

## Homework for Lesson 37: A Spirit to Find

Last time we were together we talked about our calling and that God calls us to use our skills for God's purposes. Our skills or talents are the things that we are good at that help us connect to the world we live in. Spiritual gifts are not that different, but they serve a different purpose. Our spiritual gifts are the special skills we have that help us connect God to the world around us. The distinction between the two is a little fuzzy.

Included in this homework is a spiritual gifts inventory for you to complete. This will help you begin to determine how God has created you to make connections between God and those around you. But before we get there, we may need to clarify just a bit more the difference between talents and gifts.

### Talents:

I have the highest batting average on our team.

I have written code that helps keep cell phones from getting hacked.

I never forget someone's name.

### Gifts:

I never forget to give presents to my loved ones on their birthday.

I am always in the middle trying to stop a fight between friends.

I constantly remind my siblings of their schedules and activities.

In the Spiritual Gifts Inventory there are 45 statements, and you will need to write beside each statement a number 0-3 representing how appropriately that statement describes you. There are instructions on the top of the inventory explaining what each number means. Write down the first number that comes to your mind, do not try to think what the answer "should be" or what others would expect you to answer. This will only be as accurate as you are honest with yourself.

Once you have completed the survey, you will need to compile your numbers. At the end of the survey you will find categories, and under each category are lists of numbers. In the blank beside the number on this answer sheet, write down the numerical ranking you recorded beside the corresponding number in the survey. Add all the ranking numbers in each category to get a total for each category. When you've gotten all your totals, circle your top 3 highest categories.

The survey you just took condenses Spiritual Gifts down to 9. This gives us a more focused direction for seeing how God wants us to be at work in the world. We can learn a lot about each other and where God may be calling this group to lead by seeing how we are all gifted.

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS INVENTORY

God has blessed all of us with many gifts and talents. God calls us to use all of these talents in service of God and others. But the Holy Spirit has also blessed us with spiritual gifts. Complete this survey to get a sense of the spiritual gifts the Spirit has given you.

For each statement, indicate how true the statement is for you using one of the following numbers:

3—yes, all the time

2—yes, sometimes

1—maybe, occasionally

0—no, never

Compile your scores and determine your spiritual gifts using the tool that follows.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. When it comes to schoolwork and extra-curricular activities, I am organized and focused on the details.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. I keep up with news about people who are hurting in my community and/or around the world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. I am a good listener who is patient with friends who need someone to talk to.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Before I say “yes” to anything, I make sure that it is consistent with my Christian faith.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. I love learning all that I can about the Bible and Christian beliefs and traditions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. I feel deep sadness when I hear about people in other parts of the world who are hurting.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. I am eager to participate in hands-on service projects and to go on mission trips.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. When I see a problem or injustice in my community I speak out.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. When I see something that needs to be done, I do it without being asked.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. I keep track of events and activities on a planner or calendar and am always aware of what I have scheduled and what responsibilities I have.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. I know that I don’t have all the answers and am eager to hear what others have to say.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. I see God at work in the lives of others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. I am eager to use my gifts and talents in new ways.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. I am a hard worker who doesn’t stop until the project I’m working on is finished.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. I make a point of encouraging my friends and peers by attending their games, performances, and ceremonies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. I keep my faith in mind when choosing movies to watch and music to listen to.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. I’m eager to help friends and classmates with schoolwork.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. I am comfortable telling other people about my faith.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. I’m always looking for ways to draw attention to things that I care about.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. I am good at explaining things through speaking and/or writing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. Before I post anything on the Internet, I stop to think about how the words or pictures I post reflect my Christian faith.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. When a friend is absent from school or church, I call to check on him or her.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. I am good at building things and putting things together.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. When something needs to be done, I prefer to get to work right away, without spending much time planning and organizing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. When I see something beautiful or incredible in the natural world, I think of God, the Creator.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 26. I like to know all the facts about an issue or situation before forming an opinion.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 27. I enjoy planning and organizing events at school and at church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 28. I am comfortable in leadership roles.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 29. When there is an argument or a dispute, I always listen to all sides of the story.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 30. At school and church, I notice people who are lonely or sad and people who are absent.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 31. I am willing (and eager) to go anywhere in the world to do God’s work.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 32. In school, I prefer assignments that involve working with my hands to assignments that simply involve reading and writing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 33. I go out of my way to celebrate with friends who have reached a milestone or achieved something important, and I go out of my way to console friends who are having a tough time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 34. I use what I know of the Bible and the teaching of the church whenever I have to make a difficult decision.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 35. I love telling others about interesting new things I have learned.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 36. I am comfortable speaking to a large group of people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 37. Before I start on a project or task, I figure out exactly what steps I need to take and make a plan.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 38. I listen carefully to my teachers and pastors and am eager to learn from what they say.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 39. I’m observant and tend to notice things that many other people overlook.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 40. I pay attention to and spend time with people who are lonely and sad.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 41. I am careful about whom I hang out with so that I don’t end up in dangerous situations or situations where I will be tempted to do something I know is wrong.

