awareness of things that are often hidden from the human eye. This gift is often combined with discernment. Those with this gift often “sense” something before they can empirically prove it. This gift is especially helpful when combined with discernment—knowledge helps someone “sense” something, and discernment helps to ask the right questions to confirm that sense.
- **Faith**—the supernatural confidence (which means “with faith”) that God will do exceedingly, abundantly more than we can ask or imagine. While we all have faith (which saves us), this gift of faith is the evidence of things hoped for and conviction about things not seen which emboldens and empowers people to come to the edge of themselves and take a step. The gift of faith is often supercharged for a specific time, task, or purpose.
- **Tongues**—a spiritual gift manifested in two varieties. The variety that fits in this section is the kind referenced in the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Romans. The gift of tongues includes a prayer language that helps the recipient to pray in the Spirit with power and effect. There are those who testify their prayer lives are much more powerful and effective when they pray in their prayer

language. This gift doesn't make someone better or a stronger Christian than someone else—and should never be used without being willing to be submissive to the authority of the church.

- **Worship**—the divine enablement to encounter and enjoy the presence of God with us—regardless of style, place, or circumstance. All of us are called to worship—but very few have this gift which empowers the worship lives of everyone else.
- **Intercession**—the divine enablement to pray on behalf of others. Everyone can pray, but this spiritual gift embodies the responsibility and privilege to press in and plead to God on behalf of others.

**READ:** Exodus 33:7-22

Points to consider from our scripture passage concerning **Prayer Gifts:**

**Prayer is an intentional discipline (Exodus 33:7-10)**

**Prayer reveals your relationship with God (Exodus 33:11)**

**Prayer is honest and vulnerable (Exodus 33:12-16)**

**Prayer reveals God's goodness and glory (Exodus 33:17-21)**

**REFLECT & RESPOND:**

- Did anything surprise you about the explanation of prayer gifts?
- Does anyone in the group have any of the prayer gifts, beyond our own discipline to pray?
- If prayer is not one of your gifts, what questions do you have about these gifts?
- How could your gift compliment someone else's prayer gift so they could be more effective?
- Do you feel confident and authentic in using your gift inside and outside the church?
- Are you willing to use your gift more? And do you feel you have permission to do so?
- In what ways could you grow in your obedience to God in using this gift?
- What will your "I will" statement be for this week?
- Who do you need to tell?
- How can we help?

# WEEK TWO – JANUARY 14

## LEADERSHIP GIFTS



Begin by praying—asking the Holy Spirit to guide and direct your time together, to open God’s Word up to you, to grow you in your walk with the Lord and with each other, and to show you how you might apply what you learn in your daily discipleship.

How did you do with your “I will” statement this past week?

**BOTTOM LINE:** Moses was a leader. He was raised as a prince of Egypt, and those leadership gifts would be used by God to deliver and lead God’s people from bondage in Egypt to cross the Jordan River into the Promised Land. Moses was teachable—like the time his father-in-law Jethro warned him about the danger of doing everything himself. Moses was a mentor—evidenced by the forty years he invested in his lieutenant, Joshua, getting him ready to succeed him. Moses was father of a nation—spending 40 years preparing them for the time he would no longer be in their midst. Kingdom leadership looks different than worldly leadership.

**LEADERSHIP GIFTS:** All believers of Jesus receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit gives every Jesus follower at least one spiritual gift—usually a mix of gifts—for the purpose of building up the Body of Christ and empowering us to fulfill His mission in the world. Each church—each community of faith—has the gifts (divine enablements) it needs to fulfill the mission to which God has called it in that community.

The mix of **leadership gifts** is essential for our church to operate and fulfill God’s mission for our church in our community and world. This gift mix includes:

- **Apostleship**—the spiritual gift enabling someone to plant and lead new movements of Jesus followers in new places. This could be across all kinds of natural, human barriers—like cultures, genders, races, generations, etc.—resulting in a new community of Jesus followers living the faith and being transformed into His likeness.
- **Prophecy**—in this sense, the ability to preach and teach the Word of God in meaningful and fresh ways—resulting in the hearing, responding, and living into the life to which God calls someone. This could be in the role of preacher or a person who God places at the head of a small house church with skills at listening carefully to God and preaching/prophesying to those they’re called to lead—resulting in life-change.
- **Teaching**—the spiritual gift of teaching the truth in such a way that the information is heard and applied—resulting in transformation. This could be related to specific content or to a specific age or demographic. The proof of this spiritual gift in the Christian Church is the resulting life-change. This is not just about sharing information—it’s about helping people experience transformation.
- **Pastor**—the spiritual gift of shepherding God’s flock—to guide, feed, water, and protect the flock. This gift is often combined with other leadership gifts. Those who exhibit this gift are selfless and

often sacrificial in leading their flock. The Old Testament word for this gift is “shepherd,” and the prophets warned the shepherds of God’s flock who forgot their purpose and began to use the flock rather than protect it.

