

LESSON 11: SPIRITUAL GIFTS: WHAT'S MY GIFT?

Leader Guide for Grades 3 & 4

Classroom: 2nd, 3rd, 4th Grades

 Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-31;
Exodus 31

03/15/2020

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-31; Exodus 31:1-11
- In This Passage: The Holy Spirit gives each Christian a spiritual gift. The Bible lists examples of spiritual gifts. In the Old Testament, we see another spiritual gift in action when a man named Bezalel is filled with the Spirit of God to be a master of crafting.
- Bible Point: The Holy Spirit gave each of us a special gift.
- Summary Verse: “There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord” (1 Corinthians 12:4-5).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *The Holy Spirit gave each of us a special gift.* Kids generally love personality assessments, and identifying their spiritual gifts goes right along with that. At the same time, some kids may walk away still not being confident in what their gifts are. Make sure kids know that the best way to find out their spiritual gifts is just to serve God and see what fits best!
- Think About: How do you use your spiritual gifts at church? How did you find out those were your gifts?

Dig In to Prayer

- Ask God to use the kids in your class in mighty ways as the Holy Spirit empowers them with gifts.

Quick Tip

- Do your kids have opportunities to serve at your church? Letting them serve is a great way for them to discover and use their gifts. That could look as formal as a planned day of service, or it could mean giving kids

small jobs in the classroom such as picking up trash, welcoming and befriending new kids, helping lead worship motions, distributing snacks, helping with tech, or praying your opening prayer. Don't put kids on the spot to do something that's *not* their gift, but find ways to involve kids in serving and leading in your classroom.

This Lesson at a Glance (CLICK ON EACH HEADING TO GO TO EACH ACTIVITY)



OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible (click [here](#))
- large gift box from Week 10
- gift bows (1 per child)
- tape
- pens

Easy Prep

- Set out the large box you wrapped for Week 10.



OBJECT LESSON

Kids observe the differences in each other's eyes.

Supplies

- "Eye-mazing Differences" handout (2 per child) (download [here](#))
- pens or pencils
- large poster boards (1 for every 3 kids)
- scissors

Easy Prep

- In each poster board, cut a small rectangle about 8 inches away from a short edge. The rectangles should be just large enough so that a person's eyes (and no more) can be seen through the opening.



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids rank the importance of roles and affirm gifts in each other as they build.

Supplies

- Bibles (click [here](#))
- pony beads (2 per child)
- 5-10 clear glass jars, glasses, or vases (ideally the same size)
- Legos
- paper
- markers
- scissors
- tape
- pencils
- “Spiritual Gifts” handout set (optional) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Make a label for each glass, using some of the following ideas or coming up with your own ideas of ways people serve at your church: lead pastor, janitor, worship leader, Sunday school teacher, church secretary, the person who counts the offering, prayer team member, parking lot attendant, security, kid in Sunday school.
- Print the full set of “Spiritual Gifts” handouts or make 8½x11 signs for each of the following spiritual gifts: prophecy, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, kindness, wise advice, special knowledge, great faith, healing, miracles, discernment, speaking in unknown languages, interpreting unknown languages, apostles. Hang the signs around the room.



DEEPER BIBLE

Kids take a spiritual gift assessment.

Supplies

- Bibles (click [here](#))
- “Spiritual Gifts Guide” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- pencils



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Kids watch a video and discuss the Bible Point.

Supplies

- “Max’s Story” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))



MUSIC VIDEO

Preschoolers sing songs of praise to God.

Supplies

- “Let’s Go!” (Ephesians 2:10) (watch or download [here](#))
- “Living by the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25) (watch or download [here](#))
- “Ready to Serve” (Deuteronomy 13:4) (watch or download [here](#))



CRAFT

Kids make hanging stars with a surprise inside.

Supplies

- Bible (click [here](#))
- solid-color wrapping paper (two 6x6-inch squares per child)
- pencils
- rulers
- scissors
- markers
- tape
- scrap paper
- gift ribbon
- “Gift Star Instructions” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- “Constellations” handout (several copies) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a game like Fruit Basket Upset.

Supplies

- “That’s Me Game” handout (download [here](#))
- chairs
- small container
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Cut apart the slips on the “That’s Me Game” handout.
- Place the strips in a small container.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids play soccer.

Supplies

- soccer ball
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids receive affirmation prayers about their gifts.



