

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL
INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

TOPIC: **What Are Spiritual Gifts?**

TEXT: *I Corinthians 12:1-11*

Directions: - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

INTRODUCTION: - The topic of Spiritual Gifts can usually be counted on to stimulate vigorous discussion. What is their purpose? How should they be manifested in the church today? What should be done about certain controversial gifts which may seem divisive? This study introduces us to a vital, growing church in which spiritual gifts were prominent. Here we can begin to get answers to some of our questions.

QUESTION

1. What do we learn about the Corinthians' former religious experience (vs. 1-2)?
2. What is Paul's main point about the relationship between the Holy Spirit and what people say about Jesus Christ (v. 3)?
3. What do verses 4-6 teaches about the unity and diversity of spiritual gifts?
4. Paul gives a sample list of nine gifts (vs. 8-10). How would you explain the meaning of each one?
5. How might any of these gifts serve the common good in strengthening your church or fellowship group?
6. From what you have studied, what concerns do you have about spiritual gifts in the church today?

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TOPIC: **Various Spiritual Gifts**

TEXT: *Romans 12:1-16*

Directions: - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

INTRODUCTION: - Spiritual gifts flourish in the soil of commitment to Christ and in the climate of love. In Romans 12 Paul sketches what is involved in our preparation for the manifestation of spiritual gifts. In a day when certain gifts are accorded special prominence, the list appearing in this passage may offer a few supplies.

QUESTIONS

1. What motivates you to serve Jesus Christ?
2. Describe in your own words what is involved in the commitment Paul urges in verse 1.
3. In what ways are we tempted to “*conform to the pattern of this world*” (v. 2)?
Give specific examples of how we can “*be transformed*” by the renewing of our mind.
4. How can Paul’s model of different members with a variety of gifts help us have a realistic view of ourselves (vs. 3-5)?
5. In what way is each gift in verses 6-8 valuable to the body of Christ?
6. Which of these gifts seem to depend on some natural ability possessed by the individual?
7. Which gifts apparently can be manifested by anyone, as the occasion requires?
8. In what ways have any of these spiritual gifts been manifested through you to strengthen, encourage or comfort others?
9. According to Paul, what are some of the ways that love - a fruit of the Spirit - should be manifested in the body (vs. 9-12)?
10. Give one recent example of how you have been able to demonstrate love to others.
11. What attitude or action in verses 14-16 do you need to cultivate in your present situation at home, work or school?

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TOPIC: **The Fruit of the Spirit**

TEXT: *Galatians 5:13-26*

Directions: - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

INTRODUCTION: - Our technological society places a high premium on productivity. We are often valued and rewarded for what we produce, with little regard for the kind of people we are. The same can be true in the church. We often value charisma more than character. Yet our interest in the gifts of the Spirit must be matched with an equal concern for the fruit of the Spirit. In this study we will examine how the fruit of the Spirit contrasts with the acts of our old sinful nature.

QUESTIONS

1. How does it harm the cause of Christ when people displaying spiritual gifts also reveal serious character flaws?
2. Identify the various actions of the Spirit from the text.
3. What does the apostle Paul teach about the relationship between freedom and love (vs. 13-15)?
 Give an example of how we can use our freedom in a loving way.
4. How does Paul describe the conflict we face in our daily life (vs. 16-18)?
5. In what area of life have you recently been able to resolve a spiritual conflict?
6. In Paul's list of sinful acts (vs. 19-21), which are attitudes or thought and which are reactions?
7. Why is it so important for our thought life to be under the control of the Spirit?
8. Which of these symptoms of the sinful nature seem to be most prominent in modern society?
9. How would you define or illustrate each quality in Paul's list of the fruit of the Spirit (vs. 22-23)?
10. What does it mean to have crucified our sinful nature with its passions and desires (v. 24)? Give specific examples.
11. According to this passage, we live by the Spirit, are led by the Spirit, bear the *fruit* of the Spirit, and should *keep in step* with the Spirit. How do these descriptions help us understand the Spirit's multifaceted role in our lives?
12. How can Paul's teaching about the fruit of the Spirit relate to what he has said about spiritual gifts?
 Think about which fruit is most needed in your life today and ask the Holy Spirit to cultivate it in you.

