



Group Discussion Guide



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Entrusted

Discussion Guide

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Series Overview

God has made us unique for a purpose. Our challenge is to identify our spiritual gifts and begin using them as He directs.

Purpose of This Guide

The primary purpose of this group guide is to reinforce and deepen the lessons of the Grace Church message series: **Entrusted**.

You may choose to use this guide:

- with your Grace Group.
- with any group of people interested in knowing what the Bible says about these topics.

1-*Hidden in Christ*

Icebreaker: Best Places to Hide

When you played hide and seek as a child, what were the best places to hide?

Discussion Questions: Hidden

- As a Christ-follower, where should you focus your thoughts [Col 3:1-2]?
- In what way does your life change when you accept Christ as your Lord [Col 3:3-4 and Gal 2:20]? What does it mean that your life is hidden in Christ?
- If you live in Christ, what does that imply about your behavior [1John 2:6 and Eph 5:8-11]?
- In what way does a believer's lifestyle affect other's view of Christ [Titus 1:16]?
- What role does God's Word play in living in Christ [John 8:31 and 2John 9]?

Dig a Little Deeper: Results of Living in Christ

Fruitfulness	John 15:4-5 and Gal 5:22-23
Relationship with God the Father	John 14:23 and 2John 9
Confidence facing the last day	1John 2:28

Application Exercise: The Real Me

How true are the following statements for you?

	not true <— >completely true
I don't belong to the world (1Cor 6:19-20).	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
Nothing can separate me from Christ's love (Rom 8:35-39).	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
Being seated with Christ affects how I stand and walk (Eph 2:6-10).	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

2-Your Relationship with Christ

Icebreaker: Desperado

A desperado is a person with no hope. Use these lines from “Desperado” lyrics to discuss why we need Christ and one another.

*Desperado, why don't you
come to your senses?
Your prison is walking through
this world all alone.*

Discussion Questions: Christ First

- What does it mean to worship the Creator, not the creation? How does that relate to spiritual gifts (**1Cor 12:1-2**)?
- Why is it impossible for any spiritual gift to conflict with Jesus as Lord (**1Cor 12:3**)?
- What is the source of spiritual gifts (**1Cor 12:4-7**)? Why do you think God doesn't let us pick the gifts we want?
- Why did God give us spiritual gifts (**1Cor 12:8** and **1Cor 12:18-27**)?
- Discuss what it means to die with Christ (**Gal 2:20**).
- Discuss how the diversity of spiritual gifts promotes:
 - ▶ dependence on Christ.
 - ▶ interdependence with Christ-followers (**1Cor 12:21-26**).

Dig a Little Deeper: Warning Label

Don't be prideful of your gifts. They come from God, not you.	Rom 12:3 1Cor 4:6-7
Don't reject others because they have different gifts.	1Cor 12:21
God hates division and discord.	Pro 6:16-19 Rom 16:17

Application: Pray

- Pray, letting God know why you love Him and need Him.
- Confess anything that you've thought or done that you know displeases Him.
- Thank Him for giving you the spiritual gift(s) that He choose for you.
- Ask Him to help you use the gifts the way He desires.

3-Identifying Your Spiritual Gifts

Icebreaker: I Spy

Play a quick game of “I Spy.”

Instructions if you need them:
[http://www.wikihow.com/
Play-the-I-Spy-Game](http://www.wikihow.com/Play-the-I-Spy-Game)

Discussion Questions: Identifying Spiritual Gifts

- Why did God give Christ-followers spiritual gifts ([Eph 4:12](#))?
- Before attempting to identify your spiritual gifts, what should you do ([John 15:4](#))?
- According to [Philippians 4:6-7](#), what is one thing you can do to discover your spiritual gifts?
- What is your motivation in wanting to know your spiritual gifts ([Psa 37:4](#) and [Php 2:13](#))?
- Describe your experiences serving in various ministries. How did God direct or redirect you in the use of your gifts?
- As a Christ-follower, what is your responsibility toward the church ([Eph 4:15-16](#))?

