



10 SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The Gifts That Build “the Way”

March 11, 2023

1 PREPARING

A. THE SOURCE

Acts 6:1-7 • “Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, ‘It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.’

“And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.”

Luke 8:1-3 • “Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with Him, and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities—Mary called Magdalene,

out of whom had come seven demons, and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod’s steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance.”

Mark 2:1-5 • “And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven you.’”

Matthew 25:14-30 • “For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went out and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money.

“After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. So he who had received five talents came and brought

five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

"Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'

"But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

B. WHAT'S TO BE SAID ABOUT "SPIRITUAL GIFTS"

As the first Christians risked their lives to share the good news of the risen Christ with the world, their spiritual gifts included a blend of many types of abilities. While students today may be aware of "spiritual gifts," they may not have a firsthand experience or a sense of confidence about their own giftedness. This lesson provides not only a discussion about spiritual gifts but it offers an inventory for students to see where they have skills and interests. The key distinction to make is that we all have dif-

ferent talents, abilities, and skills, but what constitutes a spiritual gift is the purpose for which it is used. For instance, there are many talented musicians who use their skills for their own cause. Conversely, there are gifted musicians who use their talents for the gospel.

When we surrender our lives to God, all our abilities are poised for spiritual impact. Romans 12:1 describes this well, saying, "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service." Teens experience great uncertainty about their own usefulness. They wonder about how people perceive them, what they are really good at, and what makes them valuable people. During this season it is important to acknowledge and affirm the attributes of young people honestly. As students study and share about spiritual gifts and as they take the inventory, leave plenty of time to unpack the meaning of the seven areas of giftedness.

C. WHERE WE'RE GOING WITH "SPIRITUAL GIFTS"

As a result of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Describe the purpose of spiritual gifts.
2. Experience and become aware of areas of giftedness in individuals.
3. Discover ways to practice and use spiritual gifts for the work of the church.

D. MATERIALS NEEDED

Beginning • (Activity A) tools (e.g., hammer, nails, saw, etc.), white/chalkboard, markers/chalk; (Activity B) spiritual gifts handout (p. 96).

Connecting • Bibles, student lessons.

Applying • Spiritual gifts inventory (p. 96).

2 BRIDGING

A. WHERE WE'VE BEEN BEFORE

Allow 10 minutes at the beginning of class for students to:

1. Share anything that was meaningful to them in this lesson.
2. Engage in a discussion about the topic of the lesson in connection to the belief highlighted this week.
3. Say the Bible memory text either individually or in group.

B. OTHER SABBATH SCHOOL COMPONENTS

- >> Song service
- >> Mission emphasis (find a link for *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adult* at www.realtimfaith.net)
- >> Service project reports

3 BEGINNING

NOTE TO TEACHER: Put together your own program with options from the categories below—Beginning, Connecting, Applying, and Closing. Please keep in mind, however, that the students need to have an opportunity to be interactive (participate actively and with one another) and to study from the Word.

A. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

Get ready • The purpose of this activity is to get students to relate the usefulness of different tools for different tasks in building a house to the usefulness of different gifts in building the kingdom of God. Gather a few tools such as a hammer and nails, paint roller, ruler or tape measure, saw, shovel, level. All of these tools have different functions, and so do the gifts God has given us.

Get set • Arrange the tools in the room so the students can see them. You can give each student a tool (if your class is small) or you can divide the students into groups. Make sure each group has one tool. Each student/group will be asked to answer a few questions and be ready to report.

Go • Say: Each of you has been assigned a tool. I want you to answer the following questions (write the questions on the board or give the students a copy to refer to):

- >> What is the primary purpose of this tool?
- >> What kinds of things can this tool do effectively?
- >> What phase of building a house would this tool most likely be used for?
- >> What aspects of house building would this tool not be used for? (Think of three ridiculous ones.)
- >> Have students report.

Debriefing • Ask: If you were to think of the different people in churches as tools God wants to use, which kinds of people do you imagine would go with which types of tools? In what way are all the tools equal? Can you do without some tools? What is the result? How does this relate to life in the body of Christ?

B. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

Get ready • Have students follow the directions of the "What's in the Box?" spiritual gifts survey from the *ChristWise—Leader's Guide* found on page 96. The goal is to have them add up the results and see where they tend to score the highest. If you think the exercise will take too long, give it to them ahead of time or substitute part of the lesson time for them to fill out the questionnaire.

Get set • Make copies of the questionnaire and make yourself familiar with it so you can answer questions if they arise.

Go • Remind the students to answer the ques-

tions according to what they think is actually true of them, not what they wish were true. As students complete the survey and add up the results, discuss with them the seven broad categories of giftedness as mentioned in Romans 12.

C. BEGINNING ILLUSTRATION

In your own words, tell the following story:

The tools of the Master Carpenter decided to hold a meeting, and as Brother Hammer officiated he was asked to leave because he was too loud. The Hammer responded by saying, "If I have to go, then Brother Screw needs to leave as well, because in order to get him to do anything you have to turn him around and around." Brother Screw retorted, "OK, I will leave if that's what you decide, but I think Sister Plane needs to go because she doesn't have any depth at all. All she does is work along the surface." Sister Plane immediately stated, "If I'm going, then Brother Ruler needs to go too, because he constantly measures people as if he were the only one who is right." Brother Ruler replied defensively, "Sister Sandpaper has to go too, because she is so abrasive. She always rubs people the wrong way." The meeting erupted with a frenzy of complaints from all the tools, and then the Carpenter walked in and put on His apron and began to construct what would be a pulpit. He used the Hammer and the Ruler and the Plane to fashion the pulpit. He continued by using the Screw and the Sandpaper as well as the other tools in the shop. When the Carpenter had finished, the Saw said what everyone had learned in the shop that day: All the tools were necessary, useful, and successful in building the pulpit.

Debriefing • Ask: In what way does this parable describe what may happen in some churches? What are the most popular tools (gifts) you see displayed in service for God? What are some of the tools (gifts) that sometimes go unnoticed but are absolutely necessary?

4 CONNECTING

A. CONNECTING TO THE KINGDOM

Present the following ideas in your own words:

In the kingdom of God citizens become partners with the King in the mission of the kingdom.

Each person who surrenders their life to Christ is empowered with special spiritual abilities that work for the cause of Christ. Some might call them talents, but everyone has talents, skills, and abilities. What makes a spiritual gift different? What do you think?

Some say that spiritual gifts are equivalent to our talents; others say spiritual gifts are divinely appointed abilities from God when someone is converted. How would you explain what a spiritual gift is and what it isn't?

Divide the students into six groups and assign each group one of the stories listed below. Have them try to determine what spiritual gifts were used to make a certain ministry happen.

- >> Exodus 18:13-26
- >> Exodus 4:10-16
- >> Acts 6:1-7
- >> Luke 10:1-17
- >> Luke 8:1-3
- >> Mark 2:1-5

As the groups report on the stories above, discuss what they learned about our giftedness.

Then have students, in groups or as a class, look at the following major sections of Scripture that speak about spiritual gifts: **Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 27-31; Ephesians 4:11-13**. As they read these sections, have them consider the questions listed below:

- >> What are spiritual gifts?
- >> Who gets them?
- >> Who gives them?
- >> What is their purpose?

B. CONNECTING TO THE LESSON ILLUSTRATION

Ask someone beforehand to read or tell the story from Sabbath's section of the lesson.

Say: Most of us, when we look at ourselves, wonder what we have to offer God. The stories in the lesson illustrate the way our gifts can be used for the kingdom even if they are modest. When we unite together for God's work, our strengths enhance God's work.

Ask: Read Acts 2:42-45 and Acts 4:31-35. When in your life have you experienced something similar to this? How do you see in these passages different gifts working together for the common good of God's kingdom?

C. CONNECTING TO LIFE

Pose the following scenario:

Sometimes it's difficult to imagine being useful to God, not to mention "gifted" for a specific area of ministry in God's church. Yet God has created us with special abilities for His purpose.

