

Table of Contents

How to Use.....	4
-----------------	---

G O D G I F T A N D G U I D E

SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF	Introduction	6
DECEMBER 7, 2025	Session 1: Discovering the Holy Spirit	7
DECEMBER 14, 2025	Session 2: The Spirit's Work	22
DECEMBER 21, 2025	Session 3: The Spirit's Work in Salvation	38
DECEMBER 28, 2025	Session 4: The Spirit Saves and Sustains.....	54
JANUARY 4, 2026	Session 5: Life in the Spirit	70
JANUARY 11, 2026	Session 6: Walking in the Spirit.....	86
JANUARY 18, 2026	Session 7: Empowered: Living in Step with the Spirit	103

S P I R I T U A L G I F T S

	Introduction	120
JANUARY 25, 2026	Session 8: What Are the Spiritual Gifts?	121
FEBRUARY 1, 2026	Session 9: What Are the Serving Gifts?.....	134
FEBRUARY 8, 2026	Session 10: What Are the Speaking Gifts?	149
FEBRUARY 15, 2026	Session 11: How Do I Discover My Gifts?.....	164
FEBRUARY 22, 2026	Session 12: How Do I Use My Gifts?	178
	Coming Next Quarter.....	193

MasterWork: Essential Messages from God's Servants

Winter 2025–2026

Ryan J. Sanders
Content Editor

Timothy J. Lynch
Contributing Production Editor

Darin Clark
Design Team Leader

Dwayne McCrary
Manager, Adult Ongoing Bible Studies

John Paul Basham
Director, Adult Ministry

Send questions/comments to

Content Editor by email to MasterWork@lifeway.com

or mail to

Content Editor, *MasterWork*,
200 Powell Place, Suite 100
Brentwood, TN 37027-7707.

or make comments on the Web at lifeway.com

For ordering or inquiries including Autoship, visit Lifeway.com, call 1-800-458-2772, write Lifeway Resources Customer Service, 200 Powell Place, Suite 100, Brentwood, TN 37027-7707, or fax 615.251.5933. For address changes, email subscribe@lifeway.com. For bulk shipments mailed quarterly to one address, visit Lifeway.com/Autoship, email orderentry@Lifeway.com, or write to the above address.

We believe that the Bible has God for its author; salvation for its end; and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter and that all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. To review Lifeway's doctrinal guidelines, please visit Lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline.

MasterWork: Essential Messages from God's Servants (ISSN 1542-703X, Item 005075042) is published quarterly by Lifeway Christian Resources, 200 Powell Place, Suite 100, Brentwood, TN 37027-7707; Ben Mandrell, President. © 2025 Lifeway Christian Resources. Printed in the United States of America.

Sessions by Gregg R. Allison are condensed from *God Gift and Guide: Knowing the Holy Spirit*. Copyright © 2023 by Gregg R. Allison. Reprinted by permission of B&H Publishing Group. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Sessions by Dan Darling are condensed from *Spiritual Gifts: What They Are and How to Use Them*. Copyright © 2022 by Dan Darling. Reprinted by permission of Lifeway Press. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations from *God Gift and Guide: Knowing the Holy Spirit* are taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers. Scripture references marked *esv* are taken from the English Standard Version *ESV® Text Edition: 2016*. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

All Scripture quotations in the sessions from *Spiritual Gifts: What They Are and How to Use Them* have been taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

Scripture quotations in the "How to Become a Christian" article and those marked CSB are taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 2017, 2020 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

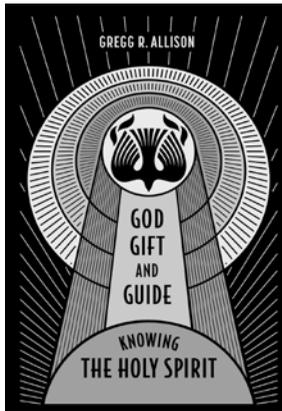
MasterWork: Essential Messages from God's Servants (ISSN 1542-703X, Item 005075042) is published quarterly by Lifeway Christian Resources, 200 Powell Place, Suite 100, Brentwood, TN 37027-7514; Ben Mandrell, President. © Copyright 2025 Lifeway Christian Resources.

Printed in the United States of America.

All rights reserved.