TAKEHOME1

Kids receive a take-home page about the lesson.

Supplies

- this week's "Dig In @ Home" handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Add your church announcements to the "Dig In @ Home" handout.

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



OPENING

[5 min]

Welcome

Supplies

- Bible (click [here](#))
- large gift box from Week 10
- gift bows (1 per child)
- tape
- pens

Easy Prep

- Set out the large box you wrapped for Week 10.

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we're going to learn about some spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts are special skills God gives everyone who loves Jesus. When we became friends with Jesus, the Holy Spirit gave each of us a special gift.**

- Distribute a bow and a piece of tape to each child.
- Have kids tape their bows all over the outside of the box.
- You'll continue to add to the gift box for the next couple of weeks, so leave it in the room.

Share

- Tell kids the best gift someone could give *you*.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share the best gift someone could give *them*.
- After partners have shared, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group.

Summarize

Open a Bible to Romans 12, and say: **Everybody loves getting a good gift. And what's really neat is that when we're friends with Jesus, the Holy Spirit gives each of us a special gift. Let's find out more about what kind of gifts the Holy Spirit gives, according to the Bible. The Bible isn't like other books; it's special. The Bible is another gift from God! And God is here right now, ready to talk to you. Let's talk with him now.**

Pray, thanking the Holy Spirit for the special gifts he's given us.



OBJECT LESSON

[10 min]

Eye-mazing Differences

Supplies

- “Eye-mazing Differences” handout (2 per child) (download [here](#))
- pens or pencils
- large poster boards (1 for every 3 kids)
- scissors

Easy Prep

- In each poster board, cut a small rectangle about 8 inches away from a short edge. The rectangles should be just large enough so that a person’s eyes (and no more) can be seen through the opening.

Tips

- You could use bulletin board paper or large pieces of cardboard instead of poster boards.
- Kids will get close to each other’s faces to study their eyes, so form same-gender trios.

Study Friends’ Eyes

Say: **Today we’ve been talking about how the Holy Spirit gave each of us a special gift. There’s a lot about us that’s unique. Another special thing each of us has is our eyes. No two people’s eyes are exactly the same. Even the irises—the colored part—of our own two eyes are different!**

- Form groups of three, and give each child two “Eye-mazing Differences” handouts and a pencil.
- Have kids fill out the handouts with the names and eye characteristics of the two other people in their group, being as detailed as they can.

Try to Identify a Person by the Eyes

- After groups have finished studying eyes and marking details on the lists, give each group a poster board.
- Have two kids in each group hold the poster board propped up on the floor and then crouch behind it; they should be completely hidden by the board.
- The kids behind the poster board will take turns peering through the opening so the third child can guess their identities by seeing only their eyes.
- Have kids trade places and repeat until everyone has been identified.

Talk About It

- Ask:
- **What special things did you notice about your friends' eyes?**
 - **How did those special things help you identify your friends?**

Say: **It's fun to get to know the things that make us all special and different. We're different in physical ways, like our unique eyes, and we're different in harder-to-see ways, like the special gifts the Holy Spirit gave each of us. Just as you studied your friends' eyes, we can look for the Holy Spirit's gifts in other people.**



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

[20 min]

Spiritual Gifts: What's My Gift? (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-31; Exodus 31:1-11)

Supplies

- Bibles (click [here](#))
- pony beads (2 per child)
- 5-10 clear glass jars, glasses, or vases (ideally the same size)
- Legos
- paper
- markers
- scissors
- tape
- pencils
- "Spiritual Gifts" handout set (optional) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Make a label for each glass, using some of the following ideas or coming up with your own ideas of ways people serve at your church: lead pastor, janitor, worship leader, Sunday school teacher, church secretary, the person who counts the offering, prayer team member, parking lot attendant, security, kid in Sunday school.
- Print the full set of "Spiritual Gifts" handouts or make 8½x11 signs for each of the following spiritual gifts: prophecy, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, kindness, wise advice, special knowledge, great faith, healing, miracles, discernment, speaking in unknown languages, interpreting unknown languages, apostles. Hang the signs around the room.

Vote

Say: **We're learning about spiritual gifts. The Holy Spirit gave each of us a special gift. Here at our church, people use those gifts to serve God! But which gifts are the most important? Let's vote.**

Give each child two pony beads. Say: **You get two votes, and you'll vote by dropping your bead in a glass. You'll be voting on which of the roles are most**

important to our church, choosing between these options. Read the labels on the glasses, then have kids vote with their beads.