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TOPIC: **The Excellent Way of Love**

TEXT: *I Corinthians 13*

Directions: - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

INTRODUCTION: - The profound truth and literary beauty of Paul's discourse on love stir the imagination and probe the heart. This "hymn to love" is often used in wedding ceremonies. Yet it is by no means sentimental or idealistic. Here is a vital, practical link between Paul's teaching about the nature and purpose of spiritual gifts in chapter 12 and his instruction for their use in chapter 14. In this study we see how love, the most important fruit of the Spirit, acts and reacts in daily life to produce unity and strengthen the body of Christ.

QUESTIONS

1. In popular songs, poetry and everyday conversation, how is love viewed in our culture?
2. How do verses 1-3 illustrate the crucial importance of love in the use of spiritual gifts?
3. What impresses you about Paul's portrait of love in verses 4-7?
Which are actions we initiate, and which are reactions to what others are doing?
4. How does this picture of love differ from our culture's view of love? (See question 1).
5. What positive evidences of love have you experienced recently?
6. In what way is love different from spiritual gifts (vs. 8-10)?
7. How does Paul illustrate the difference between our present and future circumstances (vs. 11-12)?
8. How would you summarise Paul's statements about when and why spiritual gifts will cease (vs. 8-12)?
9. What will happen "*when perfection comes*" (v. 12), and when do you think that will occur?
10. How does it encourage you that God fully knows you and your present situation (v. 12)?
11. From what Paul has taught in this chapter, why is love greater than faith or hope (v. 13)?
12. Of all the qualities of love mentioned in this chapter, which do you need to develop most?
13. What have you appreciated most about your study of spiritual gifts?
14. What conclusions have you come to about the ways God wants to use you in building up the body of Christ?

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TOPIC: **The Body and Its Members**

TEXT: *I Corinthians 12:12-31*

Directions: - You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.

INTRODUCTION: - Today we are exposed to a variety of models for the church. The old hymn *Onward Christian Soldiers* likens it to a mighty army. Christian management manuals compare it to the modern business organisation. Here the apostle Paul uses the model of the human body, a complex arrangement of many different members designed to contribute to the well-being of the whole. This passage can answer questions you might have about the ways you function in the body of Christ.

QUESTIONS

1. Is it possible to have different ethnic and social groups represented in our churches? Analyse the fear and the prospect of this possibility.
2. Do all Christians have anything in common, regardless of their gifts, race or social status (vs. 12-13)? Give reasons why Pentecostal/Charismatic and Evangelical criticise one another.
3. Why do you think certain Christians feel inferior to others in their Congregation (Vs. 14-20)? How does Paul encourage such people?
4. How might an attitude of superiority arise among certain members of the body (v. 21)? Explain with reference to the relationship between the Church Leadership and members of the Congregation.
5. According to Paul, we can make every member of the body feel special (vs.22-25). How do you think we can realise this in our Church?
6. In what specific ways have you recently had the experience of either suffering or rejoicing with another member of the body of Christ (v. 26)? Which do you find easier to do? Explain.
7. Notice the gifts Paul mentions in verse 28. In what way could each of those gifts contribute to the Christian community?
8. Why is it important to remember that we don't all manifest the same gifts? (vs.29-30)?
9. "You are eagerly desiring the greater gifts, but now I will show you the excellent way" (to manifest them) {v. 31. How can the model of the body keep us from selfishly seeking what we consider the greater gifts for ourselves?
10. Describe one positive way this passage could affect relationships in your Church or Fellowship group.
11. What light has this passage given to your own role in the body of Christ?

