

Empowered
Empowered by the Spirit
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Growth Group Discussion Guide

Opening Question (get everyone involved in discussion):

- ❖ Begin your time together with a moment of silence, then pray and ask for God's Spirit to shape us through his word.
- ❖ Word Association game: Think of the first word that comes into your mind when someone says the word "spiritual gifts."

- **Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 and then zoom in and read 1 Corinthians 12:1-3 and discuss the following:**

- Why did Paul start his discussion about spiritual gifts and especially tongues and prophecy by reminding them of their former lives?
- Are we to take verse 3 literally? No. But why do you suppose bringing this up has to do with Spiritual Gifts?
- Paul states that he does not want the Corinthians to be "uninformed" about the gifts. What is the danger of our church being uninformed or unaware of the gifts?
- What does verses 1-3 show us about God's character? What does it tell us about mankind?

- **Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11**

- Paul mentions that the variety of the church's ministries, gifts and activities are similar to the unity and diversity that the Trinity itself. How is the Trinity the perfect model to build a church after?
- Look at verse 7 - What does Paul tell us about the distribution of the spiritual gifts and their purpose?
 - Why is that important?
 - Have you witnessed any time in your Christian life where the gifts were used out of order? How can that be dangerous
 - How can it be dangerous for the church not to use their gifts.
- Paul says in verse 7 that these are a "manifestation of the Spirit." Pastor Erik mentioned that the spiritual gifts are part of God's presence in us not his presents that he gives.
 - How can this change the way we view spiritual gifts?
 - 1 Peter 4:10-11 is a good cross reference to frame the importance of stewarding our gifts.
- In Verse 11, Paul reminds the Corinthians that all spiritual gifts have been given to each person based on God's Sovereign will?
 - Why is this important for us to remember?
- Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? If so, share a bit about what they're and how you have come to learn that these are the gifts God has given you.

- As you end the discussion, how has the sermon or discussion helped you worship God?

Prayer:

- **NOTE FOR THE LEADER:** Depending on your discussion, It may be helpful to recommend the spiritual gift class in our discipleship hour as that will be the place where we will look more about each gift and go into detail about how to find a spiritual gift, the difference between a gift and talent, have all the gifts ceased, etc.?
- Take a moment to share, and pray for any other needs that exist among your group members.