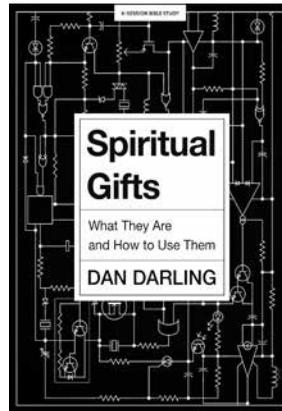
Books of Study

Further in-depth Bible studies by the authors presented this quarter in MasterWork® are available in their full-length books. To purchase your own copies to read and study, visit lifeway.com. Or you can order a copy by calling 1.800.458.2772.



God, Gift, and Guide
Gregg R. Allison

B&H Publishing Group
ISBN: 978-1-0877-6685-0



Spiritual Gifts
Dan Darling

Lifeway Press
ISBN: 978-1-0877-4265-6

How to Use

Here are a few suggestions to help you get the most out of this resource:

Group Members

1. Read Day One through Day Five prior to attending the group time. Complete the personal learning activities in bold type. Record your notes and questions.
2. Review your notes and questions a few moments prior to the group time as a means of preparing to be an active part of the group.
3. In the margins of this book, record insights gained during the group time.

Group Leader

1. Complete step 1 above.
2. Identify the one main idea and goal for the session. The main point of the session and the goal are printed on the leader guide pages at the end of each session. (See p. 19.) Focus on the session goal as you lead the session.

The main point of this session is: God's grace through Jesus's sacrifice transforms our spiritual ruin into righteousness through faith.

Focus on this goal: Salvation is not earned by works but is a free gift available to all through faith in Christ.

Key Bible Passage: Romans 3:23-24

Leader Guide

3. Read and study the key Bible passages listed at the top of the teaching plan.
4. Develop a group time plan. Two options are offered in this book.

- One option is to follow the leader guide at the end of each session.
- A second option is to use the discussion questions in the margins of the sessions. Some group leaders use a combination of both group time plans.

written by forty authors over 1,600 years. Sixty-six books tell one seamless story about God who created us, and has a future for us. Let's explore the rich and wonderful story of Scripture.

How does the Bible fit into the lives of Christians who are living in a world that is so different from the one in which it was written?

DISCUSS

When might a visit to a library be overwhelming? When might it be exciting?

Discussion Questions

5. Customize the electronic versions of the suggested teaching plans, available on the Internet at masterwork.lifeway.com to fit your group.
6. Review and refine your teaching notes as you move toward the group time.
7. Arrive early, praying for the group time.

Leader Guide

The main point of this session is: God's grace through Jesus' death and resurrection for our sins can be experienced in Step 1.

Focus on this goal: Set out on a journey that will lead to a heart of grace that is not only a hope but a reality.

Key Bible Passage: Romans 3:24-26

Before the Session

- You'll continue to see the large paper titled "Grace" throughout this session. Today you look at it in Step 1.
- Bring an item from home that has been repaired or refurbished. If the item is broken, take a photo and be ready to share that with your class. You'll do that in Step 1.
- Bring hymns to take apart, or hymns to "Nothing But the Blood of Jesus" made by Step 1.

During the Session

STEP 1 - Create Interest / Important Discussion

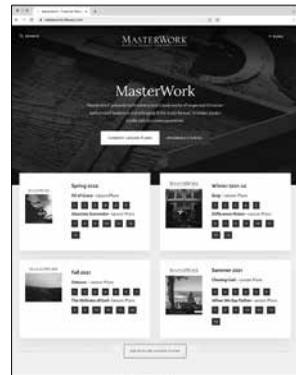
Open class by reading, hearing, viewing to the material item or photo of an item you brought to class.

Share how the work was accomplished, how long it took, and so on.

While you are also going to see that item fixed, do not do any of the work. Leave your group to see how the work was done. You're responsible for the transformation.

Prayer for the group: "Grace" gather your hearts on that word and pray for when you discussed.

Leader Guide



masterwork.lifeway.com

masterwork

Study Series: **Seasons**
Author: **Angie Smith**

Lesson Title: "The Beginning" (pp. 4-13)
Session 1
September 4, 2012

The main point of this lesson is: God begins to reveal the majestic revelation of His plan from the opening of the Bible.

Focus on this goal: To help adults affirm the importance of the beginning to their walk with Christ.

Key Bible Passages: Genesis 1-12

Before the Session

1. Prepare TBS (Step 2).
2. Gather TBS (Step 3).

During the Session

Step 1. Title

Write adults to indicate if they've ever read books or watched movies that were part of a series. Ask, "Is it possible to read the books or watch the movies of a series and still enjoy them?" (What's the value of reading or watching them on video?)