Ask: • **Why did you vote the way you did?**

Hold up the glass with the most beads.

Ask: • **Why do you think this role is considered the most important?**

Say: **We're not the first ones to think some jobs are more important than others. We're going to read about some spiritual gifts a guy named Paul wrote about in the Bible. He was writing a letter to people living in the city of Corinth who thought the ability to speak in unknown languages was the best gift. It probably seemed the coolest. But it turned out they had their priorities wrong, because it wasn't the most *helpful* gift.**

Read 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 and 29-31. As you read, pause after each gift and have kids run to the matching sign. Repeat with Romans 12:6-8.

Work Together

Say: **Whew! That's a lot of spiritual gifts! It would be exhausting if you had to have *all* of them by yourself. The Holy Spirit gave each of us a special gift. That's why we need to work together!**

Those passages are commonly used to give us a list of possible spiritual gifts. But that's not *all* the gifts there could be. Paul was just writing a list of examples; he didn't mean to provide us with a complete list of gifts.

In fact, in the Old Testament—*waaaay* before Paul was even alive—the Holy Spirit gave a special gift to a couple of guys named Bezalel (BEZ-ah-lel) and Oholiab (oh-HO-lee-ab).

Read Exodus 31:1-5.

Ask: • **Tell about something you've created.** Share your own example first.

Say: **These verses tell us that the Spirit of God filled Bezalel with wisdom and expertise in all kinds of crafts. So being good at making things is a spiritual gift, too!**

Let's work in groups to make things.

Have kids form groups of four or five. Give each group a Bible, and set out Legos to share.

Say: **Bezalel worked with another guy, Oholiab, and other craftsmen to make the Tabernacle. That was kind of like a church in a tent that the Israelites**

could take with them wherever they traveled. So you'll work in your groups to make a church out of Legos.

You'll also need pictures or curtains to decorate your church, so some people in your group can draw those, cut them out, and tape them to the church. And you'll need items that go inside the church, matching what the Bible lists in Exodus 31:7-11. So one person in your group can look at that list and make sure you have everything you need. As you work together, look for gifts in the other people in your group. Look especially for the gifts posted on our signs around the room. While you're working, I need you to be "gift detectives"!

Allow about five minutes for kids to work in groups. Then have groups stop building and affirm the gifts they saw in each other.

Ask: • **What gifts did you observe as you worked together?**

• **Was there a way someone described you that surprised you? Explain.**

Say: **The Holy Spirit gave each of us a special gift, and you just saw some of those gifts in action! Maybe someone saw a gift in you that you didn't know you had. Or maybe you think you have another gift no one mentioned.**

Have kids each go to a sign that represents a gift they think they may have and write their names on the sign. Later, you'll refer to these names as an affirmation during the Life Application Wrap-Up.

Say: **The Holy Spirit gave each of us a special gift. Some of us have more than one, but all of us have at least one. Some of the gifts, like kindness, giving, and encouraging, are things we're all called to do. But if you have the spiritual gift of kindness or encouragement, that means it comes more naturally to you. You can use your spiritual gifts to serve God wherever you go!**

Save the signs for this week's Life Application Wrap-Up and next week's Core Bible Discovery.



How Do I Know for Sure What My Spiritual Gift Is?

Supplies

- Bibles (click [here](#))
- “Spiritual Gifts Guide” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- pencils

Tip

- Due to denominational differences, we’ve omitted healing/miracles and speaking/interpreting unknown languages from the Spiritual Gifts Guide. If you would like to include those categories, add this info to your handout before you copy it.
 - **Healing/Miracles**
 - I have prayed for people who were really sick, and they got better.
 - I have put my hands on people to pray for miracles, and they happened right away.
 - I have seen a lot of things happen that can only be described as miracles.
 - **Unknown Languages**
 - Sometimes when I pray, I don’t know what I’m saying.
 - Sometimes when I’m with other people, I start speaking in languages I don’t know.
 - I’ve heard other people speaking languages I don’t know when they were at church or when they were praying, and I knew what they were saying.

