

LEADER: SUGGESTIONS & THOUGHTS AS YOU LEAD...!

5 thoughts on leading your group

1. PRAY for insight as you begin to prepare for leading your group. Ask for God's wisdom, that the Holy Spirit will be the teacher and that you will be God's instrument to lead the group to greater understanding and a willingness to commit to having a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. **Prayer should be your primary source of personal preparation for leading your group.**
2. PLAN where you want to take your group in the next 60-90 days. Is your group strong in some areas and weak in others? How can you challenge the members to live more balanced Christian lives? Challenge members to look for new ways for them to CONNECT and/or take NEXT STEPS toward growing in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Remember, your role will be most impactful if you focus on simply being an **ENCOURAGER**.
3. PONDER YOUR PROGRESS after each meeting and at the end of a semester. Reflect on what went well and what did not. Re-evaluation is key to your growth as a leader. Consider whether your plan is being effective in moving the group to greater understanding and commitment. How are you doing with leading the discussion: is it stimulating, challenging, and meaningful? Are you able to keep the group on track? Do you need to make some changes?
4. PREVIEW the weekly GG questions, understanding that they are simply a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. As the GG leader, you should examine and evaluate the questions based on the needs of your group. Decide in advance what is most important to focus on, should time not allow for the entire lesson. Again, it is just a guide for you!
5. PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY: Your goal as the leader is to bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their needs for personal life change. Ultimately, you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments as we all grow in our relationships with Jesus Christ. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.

May 7, 2018
Gifted | Part 4

Please take time during your GG session for everyone to take the Spiritual Gifts test or ask your members to take it beforehand and bring their results. The test is available through the New River website & also on the NR app on the Gifted | Part 4 page.

Whether this is the first time or the 10th time you have done a spiritual gifts survey or assessment, it is important to realize that over time your spiritual gifts may change, be added to, or may no longer be dominant depending on changes in your life and the needs of the church you are associated with.

Review of the purpose of Spiritual Gifts:

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 12, 18-20;

Ephesians 4:11-15

1 Peter 4:10-11

1. For the common good of the body of Christ – the church
2. To prepare Christ-followers for works of service
3. To build up the church – the believers-EDIFY
4. To bring Christians to unity in the faith
5. To have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ
6. To bring praise and Glory to God-GLORIFY our Creator

Remember...

A Spiritual Gift is a supernatural ability given to all Christ-followers...to participate in God's Work on earth

TALENTS are God-given, natural abilities you are born with. Both can be used to serve God. Neither should be used without surrendering them to the Holy Spirit, relying on His power and wisdom. You can be successful to a point, but you will not be successful for God's purposes without relying on the Holy Spirit. (pneuma)

- **Look at your Spiritual Gifts results – what are your 3 most dominant gifts?**
 - What ministries at New River Church are you currently participating in?
 - Are there any you are not gifted for?
 - Do you need to make any “tweaks” to your ministry participation based on your results?
 - What opportunities would you like to help you further develop your gifts? (i.e. *RightNow Media* courses, training sessions, classes to take, work with a mentor, etc.)
- **Look at the next 3 more dominant gifts:**
 - How can you use them at New River Church?
 - Which would you like to develop further or utilize at this time?

For those doing a Spiritual Gifts test for the 1st time, or who still are not sure of your Spiritual Gifts...try these suggestions.

1. Consider making a list and describe your accomplishments, things you enjoyed doing and did well: In childhood, at school, at home, at work, at church.

- Some ideas: I took great photos, I ran a Kool-aid stand, I ran for office in school and sometimes won, I like to build things, etc.

2. Discover the motivating direction of your heart.

- I love to: Design and develop, pioneer, organize, operate and maintain, serve and help, acquire and possess, excel, influence, perform, improve – make things better, repair, lead and be in charge, persevere – bring things to completion, follow the rules, prevail for right and oppose wrong.

3. What is your personality: extrovert or introvert; thinker or feeler; like routine or variety; self-controlled or self-expressive; cooperative or competitive.

- You can gage these as either/or, or a combination (i.e. sometimes I like routine, but at times I like more variety.)

4. Do you have any specialized abilities? Or training?

5. What have been your experiences?

Final Thoughts

- ***How pleased or disappointed are you with the gift you received?***
- ***Whose gift would you rather have received, and why?***
- ***How did you feel when you heard that would be receiving a gift(s) and you wouldn't get to choose?***
 - ***Why did you feel this way?***
- ***Why do you think God has gifted each and every Christian?***
- ***Why doesn't God give the same set of Spiritual Gifts to everyone?***
- ***Are some Spiritual Gifts more important than others? Explain.***