One teen Sabbath School didn't feel confident that they could really contribute to the work of the gospel. They didn't know where to begin. They couldn't imagine what they might be able to accomplish. After filling out the Spiritual Gifts Inventory, they struggled to believe the results, that they too were created to do great things for God.

Ask: What do you think would help them understand how important it is that they be deliberate about discovering their spiritual gifts? What ideas do you have that a youth group could do to get as many people involved in ministry as possible?

5 APPLYING

GLOBAL YOUTH DAY

Next Sabbath is Global Youth Day. With your Sabbath School class, Finalize the communityservice project or mission initiative you haveplanned together. The possibilities for service are endless. Some examples may include: visiting a nursing home, hospital, orphanage, or prison to comfort, sing, and pray for those who are sick, needy, and destitute; feeding the homeless; inviting people from the community to an open house event, etc.

A. APPLICATION ACTIVITY

To apply the concept of spiritual gifts to real life, students need to have taken the inventory provided in this lesson (see Beginning Activity B). As they score the inventory it will show their areas of highest interest. Also, they need to read the description of their giftedness so they will have an idea of what that gift is really referring to. Go around the room and have students share their highest scores (the top two) and survey the makeup of your group. It is important to remind them that the inventory doesn't lock them in; it merely shows a tendency or prominent interest in a certain area of ministry—the Spirit affirms their giftedness as they practice and experiment in ministry to others.

The following scenarios are given for students to discuss how different gifts would be needed to accomplish a goal. Read the ministry opportunity/goal and invite them to share what gifts they think will be primary gifts and others that may be useful but not necessarily noticeable.

1. Conducting evangelistic meetings to reach people in the community.
2. Participating in a mission trip to build a church overseas.
3. Starting a big brother/big sister mentoring program in your community.
4. Initiating small-group Bible studies for the church.

5. Meeting the needs of single moms in your community who struggle with babysitting, repairs, despair, and loneliness.
6. Planning a worship service for your church.

Ask: What projects or ministries need more people? What ministries need only a few? What are some activities that could be private expressions of your spiritual gifts?

Debriefing • Ask: What did you think about the results of your inventory? Does it match the way you see yourself or the way others see you? Were there any surprises? How do you think God can use you in His work?

B. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. In what way do you think that a greater understanding of spiritual gifts could make church more exciting?
 2. What are specific ways you can use the spiritual gifts God has given you?
 3. As you may have a better idea of what your spiritual gift might be, how do you see your gift being used in your church?
 4. What potential opportunities exist for you to use your spiritual gifts?
5. What person who knows you well could give you feedback on the results of your spiritual gifts inventory?
 6. Who do you know that demonstrates giftedness in the area you scored high in?
 7. How can you use your skills and abilities in this area for God?

6 CLOSING

SUMMARY

In your own words, conclude with the following ideas:

Whenever a person comes to receive Christ as Savior, the Holy Spirit empowers them with a new life. Their new life comes equipped with certain spiritual abilities that need to be shaped and molded, practiced and honed. Every believer has something to contribute; some are blessed with many gifts, and others are blessed with the joy of focusing on just one or a few. But in any case, we are all expected to contribute. Spiritual gifts are meant to serve people as well as to help us do things that help others come to know Jesus and accept Him as their personal Savior.

FOR LESSON TEN:

THIS HANDOUT IS FOR BEGINNING ACTIVITY B.

“What’s in the Box?”

SPIRITUAL GIFTS SURVEY

Spiritual Gifts Questionnaire for Youth

“What’s in the Box?” is a simple approach to finding and practicing our spiritual gifts. The task for the loving and mission-minded church is to ask, “What’s in the Box?” In other words: “What is in our kids that can significantly shape and move our church forward—today?”

1. Indicate whether each statement is:

<u>Almost Never</u>	<u>Rarely</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Frequently</u>	<u>Almost Always</u>
1	2	3	4	5

For example, a statement might declare “I get really frustrated when I hear people talking about doing something but not doing it.”

If you “almost never” feel that way, then you would circle the 1 under “almost never.” If you find that you frequently get upset about that, then you would circle number 4.