\_\_\_\_\_ 42. I can explain complicated ideas so that they're easy for people to understand.

\_\_\_\_\_ 43. I like to use my gifts and talents to tell people about God and to make people aware of those who are suffering from illness, hunger, poverty, or disasters.

\_\_\_\_\_ 44. I'm willing to drop anything and everything to help a friend in need.

\_\_\_\_\_ 45. I don't mind getting dirty for a good cause.

## Assessment

Fill in your answers to the survey statements in the appropriate spaces below then add up the numbers to determine which best describe(s) your spiritual gifts. Some people may be especially gifted in one or two ways; others may be moderately gifted in many ways. Regardless of how we are gifted, all of us are blessed and called to serve God and others as parts of Christ's body.

### ORGANIZER / LEADER

You are organized and have natural leadership abilities. When something needs to be done, you prefer to make a plan and see it through, step by step.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 10. \_\_\_\_\_ 27. \_\_\_\_\_ 28. \_\_\_\_\_ 37. \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

### CAREGIVER / SHEPHERD

You are a good listener. You listen to friends who are hurting, pay attention to teachers and pastors, and hear the cries of those who are in need.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 11. \_\_\_\_\_ 26. \_\_\_\_\_ 29. \_\_\_\_\_ 38. \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

### PLANNER / VISIONARY

You see all the ways that God is at work in the world around you and have an eye for the work that God is calling Christians to do.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ 12. \_\_\_\_\_ 25. \_\_\_\_\_ 30. \_\_\_\_\_ 39. \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

### INITIATOR / CATALYST

You are quick to respond and go wherever you need to go to do the work God has called you to do.

9. \_\_\_\_\_ 13. \_\_\_\_\_ 24. \_\_\_\_\_ 31. \_\_\_\_\_ 44. \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

### WORKER / HELPER

You are a hard worker and aren't afraid to get your hands dirty doing work that needs to be done.

7. \_\_\_\_\_ 14. \_\_\_\_\_ 23. \_\_\_\_\_ 32. \_\_\_\_\_ 45. \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

### ENCOURAGER / HEALER

You are compassionate and sympathize with the pain that others are feeling. You encourage your friends and peers in times of celebration and in times of sadness.

6. \_\_\_\_\_ 15. \_\_\_\_\_ 22. \_\_\_\_\_ 33. \_\_\_\_\_ 40. \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

### ADVISOR / DISCERNER

You are the filter. You know what things are healthy for the body of Christ and what things are not. You embrace what is good and stay away from what is bad.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ 16. \_\_\_\_\_ 21. \_\_\_\_\_ 34. \_\_\_\_\_ 41. \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

### TEACHER / MENTOR

You understand complex ideas and processes and are able to explain them to others in ways that make sense.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ 17. \_\_\_\_\_ 20. \_\_\_\_\_ 35. \_\_\_\_\_ 42. \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

### ADVOCATE / PROPHET

You speak truth, taking a stand against injustice and proclaiming the good news of Christ. You don't hesitate to tell people what they need to hear.

8. \_\_\_\_\_ 18. \_\_\_\_\_ 19. \_\_\_\_\_ 36. \_\_\_\_\_ 43. \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_