- **Gatherer**—this gift is not really listed as a spiritual gift in the Bible—the closest would be a mix of hospitality and evangelism. Gatherers are people magnets. They’re always collecting and connecting people, and often act like the glue that holds a church, small group, ministry, or family together. Gatherers are not fulfilled unless everyone feels welcomed and has a place to make their unique contribution.
- **Worship Leader**—while this gift isn’t specifically listed as a spiritual gift in the Bible, liturgists, musicians, choir members, vocalists, worship teams, sound and light people, media team, artists and other creative types are included in this broad area of giftedness. They draw energy from planning, leading, and maintaining worship for the community of faith.
- **Administration**—the ability to bring order out of chaos. When combined with other leadership gifts, this gift helps to order the life of the church, set priorities, align resources, and determine best paths forward. This gift helps congeal and organize work teams to accomplish together what they’d never be able to accomplish alone.

**READ:** Exodus 3:1-4:17

Points to consider from our scripture passage concerning **Leadership Gifts:**

**Leaders sense change is in the air (Exodus 3:1-3)**

**Leaders experience an overwhelming presence of God (Exodus 3:4-6)**

**Leaders see themselves as God sees them (Exodus 3:7-12)**

**Leaders have a personal relationship with God (Exodus 3:13-15)**

**Leaders empower others to lead (Exodus 3:16-18)**

**Leaders see and participate in the miracles from God (Exodus 4:1-9)**

**Leaders learn how to speak for God (Exodus 4:10-12)**

**Leaders receive partners for the work (Exodus 4:13-17)**

**REFLECT & RESPOND:**

- Did anything surprise you about the explanation of leadership gifts?
- Does anyone in the group have any of the leadership gifts? Are they primarily used inside or outside the church family? If that’s you, how do you sense God is calling you to use them?
- If leadership is not one of your gifts, what would you like to learn more about these gifts?
- How could your gift compliment someone else’s leadership gift so they could be more effective?
- Do you feel confident and authentic in using your gift inside and outside the church?

- Often, there seems to be the feeling (particularly with leadership gifts) that a need exists for full-time (clergy) ministry. Did this message change that view of either/or?
- Are you willing to use your gift more? And do you feel you have permission to do so?
- In what ways could you grow in your obedience to God in using this gift?
- What will your "I will" statement be for this week?
- Who do you need to tell?
- How can we help?



# WEEK THREE – JANUARY 21

## POWER GIFTS



Begin by praying—asking the Holy Spirit to guide and direct your time together, to open God’s Word up to you, to grow you in your walk with the Lord and with each other, and to show you how you might apply what you learn in your daily discipleship.

How did you do with your “I will” statement this past week?

**BOTTOM LINE:** Moses was often used as a conduit to show and share God’s power—like the unleashing of the plagues against Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea, the instructions about receiving manna and quail in the desert, or the tapping of the rock for water in the desert. He’s also an example of what happens when we misuse God’s power. Power Gifts are important, but they must be handled with humility. We need people who will humbly and obediently use their power gifts to build up the body of Christ and serve the community of faith rather than use them in ways that draw attention to themselves or for selfish purposes.

**POWER GIFTS:** All believers of Jesus receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit gives every Jesus follower at least one spiritual gift—usually a mix of gifts—for the purpose of building up the Body of Christ and empowering us to fulfill His mission in the world. Each church—each community of faith—has the gifts (divine enablements) it needs to fulfill the mission to which God has called it in that community.

The mix of **power gifts** is essential for our church to operate and fulfill God’s mission for our church in our community and world. This gift mix includes:

- **Tongues**—this spiritual gift is manifested in two varieties. The variety discussed in the Acts of the Apostles gives a person the ability to communicate the Gospel in another language (and is ALWAYS accompanied by interpretation). This includes the capacity to automatically speak in another language—or to have the supernatural capacity to learn and master other languages. The purpose of this variety is usually evangelism and is always used to build up the body—not tear it apart.
- **Interpretation**—the capacity to interpret another language for people to hear. Scripture teaches us that a different tongue shouldn’t be used in worship without interpretation. This could also be a multi-lingual person who has the capacity to interpret cross-culturally. The purpose of this variety is usually evangelism and is always used to build up the body—not tear it apart.
- **Wisdom**—the capacity to discern, decide, and guide in ways that exceed our natural capacity. God famously gave Solomon wisdom beyond himself to govern God’s people. This gift—like all the power gifts—should be handled with humility and is intended to build the Body of Christ and call it to holiness and Christlikeness—not to draw attention to the one who has the gift.