2. As you answer all the statements, put the number you chose for each question in the white area of the column to the right. You should have 10 numbers in each column. Add up the total for each column and write the score in the box at the bottom of the chart.

3. The higher scores are in the areas of the gift you might have. The way to know for sure is to practice using those gifts, and as you have success, you will become more certain about the way God has gifted you.

“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness” (Romans 12:6-8).

The *ChristWise* approach to spiritual gifts is based on Romans 12:6-8. Some studies on spiritual gifts have up to 24 different spiritual gifts as part of their inventory. For young people, we use the passage in Romans because it simplifies the gifts into seven major categories, which are easier for kids to manage.

The following is a summary of the gifts with a short explanation and an example of what that might look like in a young person.

PROPHECY

Speaking the wisdom of God

The verb *prophesy* might scare people because it carries all kinds of ideas, from calling fire down out of heaven to being able to see into the future. While those experiences may occur, the gift of prophecy has more to do with a person’s ability to understand and speak wisely on behalf of God. Individuals who have this gift have the ability to be “in tune” with God in a special way. They tend to be willing to speak up, speak out, and go against the flow of peer pressure. You might see it in the way a young person tries to get people to “do the right thing.” We don’t want to avoid the possibility that they might see “dreams and visions,” but mostly the gift involves courage and character and being really perceptive.

FOR LESSON TEN cont.

THIS HANDOUT IS FOR BEGINNING ACTIVITY B.

SERVING

Those who just want to get things done have tremendous value to the church. When God lives in such individuals, great things happen for Him. While some may just want to make plans, helpers make lists of the things to do and get started. They feel best when they are working, and even if the details seem menial, they see how the little parts can fit into the big picture. You can see it in children who always have to be helping, constantly volunteering, and can't sit still for very long.

TEACHING/LEARNING

We combine the gift of teacher/learner because most good teachers love learning. Rarely are teachers effective if they are not teachable themselves. In the church they like to study and discover truth and also enjoy finding the best ways to communicate it. Such kids not only love it when they understand, but enjoy the way they discovered it and seem to be willing to help others learn.

BUILDING

Builders have the ability to challenge and strengthen others with their words and deeds. Often called the gift of encouragement, it comes from the idea of building a house. We construct a house step by step, piece by piece. It is obvious as well that while it takes time to build a house, it requires only one stick of dynamite or one earthquake or tornado to utterly destroy it. The same is true with our words and actions. Negative words and actions can destroy quickly, but positive affirmation builds gradually. The builder has a special ability to say the right thing at the right time. Desiring to move people forward with their words and actions, builders tend to be positive, proactive people.

GIVING

Those who joyfully spend their time, talents, service, and resources for good works we call givers. They don't have to have a lot of money to have this gift—most young people don't. But their sacrificial spirit and generosity tend to stick out. What drives them is not the appearance of being a generous person, but that they just feel so good about helping other people that they are free with their time, their stuff, and their energy.

LEADING

People have many different ideas about what really makes someone a leader. The word literally means "to stand before," or "to preside." Some think it is the person who is the loudest. One of the best definitions for leadership is "the ability to influence others." This could go both ways (positive or negative). Have you heard some of the stories great leaders tell about their childhood—all the trouble that they caused? Somehow, though, they were able to influence others. The best leaders are ones who tend to get others involved instead of being the one who does everything themselves. A leader who has to do everything is usually a server in the wrong job.

COMPASSION

The gift of compassion is the natural inclination to show mercy and to bring help and healing to another person. If someone is lonely, hungry, or hurting, the gift of compassion moves people deep within. Such individuals have to do something about a problem. You can see it in those who react to injustice or unfairness. When there is an opportunity to make a difference, they become a part of the healing. The difference between someone with the gift of compassion and someone who is a server is that compassion sees someone in pain sooner than others.

FOR LESSON TEN cont.

THIS HANDOUT IS FOR BEGINNING ACTIVITY B.