Set It Up

Say: **When we’re friends with Jesus, the Holy Spirit gives each of us a special gift. That’s pretty cool! But maybe you’re not sure what your spiritual gift is. Maybe you feel like you don’t have one.**

But if you believe in Jesus, you do have one! So how can we know for *sure* what our spiritual gifts are? Let’s dig in to that.

Dig Deeper

Say: **First, let’s review the spiritual gifts listed in our Bible passages.**

Read Romans 12:6-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:8-10.

Ask: • **Which of these gifts have you seen Christians use? Talk about that.**

Share your own example first.

• **What are some other gifts the Christians you know have shown?**

Say: **These Bible passages list some examples of spiritual gifts. But we know that Bezalel and Oholiab had a gift that's not on this list—the ability to build and make things. (See Exodus 31:1-11.) There may be all kinds of gifts people in this room have besides what's listed in the Bible passages!**

Take a Spiritual Gifts Test

Say: **We've reviewed what the gifts are, but maybe you're still wondering which one *you* have. Let's use a guide to help you figure out from the list in Romans and 1 Corinthians what your gift might be. Don't worry, this isn't a school kind of test! This one is all about *you*, so there are no wrong answers.**

Give each child a "Spiritual Gifts Guide" handout and a pencil, and have kids complete the handout. For each statement, kids will put a 3 if it's usually true about them, a 2 if it's sometimes true about them, a 1 if it's rarely true, and a 0 if it's never true. Afterward, kids will add up the total score for each category and see which one has the highest number.

Have kids form trios to share about their results.

Ask: • **How did your result match with what you thought your gift might be?**
• **Do you think your result is right or wrong? Explain.**

Say: **A spiritual gift guide like this can help you understand how what you're already doing might show your spiritual gifts. But it's not foolproof, so maybe you still don't feel *sure* what your spiritual gift is. That's okay! If you're still not sure, or even if you think you are...just serve God! He'll start to show you what comes easiest to you. When you see God working through you to do something amazing, chances are you just used your spiritual gift! And the closer you grow to God, the more he'll help you grow in your ability to use your spiritual gift. Remember, the Holy Spirit gave each of us a special gift.**



Max's Story

Supplies

- “Max’s Story” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don’t have internet in your classroom? That’s okay! You can download the videos before class using the “download” button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter’s DVD [here](#).

Discuss and Watch “Max’s Story”

Say: **We’re learning that the Holy Spirit gave each of us a special gift. That means we have qualities that God can use to help us serve him and others better!**

Ask: • **What’s something you’re good at?**

Say: **Let’s learn about a kid named Max who God made good at science!**

Watch “Max’s Story.”

Ask: • **How would you describe Max?**

• **Max is definitely good at science. But what *character* qualities did you see in him?**

Say: **Max is creative and curious. He likes to find solutions that help solve other people’s problems. The Holy Spirit gave each of us a special gift. That means there are parts of our characters and personalities that make us feel extra drawn to doing certain things. And the Holy Spirit can guide us to use those gifts to serve God!**



MUSIC VIDEO

[10 min]

Let's Go! (Ephesians 2:10)

Supplies

- “Let's Go!” (Ephesians 2:10) (watch or download [here](#))
- “Living by the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25) (watch or download [here](#))
- “Ready to Serve” (Deuteronomy 13:4) (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the “download” button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter's DVD [here](#).

Sing Songs to God

Sing the three songs in any order.



CRAFT

Gift Stars

[20 min]

Supplies

- Bible (click [here](#))
- solid-color wrapping paper (two 6x6-inch squares per child)
- pencils
- rulers
- scissors
- markers
- tape
- scrap paper
- gift ribbon
- “Gift Star Instructions” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- “Constellations” handout (several copies) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make Gift Stars

Show kids the sample craft you made. Give each child a “Gift Star Instructions” handout and two squares of wrapping paper. Set out the remaining supplies to share, and have kids follow the directions on the handout to make gift stars.

- Fold one square of wrapping paper in half, and then unfold it. Rotate the paper and fold it in half again in the opposite direction.
- Measure each fold line and mark 1½ inches away from each edge of the paper.
- Cut along each fold line up to the 1½-inch marks.

- Use markers to decorate the colored side of the wrapping paper.
- Fold each corner as shown, and tape it together.
- Repeat all the steps above with the second square of wrapping paper.
- On a small piece of scrap paper, write a spiritual gift you think you might have. You can refer to the signs hanging around the room for ideas.
- Crumple the scrap paper and place it between the two star sides you created. Rotate the sides so there are eight points to the star, and tape the sides together with the spiritual gift hidden inside the star.
- Add a hanger by taping a loop of gift ribbon to one point of your star.

