

## Grace Group Guide

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### Ice Breaker

**Question:** Think about a gift you received as a child that had a surprising impact on your life. What was it, and how did it shape you?

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### Scripture Reading

Have someone read **Ephesians 4:7-13** aloud:

“Now grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. For it says: When he ascended on high, he took the captives captive; he gave gifts to people. But what does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower parts of the earth? The one who descended is also the one who ascended far above all the heavens, to fill all things (the universe). And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for works of service, to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God’s Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ’s fullness.”

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### Discussion Questions

#### Understanding Our Gifts

##### 1. The Power Behind the Gifts

Paul reminds us that Jesus descended to earth and experienced life as we do. Why is it significant that Jesus, who knows us intimately, is the one who gives us our gifts?

##### 2. Sharing in the Spoils

Paul connected Psalm 68:18 (victors sharing spoils of war) to Jesus sharing His victory gifts with us. Why is it important to you that Jesus, our loving king and savior, has chosen to share his power with us?

##### 3. Power Source

These gifts carry the power (immeasurable power) that raised Jesus from the grave. How does knowing the source of power behind your gifts change how you view them?

## Identifying the Gifts

**Here are some of the gifts God has given us as found in Ephesians 4, Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and 1 Peter 4.**

Administration • Apostleship • Discernment • Encouragement • Evangelism • Faith • Giving • Healing • Helping • Interpretation of Tongues • Knowledge • Mercy • Miracles • Pastoring • Prophecy • Service • Speaking • Teaching • Tongues • Wisdom

**Take a few minutes to discuss:**

4. Which of these gifts do you see in your own life? (Remember: this list isn't exhaustive - God may have gifted you in ways not listed here!)
5. What gifts do you see in others in this room? Take time to affirm one another by naming gifts you observe.
6. Pastor Phil said good gift givers (like his wife, Lindsay) know people intimately and give gifts that fit who they are. How does that truth apply to the gifts Jesus has given you?

## The Purpose of the Gifts

**Read verse 12-13 again:** “to equip the saints for works of service, to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God’s Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ’s fullness.”

### 7. Building Up the Body

How are you currently using your gift(s) to build up other believers? Be specific.

### 8. Promoting Unity

The sermon warned against looking down on those gifted differently. Have you ever felt “less than” because of someone else’s gift, or looked down on others? How do last week’s attitudes (humility, gentleness, patience, love) apply to how we view and use our gifts?

### 9. Measuring Impact

Pastor Phil noted that Christianity grew from Jesus and 12 apostles to 2.64 billion people today, all through people using their gifts. Can you think of a time when someone’s gift made a significant impact on your faith journey?

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## The Big Question:

**“Do you see your life as a powerful gift to change a life?”**