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TOPIC: **Preparing God's People**

TEXT: *Ephesians 4:1-16*

Directions: - You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.

INTRODUCTION: - We are accustomed to having special areas of our life taken care of by professionals: doctors, lawyers, accountants - and ministers. Most churches, in line with the professional - organisational model, expect one or more clergy to perform the necessary religious services for the laity. In this study we will compare that model with the one explained by Paul.

QUESTIONS

1. The church has been compared to a football game: twenty-two players desperately in need of rest are being watched by thousands of fans desperately in need of exercise. (*i.e. wanting to take up responsibilities*) To what extent does this illustrate the desire in the mind of member of your Church?
2. From the text, how do you think we can realise in our Church that kind of unity and diversity Paul desires for the Church? (4:3-7, 13)
3. How can we obtain the qualities that Paul urges the Ephesians and us to exhibit (vs. 1-3)? How would each quality build unity in our Church?
4. What are some marks of spiritual infancy or how would you recognise spiritual immaturity in individuals and Church as a whole (v. 14)?
5. Paul compares Christ to a triumph conqueror that gives gifts (*the spoils of victory*) to his people (vs. 8-11). How do you think we can begin to notice the manifestation of any of this gifts in our individual lives and in the Church in general?
6. How might each of these individuals (vs. 11-12) prepare God's people for service? Give some practical examples from your own experience).
7. Describe in your own words the ultimate goal Jesus Christ desires for His church (v. 13). What are the possible obstacles to attaining it?
8. Today what "*winds of teaching*" and "*deceitful scheming (i.e. Doctrine, Festivities etc)*" do you see blowing the Churches off course?
9. What does it mean to speak *the truth in love* (v. 15)? How can speaking the truth in love help spiritual infants to become mature?
10. Paul states that the body grows and builds itself in love "*as each part does its work*" (v 16). What "**work**" can you do to help the body of Christ grow?

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TOPIC: **Teaching and Preaching**

TEXT: *Acts 18:1-28*

Directions: - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

INTRODUCTION: - Why do many that start the Christian life fail to become mature believers? One reason is a lack of consistent teaching. On his missionary journeys the apostle Paul not only preached the gospel of Christ but also took pains to provide his disciples with thorough instruction in the faith. In Acts 18 we see how those who are taught can begin to pass on the teaching they have received.

QUESTIONS

1. As you think of those who have taught you the Scriptures over the years, whose ministry do you especially appreciate? Why?
2. What different types of preaching and teaching ministries does Paul have in Corinth (vs. 1-11)?
3. What do we learn about Aquila and Priscilla as they come into the orbit of Paul's ministry (vs. 1-4)?
4. How can Paul, supporting himself as a tentmaker (v. 3), be an example for us in using the gift of teaching?
5. Why do you think Paul's teaching provoked such opposition (vs. 6, 12-17)?
6. As we preach the gospel and teach the Scriptures, what aspects of our message might provoke opposition today?
7. How would the Lord's words in a vision have encouraged Paul (vs. 9-10)?
8. After spending more than a year and a half in Corinth, what places did Paul visit, and why (vs. 18-23)?
9. What guidelines can we use to determine how much time to spend teaching an individual or group - and when it's time to move on?
10. What does Luke tell us about Apollos, who appears on the scene in verses 24-25?
11. As a result of their long discipleship with Paul, how were Priscilla and Aquila able to help Apollos (v. 26)?
12. What were the results of this discipling in the ministry of Apollos (vs. 27-28)?
13. What experiences have you had with teaching a new Christian who needed further instruction in the faith?
14. What basic biblical teachings are most needed in today's culture with its non-Christian pressures and values?