For a list of spiritual gifts, download the Spiritual Gifts Summary. visitgracechurch.com/groupresources/ under Entrusted

Dig a Little Deeper: Benefits

By discovering and using your spiritual gifts:

1. You will gain a sense of purpose and direction in your life. Using your gifts as God intends gives joy and contentment [**Col 3:23-24**].
2. As you exercise your spiritual gifts, you play a role in building up other Christ-followers [**Eph 4:12-16**].
3. When you use your gifts as God intends, you bring Him glory [**1Pet 4:10-11**].

Application Exercise: I See In You

Look around at how God appears to be using people in various ministries. Identify specific things that might indicate their potential related to certain gifts. Tell the person(s) what you saw in them. Pray that God helps them use the gifts in ways that please Him.

If you want to get an idea of your spiritual gifts, try the survey at www.gracesurvey.com.

4-Using Your Spiritual Gifts: Stewardship

Icebreaker: Stewardship vs. Ownership

Make a side-by-side list comparing stewardship to ownership.

Discussion Questions: Good Steward

- In what way can a clear, steady mind help you be effective in using your spiritual gifts [[1Pet 4:7](#)]?
- What role do spiritual gifts play in loving other Christ-followers [[1Pet 4:8-11](#)]?
- What does it mean that spiritual gifts are TO us but FOR others [[1Pet 4:11](#)]?
- When you use your gifts as God intends how does that reflect on Him [[1Pet 4:10-11](#)]?
- What role does your body play in using your spiritual gifts [[Rom 12:1](#) and [Rom 8:12-13](#)]?
- Discuss how it could be helpful to find others with similar gifts and work together to improve your gifts [[1Cor 4:1](#)].

Dig a Little Deeper: Organism, not Organization

Thinking of church as an organization is a hindrance to being a good steward of your spiritual gifts. A church is a living organism.

Organization	Organism
Membership (club)	Disciples (members of His body)
Spectators: sit, soak, spiritual couch potato	Participants: co-laborers, partners; sit, soak, and serve
Consumers: there to be served and to get	Ministers: there to serve others, to be co-laborers, to grow and help others grow
Clergy/layman: pay the minister to serve them	Every believer is a ministering priest
Self-centered: make satisfaction and comfort their religion, use God like a genie	God and other centered: Mark 12:28-31, Eph 4:11-16

Application Exercise: The Gifts God Gave Me

Take this self-assessment to reflect on how you are using the gifts God gave you.

	rarely <—> always
I am willing to put effort into discovering and developing my spiritual gifts.	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
I ask God to guide me in where to use the gifts He gave me.	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
I want to use my gifts in a way that honors God.	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
I know I didn't earn my gifts, but I am pleased to use them to build up others in the church.	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

5-Developing Your Spiritual Gifts

Icebreaker: Lifelong Learning

Respond to this quote from Socrates.

Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel. -Socrates

Discussion Questions:

- Which of the following methods have you used to develop the gifts God has given you (**1Tim 4:14**)?
 - Asked someone to give me feedback about my gifts.
 - Teamed up with someone for mutual accountability and encouragement.
 - Became an apprentice to someone with similar gifting.
 - Developed an apprentice with similar gifting.
 - Asked God to refine my gifts and put me where He chooses.
- What can we do to stir up the gift of God which is in us (**2Tim 1:6**)?
- How can you be certain that you are using your gifts to serve Him and the church (**1Cor 12:8**)?
- Under what circumstances could using a spiritual gift cause problems (**1Cor 10:31**)?
- What is the best way to know that you are using your gifts in a way that is consistent with His Word (**Heb 5:12-13**)?
- If you neglect your spiritual life, how will it hamper the development of your spiritual gifts (**Eph 4:30** and **1The 5:19**)?

Dig a Little Deeper: Interdependence

- The less glamorous parts of a body are generally more critical to survival [[1Cor 12:20-26](#)].
- Our rewards will come from our willing faithfulness in using our gifts as God directs [[Mat 19:30](#), [Mat 20:27](#), [Mat 20:20-23](#)].

Application Exercise: My Personal Development Plan

Person I will ask to give me feedback about my gifts	
Person with similar gifts who I will ask to serve as my accountability partner	
Person with similar gifts who I will volunteer to coach	

How I'm currently using my gifts to serve Him	My current prayers about the spiritual gifts He has given me

Notes:



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