Questions	Answers					Gifts				
	Almost Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently	Almost Always					
I'm very sensitive to what is good and what is not.	1	2	3	4	5					
I am the first person to jump in and help others.	1	2	3	4	5					
I like to be in charge of people.	1	2	3	4	5					
I can sense when others are hurting, and I reach out to them.	1	2	3	4	5					
I feel that it is my job to provide and continue to give resources to those less fortunate than myself.	1	2	3	4	5					
I want people to work together.	1	2	3	4	5					
I do not like games in which people can lose.	1	2	3	4	5					
I see the Bible as the truth.	1	2	3	4	5					
I want to be appreciated for the tasks I do for others.	1	2	3	4	5					
I have a vision for the future.	1	2	3	4	5					
I don't like to focus on the bad in others.	1	2	3	4	5					
I trust that God will take care of me.	1	2	3	4	5					
I get many tasks done in time.	1	2	3	4	5					
Major decisions are hard for me to make.	1	2	3	4	5					
I feel that God directly speaks to me.	1	2	3	4	5					
It is easier for me to do things for others than just to listen and talk to them.	1	2	3	4	5					
I like new goals and new pursuits.	1	2	3	4	5					
I want others to be happy.	1	2	3	4	5					
I don't like others to know how much I give of my resources.	1	2	3	4	5					
I have a real sense of respect for those older than I.	1	2	3	4	5					
I feel best when everyone else is happy.	1	2	3	4	5					

FOR LESSON TEN cont.

THIS HANDOUT IS FOR BEGINNING ACTIVITY B.

Questions	Answers					Gifts				
	Almost Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently	Almost Always					
I want to tell others of what God has said to me.	1	2	3	4	5					
I see the needs of others and act on that.	1	2	3	4	5					
I respect those who are older than I and those who have more wisdom than I do.	1	2	3	4	5					
I don't like to hurt others by my actions or words.	1	2	3	4	5					
If I cannot give money or objects, I will give of my time.	1	2	3	4	5					
I get along well with people regardless of their age.	1	2	3	4	5					
When others are hurting, I have a hard time thinking about anything else.	1	2	3	4	5					
I can be harsh and blunt when I talk to people.	1	2	3	4	5					
I cannot leave a project until it is completed in the best possible way.	1	2	3	4	5					
I want to work with a good group of people to accomplish a task.	1	2	3	4	5					
I hurt when I see others in pain and sorrow.	1	2	3	4	5					
I love to give of myself and my resources.	1	2	3	4	5					
I feel as if I'm most helpful when I'm in charge.	1	2	3	4	5					
I tend to believe what other people tell me.	1	2	3	4	5					
Sometimes I have a low self-esteem.	1	2	3	4	5					
I prefer to be a follower.	1	2	3	4	5					
I do not let others know when criticism has hurt me.	1	2	3	4	5					
I don't want to be the center of attention.	1	2	3	4	5					
I always give 10 percent of my earnings and then offerings on top of that.	1	2	3	4	5					
If people don't like me or what I have done, I don't let it upset me.	1	2	3	4	5					

FOR LESSON TEN cont.

THIS HANDOUT IS FOR BEGINNING ACTIVITY B.

Questions	Answers					Gifts				
	Almost Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently	Almost Always					
I feel that I can help others by praying.	1	2	3	4	5					
I do not like to be wrong in the opinions I hold.	1	2	3	4	5					
It is easier for me to do a job than find someone to do it.	1	2	3	4	5					
I am good at networking and finding people to help the cause.	1	2	3	4	5					
I enjoy reaching out to those who are sick, or to those who seem upset.	1	2	3	4	5					
I like to cheer up people by what I donate to others.	1	2	3	4	5					
I do not really like to do detailed work.	1	2	3	4	5					
I can't stand it when people fight or are hateful to each other.	1	2	3	4	5					
I want to see others grow deeper in their relationship with Christ.	1	2	3	4	5					
Sometimes I help so much that I don't focus on the spiritual needs of others.	1	2	3	4	5					
I like my life to be organized.	1	2	3	4	5					
I don't want people to feel left out or alone.	1	2	3	4	5					
My biggest desire is to share with others what Jesus did for them on the cross.	1	2	3	4	5					
Letting others know how I feel comes pretty easy for me.	1	2	3	4	5					
I notice quickly when others feel left out.	1	2	3	4	5					
I know when others speak if their words are from God.	1	2	3	4	5					
I enjoy being hospitable to others.	1	2	3	4	5					
I tend to be a workaholic.	1	2	3	4	5					

FOR LESSON TEN cont.

