

Icebreaker: When was a time when you have been part of a unit, team, or body that worked together really well for the common good? What was that like?

Lectio Divina (read; meditate; pray; contemplate): Read Romans 12:3-8 aloud and have your group share what stands out to each of them in the passage.

Discuss:

1. Take the spiritual gifts tests online at www.zpc.org. Your results should come in your email inbox. Also at zpc.org, click on the pdf of spiritual gift descriptions and how you might use them in daily life or at church. Discuss your top 3 results with your group. Name one way you could use a gift practically in the church, in the workplace or with neighbors.
2. Describe a time when you were excited to use your gifts. Describe a time when serving felt like a burden. What made the difference?
3. Have you ever felt that some gifts were better than others? Have you encountered that attitude in other Christians? What does Paul say in Romans 12:3 that might speak to attitude about spiritual gifts?
4. Have you experienced a time when someone thought so highly of himself or herself (Romans 12:3) that it caused disunity in your family, community, or church?
5. Could you describe someone who represents humility (Romans 12:3) for you? How does that shape you or help the church body?
6. What gifts might you have that will build community with younger people?

Prayer:

Share your prayer requests with one another and also remember those from our church family:

- > Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of Matthew Glidewell in his passing.
- > Prayers of healing for Ellen Templin.

Reminders for your group:

- > You and your group members may access the spiritual gifts test at zpc.org, which is new to us. We would welcome any feedback you have about the process of accessing and taking the test. Thanks!
- > Join in ZPC's Lenten reading of the gospels. Schedules available at the Welcome Center and at zpc.org.

Leader Notes:

Each of us who knows Jesus has been given a spiritual gift or gifts through the Holy Spirit. We are called to discover or recognize these gifts within us to honor God in our church and other relationships. Many of the gifts align with talents, abilities, and personality that we already possess. Our spiritual gifts are gifts of God's grace – the Greek words for gift and grace have the same root word – translated as *charis* or *charisma*. There are lists of spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4 as well as Romans 12. So the gifts listed in Romans 12, and on the spiritual gifts test you took, are representative rather than exhaustive. May you enjoy discovering, discussing, and using your spiritual gifts!

[Question 1] We encourage everyone to take this new spiritual gifts test at zpc.org. We also encourage you to look at the pdf on the same page as the gifts test which will give some ideas of how to use those gifts here at ZPC and in your daily life. Please discuss them with your group – take extra time if you need on this question. If group members have not taken the test yet, make sure to include them in this discussion while asking them to take the gifts test later this week.

[Question 2] This question, as well as the icebreaker question, acknowledges the fact that if you are using your gifts correctly, it will “feel” right. If you are serving in an area that you are not gifted in, it can sometimes be a burden or a struggle. Realizing when you have joy or burden in serving can help you observe when you are using your gifts or not.

[Question 3] Some Christians may feel that gifts like evangelism, preaching, or “louder” gifts are more important than “quieter” gifts like serving or mercy. We are a body, where all the parts of the body have value and importance, and one part of the body can't function in a healthy way without the others.

[Question 4] You should be careful in answering this question not to name names or to gossip, but to discuss situations where you could show that thinking too highly of oneself can cause disunity. Situations like these can cause resentment, judgment or anger and override healthy use of spiritual gifts or roles within a church body or other group.

[Question 5] This question is the flip side of question 4. When someone uses her gifts or fills his role with humility (sober judgment in Romans 12:3), it elevates and inspires those around him or her to use their gifts with humility as well.

[Question 6] If churches aren't intentionally “growing young” by encouraging their young people, then they are “growing old.” Discuss how we might use our gifts and abilities to include and inspire young people (kids, youth and young adults) so that the body can be full of people of all ages.