- **Miracles**—the God-given ability to be the channel through which natural laws are suspended and supernatural, divinely-ordained miracles occur. The purpose of the gift is not to draw attention to the one offering it—but to the One who gave the gift and is the author of the miracle in the first place. Miracles are often the result of perseverant prayer—and may occur without the intercessor being actually present.
- **Prophecy**—the gift of being able to speak and foretell divine truth into present reality. This gift should be handled with care and humility. Like the Old Testament prophets, the emphasis of this gift is not so much about predicting the future, but rather warning or informing the listener what God has instructed them to say. The goal of prophecy is usually to bring people to repentance or in alignment with God’s will.
- **Discernment**—the divine enablement to tell the difference between good and great, falsehood and truth, and religion and relationship. This gift is often combined with knowledge. The person who has the gift of discernment often exhibits wisdom that’s proven to be true over time.
- **Knowledge**—a supernatural awareness of things that are often hidden from the human eye. This gift is often combined with discernment. People with this gift often “sense” something before they can empirically prove it. This is especially helpful when combined with discernment—knowledge helps one “sense” something, and discernment helps them to ask the right questions to confirm the sense.
- **Faith**—the supernatural confidence (which means “with faith”) that God will do exceedingly, abundantly more than we can ask or imagine. While we all have faith (which saves us), this gift is the evidence of things hoped for and conviction about things not seen. The gift of faith often arrives supercharged for a specific time, task, or purpose.
- **Healing**—the spiritual gift that brings physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual healing to the broken places in our bodies, hearts, souls, and lives. While a great deal of emphasis is placed on supernatural healing, this would also include people in healing professions—like doctors, dentists, nurses, and counselors.

**READ:** Exodus 14:10-31 & Numbers 20:1-13

Points to consider from our scripture passage concerning **Power Gifts:**

**Power should be used for praying, not complaining (Exodus 14:10-14)**

**Power fully relies on God while being faithful to the given task (Exodus 14:15-29)**

**Power should reveal the goodness of God (Exodus 14:30-31)**

**Power goes to God during difficulty (Numbers 20:1-7)**

**Power can quickly become abusive towards others...notice they are called “rebels” (Numbers 20:8-11)**

**Power can quickly be misused within a task and have dire consequences (Numbers 20:12-13)**

## REFLECT & RESPOND:

- Did anything surprise you about the explanation of power gifts?
- Does anyone in the group have any of the power gifts that you're comfortable sharing? If that's you, how do you sense God is calling you to use them?
- If power is not one of your gifts, what would you like to learn more about these gifts?
- How could your gift compliment someone else's power gift so they could be more effective?
- Do you feel confident and authentic in using your gift inside and outside the church?
- Are you willing to use your gift more? And do you feel you have the permission to do so?
- Especially with the power gifts, everything in services needs to be in order and under authority. How can we use these gifts more to encourage and build up the church family?
- In what ways could you grow in your obedience to God in using this gift?
- What will your "I will" statement be for this week?
- Who do you need to tell?
- How can we help?

# WEEK FOUR – JANUARY 28

## OUTREACH GIFTS



Begin by praying—asking the Holy Spirit to guide and direct your time together, to open God’s Word up to you, to grow you in your walk with the Lord and with each other, and to show you how you might apply what you learn in your daily discipleship.

How did you do with your “I will” statement this past week?

**BOTTOM LINE:** As Moses aged and matured as a leader, he made sure the whole community of Israel was instructed and empowered to care for the widows, orphans, and the poor. He understood God’s people would be known by many things—including how they treated the strangers and the needy in their midst. Moses’ parting words to Israel in Deuteronomy are filled with instructions for those who have outreach gifts. We need people who will use their outreach gifts to focus the church on those in the community who need Jesus.

**OUTREACH GIFTS:** All believers of Jesus receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit gives every Jesus follower at least one spiritual gift—usually a mix of gifts—for the purpose of building up the Body of Christ and empowering us to fulfill His mission in the world. Each church—each community of faith—has the gifts (divine enablements) it needs to fulfill the mission to which God has called it in that community.