THIS HANDOUT IS FOR BEGINNING ACTIVITY B.

Questions	Answers					Gifts						
	Almost Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently	Almost Always							
I would enjoy going to a poverty-stricken society to reach out to others.	1	2	3	4	5							
I am happy to do without things so that others can live a better life.	1	2	3	4	5							
I like to dream of better ways to get things done.	1	2	3	4	5							
I tend to think of the other person's feelings.	1	2	3	4	5							
I want to be instrumental in sharing the gospel and changing people's lives.	1	2	3	4	5							
I am the first to offer my help in a task that needs to be accomplished.	1	2	3	4	5							
I put my heart and soul into the job and organization that I am a part of.	1	2	3	4	5							
I communicate with people on a one-on-one level, not in large groups.	1	2	3	4	5							
I manage money well.	1	2	3	4	5							
I feel as if I have to win when playing a game.	1	2	3	4	5							
I can sense when people are lying to me.	1	2	3	4	5							
TOTALS						P	S	T	B	G	L	C

P = Prophecy
S = Serving

T = Teaching/Learning
B = Building

G = Giving
L = Leading

C = Compassion



STUDENT LESSON

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The Gifts That Build “the Way”

March 11, 2023

Sabbath FOR STUDY

- » **Memory Text:** “Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues” (1 Corinthians 12:27, 28).
- » **Our Beliefs, no. 17, Spiritual Gifts and Ministries:** “God bestows upon all members of His church in every age spiritual gifts that each member is to employ in loving ministry for the common good of the church and of humanity.”
- » Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 81-83.

THE GIFTS THAT BUILD “THE WAY”

Kimberly and her family attend the Seventh-day Adventist church and they accept Jesus as their Savior. Kimberly’s desire is to pursue medical studies after high school and college graduation. When her church pastor learns of her future plans, he asks her to organize and facilitate a series of health presentations in their church. Kimberly accepts the challenge and after some study and research she holds a very instructive series of health presentations. Kimberly is content that she is able to use her

gifts of teaching and promoting physical health.

Bryan thinks that because he doesn’t have the gift of public speaking or singing, he doesn’t possess special gifts that he could share with the church. Yet he loves Jesus, and he readily shares Him with others. He is friendly with everyone, and a good number of people accept his invitation to attend Bible studies in his home. Bryan’s winsome, warm, and friendly personality allow him to share Jesus effectively.

Meghan is a young teenager who attends a small village church. In her community there is no one who can play the piano to accompany the congregational singing. Meghan has a strong desire to learn to play the piano, so she could accompany the church congregation. One day a woman from a foreign country comes to Meghan’s church. After learning of Meghan’s dream, the visitor offers to pay for Meghan’s piano lessons. The young girl dedicates herself to practicing, and pretty soon she learns to accompany the hymns for the congregational singing.

Michael is a quiet young person. He enjoys helping set up the electronic devices needed for the church services. Because of his knowledge and skill with technology, he is entrusted with more responsibility. Because Michael loves to work behind the scenes, he often volunteers to help in other ways wherever needed. He is an example of how God can use even quiet individuals. Every young person who is willing to use her or his God-given talents can make a difference for Jesus.

Daisy is a pleasant young woman who came

to know Jesus as a teenager. One day she decides to use her summer vacation to go on a mission trip with the Share Him ministry. For three weeks she holds evangelistic meetings in a small village church. Many people respond to her calls and decide to commit their lives to Jesus through baptism. At the end of the mission trip Daisy is a changed person. She returns home with a strong desire to live for Jesus, and her life takes on a whole new meaning. After she completes her college training, she decides to go overseas for one year and teach in an elementary school. Yet as the year draws to an end, Daisy decides to remain for another year. Her heart beats for Jesus and for His children, and that gives purpose to her life.