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TOPIC: **Healing (Part 1)**

TEXT: *Mark 1:21-45; James 5:13-20*

Directions: - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

INTRODUCTION: - Throughout the Bible God demonstrates his concern for the whole person. To Israel he proclaimed, ***"I am the LORD your healer"*** (Exodus 15:26). The greeting ***"shalom,"*** meaning peace, is far more than an absence of conflict; it involves inner tranquillity, health, wholeness, integration of life - even when surrounded by turmoil. Jesus' concern for the whole person is demonstrated from the outset of His ministry. In the first half of Mark's gospel, as much space is devoted to Jesus' healing as to his teaching. The Lord also gave His disciples this ministry, which was then carried on by the church.

QUESTIONS

1. In view of Jesus' actions in the synagogue and the response of the people (vs. 21-28). Can you point out things you would like to see our Leaders emulate in this text?
2. Is the healing of Simon's mother-in-law (vs. 29-31) and the previous miracle in the synagogue in anyway similar to what we see these days? If not, explain why the difference. *(Read verse 36 also)*
3. James advice those who are sick (vs. 14-15a). Why would you want the Church to keep to this practice, and if not, explain your view?
4. What sins of attitude or action have a harmful effect on our physical and / or emotional health? *(James 5:15-16)* Explain.
5. Apart from prayers and the anointing of Holy Spirit, What is the other remarkable thing about the way Jesus healed the sick people (Mark 1: 41)? How can this help us in building the body of Christ?

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TOPIC: **Healing (Part 2)**

TEXT: *John 21:1-19*

Directions: - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

INTRODUCTION: - Dr Charles Mayo, of the Mayo Clinic, concluded that seventy-five per cent of all physical disease is related to emotional or spiritual illness. Many people, including those who have been Christians for years, suffer from emotional wounds of the past. As a result, they have feelings of guilt, anger or bitterness, which need to be healed. In this study we consider Jesus' concern for a disciple who desperately needed such healing.

QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the major causes of emotional wounds in our society?
2. Describe the characters and setting given in verses 1-3.
3. What impresses you about Jesus' approach to His disciples in this disheartening situation (vs. 4-6)?
4. What reactions did the various disciples have to the large catch (vs. 7-8)?
5. If you had been there on the beach (vs. 9-14), how would you have responded to seeing Jesus?
6. What memories of Peter's past were evoked by the charcoal fire and Jesus' questions (vs. 15-17; John 13:36-38; 18:15-18, 25-27)?
7. What memories of past hurts in your life have been triggered by a sudden sound, sight or smell?
8. How would Jesus' conversation with Peter bring not only pain but also healing?
9. If Jesus were to talk with you about some of your past hurts, what do you think He would say?
10. Why did Jesus tell Peter something about the way He would die (vs. 18-19)?
11. What do you think it may cost you to be a faithful follower of Christ?
12. In a few moments of silent prayer, picture the Lord Jesus standing by you and give Him the memories of any painful experiences that still need to be healed.

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL
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TOPIC: **Prophecy and Tongues**

TEXT: *I Corinthians 14*

Directions: - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

INTRODUCTION: - We often have difficulty closing the gap between principle and practice. In chapter 12 of 1 Corinthians, Paul gave us extensive teaching about the nature and purpose of spiritual gifts. In this chapter he gives us practical advice on how the gifts of tongues and prophecy are to be manifested in corporate worship.

QUESTIONS

1. What does the gift of prophecy offer that an un-interpreted tongue does not? How does Paul illustrate the problem of un-interpreted tongues from daily life (vs.1-12)?
2. Explain what it means to pray and sing both with our spirit and with our mind? Is it possible that every believer speak in tongue? (*Read 12:8-11*).
3. Why is a meaningful worship important (vs. 20-25)? What else would you like to suggest that a non-Christian coming for the first time into your worship service may respond that, ***“God is really among you”***?
4. What experience have you had with women preachers? Would you like to see women being ordained in the Church? Explain your position on this issue (*Consider these scriptures ICorinthian14:34-35; I Timothy 2:8-15; Gen.1:27; Acts 2:17-18; 18:26; Gal.3:28; Judges 4:5, 23; II Kings 22*).