Read together the opening of the Bible. Invite people to read the opening of the Bible and read or discuss the main message of the chapters, and to bring to me how all the stories fit together. **Prayer:** Thank God for the beginning and ask for His grace and His love to be revealed.

Customizable Teaching Plan

Leader Guide

The main point of this session is: The Holy Spirit empowers believers to follow Jesus, live in obedience, and experience true transformation.

Focus on this goal: The Holy Spirit helps believers understand who He is, embrace His presence and power, and learn to depend on Him daily.

Key Bible Passage: Galatians 4:6

Before the Session

1. **Write** “Empowers” on the board. You’ll use this as a focal word for the entire session.
2. **Enlist** a studious class member to be prepared to give a five-minute explanation of Day 5 in layman’s terms. You’ll do this in Step 6.

During the Session

STEP 1 - Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

As learners arrive, **instruct** them to consider the word “empowers” on the board.

As class begins, **ask:** *What are some things that power your house? What powers your morning? What powers your car? Computer? Phone?*

Summarize the activity by guiding learners to see that there are a variety of power sources in their lives, making it possible to do all the things they need to do every day.

Ask: *What happens when one or more power sources is gone? How does that affect your life?*

Explain that you’re beginning a new book today, *God, Gift, and Guide: Knowing the Holy Spirit* by Gregg R. Allison. This session focuses on how the Holy Spirit empowers us.

Open with prayer.

STEP 2 - The Wonderful Discovery

Invite a volunteer to read aloud the opening two paragraphs of Day 1. If you have a similar experience, in which you “tried” Christianity and found it lacking, briefly share that.

Be prepared to **summarize** the rest of the Day 1, specifically that our author attended a class on the Spirit-filled life in college and it completely changed his life and his faith.

Ask: *What do you know about the Holy Spirit?* Provide a few moments for learners to share their answers.

STEP 3 - The Good Gift

Instruct learners to silently read paragraphs two and three from Day 2. (Both paragraphs contain lots of questions about the Holy Spirit.)

Engage learners in sharing their answers to the questions as well as adding some of their own.

Read aloud the paragraph that starts with the phrase “It is this fear” from Day 2.

Invite a volunteer to read Matthew 7:11 and Luke 11:13 aloud, noting that the phrase “good gifts” from Matthew is replaced with “Holy Spirit” in Luke.

Stress that God’s good gift is the Holy Spirit.

STEP 4 - Three-in-One

Read 2 Corinthians 13:13 and Galatians 4:4-6 aloud, pointing to the presence of all three persons of the Trinity in both passages.

Ask: *According to these passages, is there a hierarchy in the Trinity? Do we see the Father, Son, and Spirit as different in terms of their position or their actions?*

Read aloud the paragraph from the Day 3 that begins with the phrase “He is all-powerful.”

As a group, **consider** where your understanding of the Father, Son, and Spirit falls short of believing that the Spirit is equal with God the Father and Jesus (God the Son).

Read 2 Corinthians 13:13 and Galatians 4:4-6 again.

Ask: *How do these verses reveal the co-eminent persons of the Trinity?*

STEP 5 - The Holy Spirit Is Fully God

Enlist two volunteers to read Exodus 34:29-35 and 2 Corinthians 3:12-18 aloud. **Engage** your group in considering how these two passages, side by side, reveal that the Father is the Spirit.

Repeat the exercise with Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Hebrews 10:15-18.

Repeat it one more time using Genesis 1:1-4 and John 1:1-3.

Ask: *After seeing the Bible's explanation of the Spirit's role in blindness, covenant, and creation, how do you see Him differently?*

Read the paragraph from the Day 4 that begins "As 'the Lord and Giver of Life,'" and the definitions following, aloud.

STEP 6 - Back to God

Say something along the lines of, *Day 5 was quite scholarly. So I've invited _____ (your pre-enlisted volunteer) to give us a simple explanation.*

Point out that Christians need not understand every element of our author's explanation, but we certainly should strive to be knowledgeable in our understanding of the Father, Son, and Spirit.

Engage learners in asking questions. Be sure to **say:** *"I don't know"* if you don't know the answer.

Write down the unanswered questions and challenge yourself to find the answers in the coming weeks.

STEP 7 - Practical Application – Live Out the Session

Instruct all learners to close their books and Bibles.

