



Sermon Discussion Questions

Sunday, January 15, 2012
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Series: Opportunity Knocks

Sermon: Share

Note to Group Leaders:

One of the changes you will see in sermon discussion questions is I've been asked to add my own thoughts on some of the questions being asked. So, I've done that to keep assisting you as you lead others. Some questions I'll just let you know why I'm asking that question. Again, use the ones that work for your group. Enjoy!

Introduce it:

We are just a few weeks away from Christmas. I know. It's hard to believe we just celebrated Christmas. Share as a group some of the gifts you received this Christmas (or in a previous Christmas) that you have already used a ton. If not this Christmas, do you remember a Christmas gift you received that you wore out pretty quickly because you loved it so much?

**Goal of this question is for the group to get to know each other a little more personally. But main goal is to get them to start thinking about gifts being used and not just sitting.*

Revisit it: learn the passage preached on.

To better understand the passage we looked at today, let's get to know the Corinthians and why the passage was so critical for them.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

What is this young church quarrelling over?

**they are fighting over who is better than the other based on who they have been mentored by. Some by Apollos, others Cephas (or Peter) and other by Paul. They are not encouraging one another but competing.*

Who does Paul tell them they should thinking about more and appreciating that all of them have life from?

**Christ. He is not divided. Paul doesn't care what mentor you came out from under. We are all united in what Christ did. That unifies us.*

In what ways have you experienced or seen people in the body of Christ fight over and compete against?

**politics, theologians they trust, church they go to, etc...*

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

What are all the words that Paul uses in this passage to show unity?

**same Spirit, same Lord, same God, common good, the work of one and the same Spirit.*

List all the gifts that Paul mentions in this section. In what ways do you see each of those gifts benefitting the church-especially a church like Corinth?

**wisdom; knowledge; faith; healing; miraculous powers; prophecy; distinguishing between spirits (discernment); speaking in tongues (languages); interpretation.*

**Leaders: I didn't give ways to use these gifts because the list can be long. Let the group dream some about how a church like Corinth (place where lots of people, from lots of places, with lots of sin-imagine a place like NYC) could benefit from these gifts at that time as people start to follow Christ.*

What does Paul tell us is the purpose of the gifts that the Spirit gives? How do we sometimes use our gifts or see the gifts of others?

**for the common good. we use them to compete and to compare who is better than the other. Much like the Corinthians were doing as Paul described in chapter 1.*

Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-26. Have one person in the group read this outloud and as a group, just imagine what it would be like to be in a church where this happened. What is encouraging to you about this passage?

What do you think your spiritual gift(s) might be?

**this section of scripture gives a lot of gifts the spirit gives. For more, read Romans 12:3-8*

What do you think would happen to the church if people just chose to not use their gifts?

What do you think the church is missing from you not using your gifts?

**Leaders, this is a great time for group members to tell one another what is missing if they don't use their gifts. A great way to have the group encourage one another.*

Use it: don't just learn the passage but use it.

If you don't know what your spiritual gift is, there are a variety of resources available to help you discover them. This is a link to a free one: <http://www.churchgrowth.org/cgi-cg/gifts.cgi?intro=1>

During this week, go to this website and take the test. When you get together again, bring your print out so the group can share what they learned about one another. Come ready to talk about ways you can jump into ministry at LFC and use these gifts.

Remember it: memorize a verse that helps you to remember and use it.

Memorize 2 Corinthians 12:27

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

Write this on a piece of paper and put it on your mirror and in your car. Share this verse with your children to help them begin thinking about their own gifts! Begin now helping them see the importance of serving and playing their part in building God's church.