Say: **Your stars have special gifts inside them. But you couldn't tell just by looking! Spiritual gifts are kind of like that.**

Ask: • **How would you or someone else know what spiritual gift is inside you?**

Make Constellations

Say: **Let's use our stars to make constellations!**

Distribute the "Constellations" handout, and have kids work together to arrange their stars in one of the constellations shown. If the number of kids you have doesn't work for any of those constellations, have kids make up their own constellations. Then have someone read Philippians 2:15 from the handout.

Talk About It

Ask: • **How are constellations like the church?**

Say: **When we're friends with Jesus, the Holy Spirit gives each of us a special gift. You might not have known what it was right away or felt a magic moment, but just like your star, there's a special gift in you. As you serve God, you and others will see your gift at work. And when Christians all work together, we can shine like constellations! Hang your star as a reminder of the special gift inside you.**

Have kids take their gift stars with them and show them to their friends and families as they share what it means that the Holy Spirit gave each of us a special gift.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

That's Me!

Supplies

- “That’s Me Game” handout (download [here](#))
- chairs
- small container
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Cut apart the slips on the “That’s Me Game” handout.
- Place the strips in a small container.

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today’s lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Play a Game Like “Fruit Basket Upset”

Say: **It’s fun to use our gifts from the Holy Spirit to help others. Let’s play a game where we’ll recognize our gifts.**

- Arrange chairs in a circle, with enough chairs for all but one child.
- Have one child stand in the center of the circle. He or she will be the “Question Asker.” Everyone else will sit in a chair.
- Give the Question Asker the container. He or she will draw a slip of paper and read the question.
- If kids would answer “yes” to the question asked, they’ll shout “That’s me!” and stand up and quickly move to a different chair. As kids move, the Question Asker will try to sit in an empty seat. Whoever is left without a chair becomes the next Question Asker.
- Play as time allows. It’s okay to reuse the slips of paper and ask the same question more than once.
- If you’d like, play upbeat music while kids play.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What did you discover about yourself during this game? about others?**

- How can what we like to do reveal our spiritual gifts?

Say: When we're friends with God, these different things we like to do show the gifts the Holy Spirit is developing in us. The Holy Spirit gave us each a special gift. We don't all have the same gifts—and that's good! We can use our gifts to share God's love with others.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Teamwork

Supplies

- soccer ball
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Play Soccer

Say: **When you play a team sport like soccer, each person has a special job to do on the field. Let's play a quick game, but first, we need to get in position.**

- Form teams, and have kids volunteer for the following positions: forward, midfielder, defender, and goalkeeper. Help teams get into their positions on the "field." (It's okay to have more or fewer team members than a traditional soccer game.)
- Play soccer, and if you'd like, play upbeat music during the game.
- As they play, encourage each team and remind kids to stay in position.
- End the game after about seven minutes, having teams line up to give each other high-fives. Then have all kids circle up.

Talk About It

Ask: • **How is playing a game like soccer similar to Christians using their special gifts to work together?**

- **In a game, what happens if we don't all play our special parts?**
- **Why does the church need different parts?**

Say: **Soccer games go better when every person stays in position and plays his or her part. If everyone chases the ball, there's no one to pass to across the field. Or if the goalie steps out, there's no one to guard the goal. Like coaches**

give players a special job to do, the Holy Spirit gave us each a special gift. God's friends use their gifts as they work together to live for Jesus.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

[5 min]

Your Gift

Bless Each Child

- Have kids line up to receive an affirmation prayer.
- You can form one line for each adult or teen helper.
- Place your hands on kids' shoulders and thank God for specific gifts you've seen in them. (You may have noted which signs they went to during Core Bible Discovery and can refer to those gifts.)
- Ask God to use kids to grow and build up his church with their spiritual gifts.
- Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.



TAKE-HOME

[0 min]

Dig In @ Home

Supplies

- this week's "Dig In @ Home" handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Add your church announcements to the "Dig In @ Home" handout.

Distribute a copy of the "Dig In @ Home" handout to kids as they leave, or email it to parents during the week.

Epic Teachings of the Bible, Lesson 11: Spiritual Gifts: What's My Gift?, Design and base content

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