Ask: *Now, what did we learn today about the Holy Spirit?*

Stress the word "Empowers" on the board to kick-start learners' memories.

Ask: *Who is the Holy Spirit? Who is He not?*

Challenge learners to be diligent in their daily readings throughout this series, digging deeply and seeking knowledge from God's Word.

Close with prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to continue revealing Himself to the group through the Word as they seek Him in Bible study and prayer.

Leader Guide

The main point of this session is: The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son and is sent to apply salvation in the world .

Focus on this goal: Understand how the distinct roles of the Father, Son, and Spirit relate to salvation, with the Spirit's work being essential and personal .

Key Bible Passage: John 15:26

Before the Session

Write “Sent” on the board before learners arrive . You’ll refer to this as your primary focus throughout the session .

During the Session

STEP 1 - Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

As learners arrive, **direct** them to consider the word on the board .

To open class, **ask:** *Has anyone ever sent you to run an errand?
Have you ever sent someone to do a job or perform a task?*

Engage learners in considering the relationship and responsibility required when a person is sent: the sender has authority and does the planning, while the one sent is responsible for representing the sender .

Ask: *Have you ever felt like God was sending you to do something?
How did you respond?*

Explain that this second session from “God, Gift, and Guide” will help you to understand how the roles of the Trinity relate to salvation .

Open with prayer.

STEP 2 - The Bible's Witness to the Trinity

Encourage learners to accept the challenge of this session's material: it may be deeply theological, but it is truth and integral to understanding the character of God.

Invite a volunteer to read John 5:26 aloud.

Using the information from Day 1, **explain** that this phrase points not to a physical birth but to an identity: the Father granting sonship life to the Son. If learners are still unclear, challenge them to keep digging and meditating!

Read the three passages from John at the end of Day 1 aloud and instruct learners to underline in their books every description of the Spirit in those verses.

STEP 3 - Promised Fulfilled

Remind learners: *Last week, we considered that the Spirit is not a force, but a person.*

Invite a volunteer to read Acts 2:32-33 aloud and read aloud the paragraph that begins "Because the first person" from Day 2.

Engage learners in discussing the temporal (or historical) arrival of God (Gen. 1:1), Jesus (John 1:1), and the Spirit (Acts 2:33).

Invite a volunteer to read Romans 8:9, stressing that the Holy Spirit is referred to as the "Spirit of God" as well as the "Spirit of Christ," uniting the three. **Direct** learners to the bulleted list in Day 2 and ask if there is any unclear element.

STEP 4 - One Mission

Read aloud the following sentence from Day 3: *The temporal missions of the Son and the Spirit express and are reflective of their eternal processions.*

Remind learners that last week's session defined a procession as a "relation of origin" or "special relationship."

Engage learners in considering this statement and what it means in layman's terms. Do your best to describe or sketch the diagram our author used to explain the Trinity to children.

Ask: *How well do we understand the Trinity ourselves? How well do we explain it to others?*

STEP 5 - The Spirit Speaks

Give learners a few minutes to read through the Scriptures in Day 4 that describe the Holy Spirit speaking, **challenging** them to select one that reveals how the Spirit speaks to and through His people .

Invite a few volunteers to read the Scripture aloud and **ask:** *What do you observe about the Spirit in this passage?*

Stress that the Holy Spirit speaks and has always spoken .

Ask: *What is the connection between the Spirit and the Bible?*

Use 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and 2 Peter 1:20-21 to **stress** that Scripture is the breath of God; the Spirit has spoken and speaks today through the Bible .

STEP 6 - The Spirit Convicts

Enlist a volunteer to read through the numbered list of how the Jewish people of Jesus's day sought to be righteous .

Ask: *If we had a list of how church people today try to live righteously, what items would be on it?*

Stress that Jesus confronted this false righteousness, and He promised that the Spirit would continue that work after He was gone (John 16:11) .

Share a time in your life when you became aware of your own self-righteousness and how God brought you to that realization .

STEP 7 - Practical Application – Live Out the Session

Ask for a show of hands of learners who have ever felt convicted when reading the Bible .

Encourage them that is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in their lives, bringing them to an awareness of righteousness!

Challenge learners to take this interaction with the Spirit with thanksgiving and repentance; God is reaching out to them, drawing them to Himself!

Ask: *How does the Holy Spirit's work of conviction take away our fear of sharing Christ? If the Holy Spirit is sent to us, how are we sent to share His truth with others?*

Close with prayer, inviting the Spirit to speak to your group this week, revealing His presence in each learner's life .