The mix of **outreach gifts** is essential for our church to operate and fulfill God’s mission for our church in our community and world. This gift mix includes:

- **Apostleship**—the spiritual gift of being able to plant and lead new movements of Jesus followers in new places. This could be across all kinds of natural human barriers—cultures, genders, races, generations, etc.—resulting in a new community of Jesus followers living the faith and being transformed into His likeness. In the New Testament, most of the Apostles started small house churches in new communities—so the focus is on the proper use of the gift and not the size of the audience.
- **Evangelism**—the gift of being able and effective to lead others to place their faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. While all of us are called to be (and in fact are) witnesses, that’s different than having the spiritual gift of evangelism. An evangelist naturally and winsomely shares their faith, engages people in spiritual conversations, responds to questions and objections, and invites others to trust in Jesus.
- **Encouragement**—the gift of being able to walk with all kinds of people in all kinds of situations to bring out God’s best in them. Barnabas, the “son of encouragement,” is a biblical example of encouragement. He accepted Saul when no one else would. He invested in Saul. He traveled with Saul. And when Saul eclipsed him on their first missionary journey and became known as the Apostle Paul, it was because of the constant encouragement of Barnabas.

- **Hospitality**—the spiritual gift of being able to welcome strangers and make all kinds of people feel welcome and accepted. This is the embodiment of the grace of God who accepts us as we are but loves us too much to leave us that way. Hospitality helps to create the environment where God has the room to work in the human heart to draw people close to Himself.
- **Serving**—the willingness to put the shoulder to the plow to get everyday, ordinary things done. Washing dishes. Waxing floors. Mowing grass. Handing out bulletins. Raking leaves. Restocking pantry shelves. Shoveling sidewalks. Cooking meals. Doing the unknown, unseen things as a means of being the hands and feet of Jesus. Mother Teresa embodied this gift while serving and caring for social outcasts in India. She saw them as Jesus Himself—and understood her role as serving Jesus.
- **Healing**—the spiritual gift that brings physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual healing to the broken places in our bodies, hearts, souls, and lives. While a great deal of emphasis is placed on supernatural healing, this would also include people in healing professions—like doctors, dentists, nurses, and counselors.
- **Discernment**—the divine enablement to tell the difference between good and great, falsehood and truth, and religion and relationship. This gift is often combined with knowledge. Those with the gift of discernment often exhibit wisdom that’s proven to be true over time.
- **Compassion**—the ability to identify and show empathy to those in need—whether physically, emotionally, or spiritually. Those who exhibit this gift are often very empathetic and have the ability to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep while maintaining the objectivity that makes them helpful in finding possible solutions.
- **Gatherer**—those with this gift are especially gifted in drawing people to journey together. They value all kinds of people, and upon meeting them try to help them get connected with others they might enjoy or with whom they have commonality. Gatherers have what StrengthsFinder calls “woo”—people want to be around them and become involved in what they’re interested in.

**READ:** Exodus 1:15-2:10

Points to consider from our scripture passage concerning **Outreach Gifts:**

**Outreach reveals God’s kindness and blessings (Exodus 1:20-21)**

**Outreach will always have its enemies (Exodus 1:22)**

**Outreach sees the need with empathy (Exodus 2:1-10)**

**REFLECT & RESPOND:**

- Did anything surprise you about the explanation of outreach gifts?
- Does anyone in the group have any of the outreach gifts? If that’s you, how do you sense God is calling you to use them?
- If outreach isn’t one of your gifts, what would you like to learn more about these gifts?
- How could your gift compliment someone else’s outreach gift so they could be more effective?

- Do you feel confident and authentic in using your gift inside and outside the church?
- Are you willing to use your gift more? And do you feel you have the permission to do so?
- In what ways could you grow in your obedience to God in using this gift?
- What will your “I will” statement be for this week?
- Who do you need to tell?
- How can we help?

# WEEK FIVE – FEBRUARY 4

## HELPING GIFTS



Begin by praying—asking the Holy Spirit to guide and direct your time together, to open God’s Word up to you, to grow you in your walk with the Lord and with each other, and to show you how you might apply what you learn in your daily discipleship.

How did you do with your “I will” statement this past week?

**BOTTOM LINE:** Moses discovered the necessity of people being empowered to help throughout his life—for example, when God sent Aaron to help him as his mouthpiece—or when Jethro warned him about wearing himself and his people out unless he shared responsibilities—or when he sent the twelve spies out into Canaan—or when his arms were held up while the Israelites were fighting a common enemy. Moses’ life is a testimony to the importance of helping gifts. We live in a world where many people want to be bosses, but few are willing to be servants. We need both in the Body of Christ—but the majority are those who aren’t always seen and noticed, but they’re essential for us to be all God calls us to be.