The New Testament church, before the members were called Christians, was called “the Way” (Acts 9:2; 19:23; 24:14; 24:22). God gave spiritual gifts to the Way so that the Christians could spread the knowledge of Jesus and contribute to the growth of God’s kingdom. What are the gifts that God has given you? How are you using your spiritual gifts to build up God’s church and share His love with others?

Sunday **RESPONDING**

- » Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-9.
- » Devin feels that he isn’t very good at any one thing. Some of his friends can sing, or speak in public. Some are likable and friendly; everyone seems to contribute in some way. He just doesn’t feel as if he is needed or useful. As a result, he tends to be cynical about any service project or activity that meets the needs of people. How could you help him recognize his gifts? How would you and your friends find a way to integrate him into a service project?

Monday **BIBLE ANSWERS ON SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND MINISTRIES**

- » Read Romans 12:4-8; Ephesians 4:11-18.
- » God created each person with unique gifts and talents. He has given us spiritual gifts that He wants us to use as we help others learn about Him and prepare for His soon return. When we use our talents and work together, we bring honor and glory to God.
- » What are the talents God has given you?
- » How can you use the talents God has given you to help others learn about Him?
- » March 18 is Global Youth Day, and Seventh-day Adventist young people around the world will participate in many different community service projects to help people in need. You too can participate on that day in a community service project with other young people from your church. The possibilities of how young people like you can contribute are endless. Think of ways you can contribute with the talents God has given you and jot down your ideas:

Tuesday **REFLECTING**

- » Read 1 Peter 4:10, 11.
- » Some of the violinists in a German orchestra actually tried to sue the orchestra for a pay raise, claiming that they played more notes than the other members of the orchestra. The director of the orchestra argued that while it was an interesting legal discussion, from a musical point of view it was pretty clear to everyone that they had no case.
- » Have you had a conversation with God about the gift/gifts He has given you?

- » It's not a question of whether you received a gift God has empowered you with. Unlike the violinists mentioned earlier, everyone who becomes part of the Way has the same value.
- » "The spiritual, mental, and physical ability, the influence, station, possessions, affections, sympathies, all are precious talents to be used in the cause of the Master for the salvation of souls for whom Christ died" (Ellen G. White, *In Heavenly Places*, p. 224).

Wednesday
BIBLE INSIGHTS

- » Match the reference to the correct phrase.

2 Timothy 1:6, 7	1 Corinthians 12:4-11
Acts 6:1-7	1 Timothy 3:1-13
1 Corinthians 12:27, 28	Romans 1:11, 12
1 Timothy 4:11-14	Ephesians 4:11-16

- "... God has appointed these in the church ..."
- "... he must have a good testimony ..."
- "... For God has not given us a spirit of fear ..."
- "... joined and knit together ..."
- "... distributing to each one individually ..."
- "... when they had prayed, they laid hands on them ..."
- "... Do not neglect the gift that is in you ..."
- "... impart to you some spiritual gift ..."

Thursday
CONNECTING

- » Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.
- » Review the memory text.
- » After the Exodus, God told Moses to build

a sanctuary so that God could dwell with His people. Thousands of years later Christ promised the Holy Spirit as the Comforter who would be God's representative among His people. The Holy Spirit equips us with various qualities that can help someone else experience God's grace.

- » God does need you.

Friday
APPLYING

- » Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31.
- » God has given you unique gifts and talents, and the best way you can thank Him is to use those gifts to His glory in service to others. Reflect on the list of service projects that you started on Monday. Continue adding to the list and be prepared to share and discuss your ideas for possible service projects for Global Youth Day.

Be creative!

1. Service Project Ideas for Global Youth Day:

2. Specific ways I can contribute:

3. People in the community I would like to help on Global Youth Day:

- » Tomorrow, talk about a community service project with your Sabbath School class and plan together how you will carry out the project on Global Youth Day.