Leader Guide

The main point of this session is: The Holy Spirit works powerfully in every part of our salvation—giving new life, calling us, uniting us with Christ, justifying, adopting, and empowering us .

Focus on this goal: Recognize the Holy Spirit's role in salvation as a personal, transformative reality, and live in dependence on His power .

Key Bible Passage: Titus 3:5-6

Before the Session

1. **Write** “Saves” on a board or piece of paper . You'll use this as your focus for today's session .
2. Have a copy of your church's statement of beliefs and be prepared to read it . You'll do this in Step 6 .

During the Session

STEP 1 - Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Consider bringing some objects from home that “save” you from trouble; this should be a lighthearted illustration . (*For example: an alarm clock “saves” you from being late to work; a water bottle “saves” you from getting dehydrated; your cup of coffee “saves” you from falling asleep while driving.*) Be creative!

Set up the items on a table so that all will see them . Open class discussion by choosing one item and explaining how it “saves” you; engage the class in guessing how the others do the same . Then transition to the session by **saying**, *It's one thing to save me from oversleeping; it's another to save my soul. But that's exactly what the Holy Spirit does, and that's our focus today.*

Open in Prayer.

STEP 2 - Regenerating Work

Explain to learners that the starfish can regrow arms that become detached from their central discs, and some starfish have even been observed to regrow a body from an arm!

Ask: *Using that as an example of regeneration, what does this word mean to salvation?*

Invite a volunteer to read John 3:5 aloud and use the information from Day 1 to **explain** what being “born of water and the Spirit” does not mean as well as what it does mean .

Enlist a volunteer to read Ezekiel 36:25-27 aloud, stressing that the Spirit’s work does all of this at our salvation .

STEP 3 - Death to Life

Direct learners to the bolded headlines in Day 2: Conversion, Union, Justification, and Adoption .

Enlist a few volunteers to share their best understanding of these elements of salvation .

Walk through the elements and create a simple definition for each as a group . Then consider the Holy Spirit’s role in each of the four elements .

Enlist a volunteer to read Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 8:9-10, and Romans 8:15, **pointing out** in each verse the role of the Holy Spirit .

Explain: *Believers talk about salvation without really considering all that is involved. But we can’t really understand salvation unless we understand the Spirit and His role in bringing us to God through faith in Jesus.*

STEP 4 - The Promised Outpouring

Explain: *Let’s consider some of the Old Testament prophecies that pointed to the Holy Spirit and His role in salvation.*

Invite a volunteer to read Jeremiah 31:31-34 aloud from Day 3 as learners follow along in their books .

Explain that the old covenant (given through Moses) was external, and involved keeping the law; this new covenant would be internal, given through the Spirit . Continue to walk through the prophetic Scriptures in Day 3 (Ezek . 36:25-27; Joel 2:28-29) and **encourage** learners to circle the word “Spirit” in each passage .

Read aloud the last paragraph of Day 3 .

STEP 5 - Baptism of the Spirit

Invite a volunteer to read aloud Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:4-5, **explaining** that Jesus's disciples knew Jesus's promise: the Spirit would come as He promised.

Enlist a volunteer to read Acts 2:1-4 aloud, and discuss what the outpouring of the Spirit would have looked like, felt like, smelled like, sounded like, and maybe tasted like! (There was fire, after all; they may have tasted the smoke.)

Read aloud the paragraph from Day 4 that begins "*Baptism with the Spirit*," as well as the paragraph following, aloud.

Briefly summarize that Jesus baptizes us with the Spirit; the Spirit Himself does not baptize us.

STEP 6 - Distinctives of Spirit Baptism

Explain that the Day 5 text deals with different views of the Holy Spirit: when He arrives in the life of a believer, what He leads believers to do, and the gifts He bestows.

Give an overview of the first two developments (Pentecostal and charismatic movements) and the counter-responses that came in reaction to those.

Explain where your church stands on the Holy Spirit by **reading** from your church's website or printed statement of faith concerning the Spirit.

Challenge learners to study God's Word and find confidence in their biblical understanding of the Spirit.

STEP 7 - Practical Application – Live Out the Session

Congratulate your learners for engaging in a deep theological explanation of the Spirit, and **encourage** them to continue to review the information when they have questions.

