

WEEK 4: WHAT ABOUT THOSE CRAZY SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PREPARE

Listen and subscribe to the Mariners Life Group Leader Podcast.

If you missed the weekend message or want to review specific points, you can always watch, listen, and find bulletin notes online at marinerschurch.org/messages.

MAIN POINT

Spiritual gifts are often divided into three categories: speaking, serving, and sign gifts. It is the sign gifts, gifts like tongues, prophecy, and healing, that are the controversial ones. Some say those gifts ceased when the Bible was completed, and others claim they are still active today. Some have wrongly made Christians feel incomplete if they don't have the sign gifts and others have wrongly made some Christians feel weird for using the sign gifts. We will look at the gifts of tongues, prophecy, and healings and we will see how all Christians are to be continually filled with God's Spirit and use their gifts to serve others.

LEAN IN BREAK THE ICE

Everyone loves to receive gifts, of course, but giving gifts is rewarding, too. Can you share about a time you gave a gift that is still important or special to you today, because of the gift or what it meant to the person receiving it?

LOOK DOWN LOOK AT GOD'S WORD

1 Peter 4:10 says, “Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God.” What stands out to you about the purpose of spiritual gifts, and how does this verse shape the way you think about why God gives gifts to His people?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 aloud. How might we summarize what Paul means here? What does he want us to understand?

Looking at the surrounding context of these passages, what connections do you see between spiritual gifts and spiritual maturity? How does Scripture hold these ideas together?

LOOK OUT
IDENTIFY THE
RELEVANCE OF GOD'S
WORD IN THE WORLD

Our culture shows a lot of interest in the supernatural, whether through entertainment, spirituality trends, or personal experiences. How do you think this shapes the way people approach the idea of spiritual gifts?

What are some common ways you have seen people (believers or unbelievers) misunderstand the role of spiritual gifts in the Christian life?

LOOK IN
APPLY GOD'S WORD
TO YOUR LIFE

What is your thought about the role that spiritual gifts like tongues, healing or prophecy play in the Christian life today? This is a safe space where we can feel free to have different perspectives.

In Eric's message, he quoted John Stott who said, "The evidence of the Spirit's fullness is not the exercise of His gifts, but the ripening of His fruit." How would you explain what Stott meant, and why do you think he emphasizes fruit over gifts?

How might we use spiritual gifts we have been given to serve other people?

Leader Notes

This section helps you grasp the key themes and intended outcomes of the discussion before you lead your group. These notes are not the group questions; they simply guide your preparation so you can lead with clarity and shepherd the conversation well. You may also find them helpful at the end of your discussion to wrap up your time together.

Think About It

Take a moment to reflect on the goodness of God in giving His people gifts meant to bless others. How does remembering His generosity shape the way you think about your own gifts and the role you play in the body of Christ?

What Will You Do?

What is one intentional step you can take this week to discover, practice, or use a spiritual gift in a way that serves someone around you?

Changing Your Mind

A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good... (1 Corinthians 12:7)