**HELPING GIFTS:** All believers of Jesus receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit gives every Jesus follower at least one spiritual gift—usually a mix of gifts—for the purpose of building up the Body of Christ and empowering us to fulfill His mission in the world. Each church—each community of faith—has the gifts (divine enablements) it needs to fulfill the mission to which God has called it in that community.

The mix of **help gifts** is essential for our church to operate and fulfill God’s mission for our church in our community and world. This gift mix includes:

- **Administration**—the ability to bring order out of chaos. When combined with other leadership gifts, this gift helps to order the life of the church, set priorities, align resources, and determine best paths forward. This gift helps congeal and organize work teams to be able to accomplish together what they’d never be able to accomplish alone.
- **Giving**—a habit expected of all God’s people—with the standard of giving being the tithe (10%). The spiritual gift of giving, however, is given to those God gifts and expects to use His resources to “water” other people and ministries. While this gift is often associated with those who have deep pockets and large bank balances, giving is also the gift of living generously with time, talents, and resources we’re willing to use to sow into the lives and ministries of others.
- **Mercy**—often combined with the gifts of compassion and healing and used to identify and meet the real needs of hurt and broken people—either on an individual basis or infused by a sense of justice to address the systemic ways in which people have been hurt and wounded. A person who is merciful orients their lives around relieving the pain and suffering of others.

- **Compassion**—the ability to identify and show empathy to those in need—whether physically, emotionally, or spiritually. Those who exhibit this gift are often very empathetic and have the ability to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep while maintaining the objectivity that makes them helpful in finding possible solutions.
- **Encouragement**—the gift that brings the best out in others. Barnabas, the “son of encouragement,” was the embodiment of encouragement when he accepted and invested himself in the recent convert, Saul. Later, the pupil would become the teacher as Saul matured while on his first missionary journey to become the Apostle Paul. Encouragers always attempt to bring the best out in others and into any situation.
- **Serving**—the willingness to put the shoulder to the plow to get everyday, ordinary things done. Washing dishes. Waxing floors. Mowing grass. Handing out bulletins. Raking leaves. Restocking pantry shelves. Shoveling sidewalks. Cooking meals. Doing the unknown, unseen things as a means of being the hands and feet of Jesus. Mother Teresa embodied this gift while serving and caring for the social outcasts in India. She saw them as Jesus Himself—and understood her role as serving Jesus.
- **Music**—those gifted in writing, playing, and singing music help the community of faith to enter into God’s presence. When they come under the leadership of a worship leader, those with these gifts help set the tone for the entire worship life of a community of faith. The focus of those with this gift is not seeking the spotlight, but rather using their gift to shine the spotlight of our attention on God.
- **Arts**—those who are gifted in the arts provide aesthetic environments in which people can see, hear, feel, and experience the movement and presence of the Holy Spirit with a variety of senses. Our weekly worship life is enhanced by the artists who create worship graphics, record videos, program lights and sound, build sets, and provide decorations. They are akin to the craftsmen who built the Tabernacle and Temple.
- **Hospitality**—the spiritual gift of being able to welcome strangers and make all kinds of people feel welcome and accepted. This is the embodiment of the grace of God who accepts us as we are but loves us too much to leave us that way. Hospitality helps to create the environment where God has the room to work in the human heart to draw people close to Himself.

**READ:** Exodus 18:8-26

Points to consider from our scripture passage concerning **Helping Gifts:**

**Helpers love to hear God stories (Exodus 18:8-9)**

**Helpers worship and sacrifice on behalf of others (Exodus 18:10-12)**

**Helpers ask the right questions (Exodus 18:13-16)**

**Helpers offer sound advice (Exodus 18:17-23)**

**Helpers humbly serve from their strengths (Exodus 18:24-26)**



## **REFLECT & RESPOND:**

- Did anything surprise you about the explanation of helping gifts?
- Does anyone in the group have any of the helping gifts? If that's you, how do you sense God is calling you to use them?
- If helping is not one of your gifts, what would you like to learn more about these gifts?
- How could your gift compliment someone else's helping gift so they could be more effective?
- Do you feel confident and authentic in using your gift inside and outside the church?
- Are you willing to use your gift more? And do you feel you have permission to do so?
- In what ways could you grow in your obedience to God in using this gift?
- What will your "I will" statement be for this week?
- Who do you need to tell?
- How can we help?