Direct learners back to the word "Saves" and **ask**: *What will you remember from today's session concerning the Holy Spirit's role in salvation?*

Read Titus 3:5-6 aloud and **encourage** learners to take one Scripture from today's session, pondering it throughout the week.

Close with prayer, thanking the Spirit for dwelling inside believers so that we can be saved through faith in Jesus Christ.

Leader Guide

The main point of this session is: The Holy Spirit begins, empowers, and completes our salvation—guiding us into truth, prayer, unity, holiness, and hope .

Focus on this goal: Embrace the Spirit's role in salvation and sanctification, and live with His power, guidance, and hope .

Key Bible Passage: Romans 8:9-11

Before the Session

1. **Write** “Dwells” on a board or large piece of paper to use as your focal word for today’s session .
2. **Bring** a small flashlight to class . You’ll use it in Step 3 .

During the Session

STEP 1 - Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Direct learners’ attention to the word “Dwells” on the board .

Open class with a short quiz called “Where do animals dwell?”

Use the following prompts to engage volunteers to share the name of that animal’s dwelling place . [*Beavers live in a lodge. Rabbits live in warrens or burrows. Squirrels live in a drey. Eagles live in an eyrie. Prairie dogs live in a town or colony.*]

Ask: *What do these animals use their dwellings for?* **Guide** learners to understand that animals find safety, security, and growth in their dwellings .

Say: *Today, let’s consider where the Holy Spirit dwells and how He becomes our dwelling place as He dwells in us.*

Open in Prayer

STEP 2 - Ongoing Work

Explain that Day One focuses on sealing, sanctification, and assurance by the Holy Spirit.

Enlist a volunteer to read 2 Corinthians 1:21-22.

Ask: *What does it mean to be sealed? Is that permanent or temporary?*

Guide learners to the Sanctification portion of Day 1 as you read Philippians 2:12-13 aloud.

Use Day 1 to consider how sanctification involves God working in us through the Spirit as we work by yielding to Him.

Explain that assurance of salvation is available to all believers. **Read** the paragraph that begins “Sadly, many Christians,” as well as the following paragraph, aloud.

Volunteer your own questions about these three topics and encourage learners to also ask questions, even if you don’t know the answers.

STEP 3 - Eyes to See, Ears to Hear

Invite a volunteer to read 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 aloud (either from their Bible or Day 2). As a group, **consider** the word “illumination” and what that means in terms of the Spirit giving us God’s Word.

Invite a volunteer to dim the lights as you turn on your flashlight.

Explain that, just as a flashlight shines on one item at a time, the Holy Spirit gives us insight and direction in God’s Word.

Explain that unbelievers are blinded by Satan in such a way that they cannot grasp the light of the gospel. But the Spirit “superintended” the writing of the Scriptures, as well as the reading of them, so that we might know truth through the Spirit as we read, understand, and believe.

STEP 4 - When Words Fail

To continue the discussion of Illumination, **read** aloud the indented prayer in Day 3, as well as the paragraph following.

Introduce the Spirit’s intercession by reading Romans 8:26-27 aloud.

Ask: *Have you ever struggled to pray? Have you ever gone to pray but didn’t know what to say?*

Read aloud the paragraph that begins “Paul is honest” from Day 3.

Encourage learners to believe God's Word: the Holy Spirit offers prayers where we don't know what to say.

STEP 5 - Spirit's Work in the Church

Invite a volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 12:12,27 aloud.

Read Ephesians 2:21-22 aloud. As a group, **consider** how both images, together, help us understand that the church is the body of Christ but also the temple of the Spirit and what that means using the information from Day 4.

Read aloud the paragraph that begins "The church, however."

Enlist a volunteer to read Ephesians 4:4-6 and stress that unity in the church and between churches comes through the Holy Spirit.

STEP 6 - New Creation

Say: *We see in Day 5 that the Spirit is future oriented.*

Invite a volunteer to read Acts 2:17-18 aloud and **explain** that Peter preached this on the day of Pentecost.

Read Acts 2:17-18 again, stressing the word "Spirit" and His role in the final days.

Remind learners that the words of Acts 2:17-18 refer to our lives and our churches!

Challenge learners to seek the Spirit's presence in their individual and corporate lives as we wait for the fulfillment of God's eternal plan.

STEP 7 - Practical Application – Live Out the Session

Read aloud the paragraph from Day 5 that begins "As it was in the beginning."

Summarize that the indwelling Spirit is our source of salvation, sanctification, and eternal life.

Read Romans 8:9-11 aloud and **challenge** learners to meditate on this verse in the coming week by writing it and placing it in a prominent place.

Ask: *What truths about the Spirit fall fresh on you today? What will you remember from this session?*

Close with prayer, inviting the Spirit to continue to guide your group into truth, prayer, unity, holiness, and hope.

Leader Guide

The main point of this session is: The Holy Spirit begins our salvation and empowers us to walk with God, live in holiness, and look forward to future glory .

Focus on this goal: Embrace the Holy Spirit's constant work in your life, church, and future hope—responding with worship, unity, and obedience .

Key Bible Passage: Romans 8:11

Before the Session

1. **Write** the word “known” on the board . You'll keep this as your focal word throughout the session .

During the Session

STEP 1 - Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Direct learners to the word “known” on the board and say: *You're probably known by many people in the different areas of your life. But who is it that knows you best?*

Challenge learners to consider those outside of their household; who really knows them well?

If there is a learner in your class whom you know well, **briefly share** your relationship and why you feel you know him or her well .

Ask: *What does it take to know someone well? What changes in a relationship when both people feel fully known?*

Explain that today's session focuses on knowing the Holy Spirit .

Open with prayer.

STEP 2 - God With Us

Briefly review the key words from each week's session in this current study (empowers, sent, saves, dwells) and **challenge** learners to recall how they point to the Spirit.

Read aloud the opening paragraph of Day 1 and the Scripture within it.

Stress that the question of the narrative of the Bible is clear: Will God yet again dwell with His people?

As a group, **read** through the indented Scriptures found in Day 1 and **discuss** how each passage points to the answer: yes, God will dwell with His people: Jesus would walk in human flesh on earth. (See John 1:14.)

STEP 3 - Indwelling Spirit

Enlist a volunteer to read John 14:15-26 aloud as learners follow along in their Bibles.

Ask: *What is the promise made in verses 16-17?* (The Father would give the Spirit to dwell with them.) *What is the promise Jesus made in verse 23?* (Jesus and the Father would make their home in those who love Him.)

Stress that the Spirit is the source of God the Father and Jesus dwelling with us; only through the Spirit may we know the Father and the Son.

Read aloud the last paragraph of Day 2.

Engage learners in discussing how this unity of the Trinity is a summary of what you've discussed in earlier sessions.

STEP 4 - Indwelling Presence

Enlist a volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 and 1 Corinthians 6:19 aloud.

Challenge learners to listen as the volunteer is reading for a similar phrase repeated in both passages. (The phrase is something close to, "Don't you know that the Spirit of God lives in you?")

Use the information from Day 3 to stress that the 1 Corinthians 6 quote asks the question of an individual believer, while the 1 Corinthians 3 quote asks the same question of a body of believers.

Read aloud the last paragraph of Day 3.

Engage learners to share how they reflected on this truth over the past few days.

STEP 5 - Be Filled

Invite a volunteer to read Ephesians 5:18-21 aloud.

Emphasize the phrase, “but be filled by the Spirit.”

Use the information in Day 4 to point out the key elements of this phrase:

- 1) It is a command; 2) it is an ongoing instruction; 3) it demands yieldedness; 4) it produces certain results and demands certain actions.

Ask: *What does it mean to yield to the Spirit? How have you learned to yield to the Spirit in your everyday life?*

Walk through the bulleted list at the bottom of Day 4 and consider some action points for each of those details.

STEP 6 - Walk in the Spirit

Invite a volunteer to read Galatians 5:16-26 aloud from his book as other learners read along.

Stress the phrases “walk by the Spirit” (in the opening line) and “keep in step with the Spirit” in the closing paragraph.

Explain that the paragraphs between those two instructions are descriptions of the two different responses to the Spirit in our lives.

Read aloud the paragraph that begins “Obedience to the command” as well as the next paragraph from Day 5.

Ask: *What do you think Paul intends for us to do with these lists of a flesh-honoring life or a Spirit-honoring life?*

Challenge learners to return to this passage regularly, inviting the Spirit to convict them of thoughts, actions, and patterns that draw them away from His leadership.

STEP 7 - Practical Application – Live Out the Session

Direct learners back to the word “known” on the board.

Say something like: *As we are filled with the Spirit, He makes Himself known to us. And when we live according to the Spirit, He is known to the world because we exhibit His fruit.*

Read Romans 8:11 aloud and encourage learners to keep in step with the Spirit as they go throughout their week.

Close in prayer, asking the Spirit to continue to fill us and make Himself known to us as we walk with Him.

Leader Guide

The main point of this session is: The Holy Spirit empowers and transforms believers to walk daily in trust and obedience, producing fruitfulness and godliness .

Focus on this goal: Equip believers to depend on the Holy Spirit through daily attentiveness, surrender, and discernment .

Key Bible Passage: Galatians 5:16-26

Before the Session

1. **Write** the word “Walk” on the board; this will be your focal word for today’s session .
 2. **Enlist** a few learners to read through our author’s personal story in Days 2-3, considering a personal story that resonates similarly .
- Invite** them to prepare to briefly share their own stories in Step 3 .
3. You’ll need a large piece of paper and a marker for Step 5 .

During the Session

STEP 1 - Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

If you’ve ever embarked on a big hiking trip, prepare to share that with the group . If not, enlist a hiking volunteer to describe one of the most exciting hiking journeys she’s taken . Be sure the hiker shares specifically about following directions, staying on the trail, as well as being prepared and attentive .

Explain: *We’re still studying the Holy Spirit through the book God, Gift, and Guide.*

Share that, until this point, the focus has been on the Holy Spirit . But today (and next week), you'll consider what we do as those who are believers in whom the Spirit lives .

Point to the board and **read** aloud the main point of the session .

STEP 2 - Filled with the Spirit

Invite a volunteer to read Galatians 5:16-18,25-26 aloud . As other learners follow along in their Bibles, **instruct** them to underline the words “Spirit” and “flesh” each time they appear in the passage .

Read aloud the paragraph from Day 1 that begins “Paul mentions three .”

Engage your group in considering why these three elements—pride, provocation, and envy—are opposites of living according to the Spirit .

Invite a volunteer to read Romans 8:3-8 aloud .

Ask: *According to this passage, how do we keep our minds on the Spirit? How does that connect with walking by the Spirit?*

STEP 3 - Set One’s Mind on the Spirit

Ask for a show of hands to each of the following questions: *Looking back, who can see how the Holy Spirit guided you in your friendships? How about in your job? Can anyone see God’s guidance through the Spirit in your involvement in this church?*

Provide time for your pre-enlisted volunteers to share how God’s hand guided their lives to where they are today .

Press into each story, **pointing out** situations that “just so happened” and even an unexpected disappointment that led to an opportunity .

STEP 4 - Presence and Power of the Holy Spirit

Read aloud the paragraph from Day 3 that begins “You may be thinking .”

As a group, **consider** that many people have differing opinions about the Spirit’s guidance in their lives; how can we have confidence when we believe He is moving in our lives?

Invite a volunteer to read Acts 16:6-10, sharing the background information found in Day 3 .

Guide learners to understand that the Spirit sometimes gives us direction and action; sometimes He gives us the command to stop or wait .

Read Acts 16:13-14 aloud.

Help learners consider how Lydia's life was radically changed through the obedience of Paul, Silas, and Timothy.

STEP 5 - Holy Spirit as a Guide

Enlist a volunteer to read aloud the five distinct positions regarding the guidance of the Holy Spirit for life and ministry in Day 4.

Write on a large piece of paper the terms "apostles alone," "apostolic age," and "age of the Spirit."

As a group, **consider** how most believers view the Spirit's guidance and how that may contrast with your personal position.

Talk briefly through the examples of Samson, Elijah, and Philip using Day 4.

Read aloud the paragraph that begins "Dramatic experiences."

Encourage learners to consider what that means in everyday life.

STEP 6 - Here and Now

Ask: *Does anyone in here have a system for discerning the voice of the Spirit?*

Encourage learners to carefully consider (and perhaps take notes on) the seven steps given in Day 5: If the Spirit is moving, and we're 1) walking in the Spirit, His guidance will be 2) in accordance with Scripture 3) exalt Jesus 4) stimulate holiness, 5) contain missionality, 6) be confirmed by the church, and 7) bear fruit.

As a group, **draw** squares next to each item in Day 5 and **instruct** your class to consider literally checking the boxes when they want to find assurance of the Spirit's leading.

STEP 7 - Practical Application – Live Out the Session

Say: *There may be some here today that would honestly say to me, "I have no idea what you're talking about; the Spirit has never guided me."*

Invite those who have questions to talk to you after class or set up a time with another leader in your congregation who can better answer their questions.

Close with prayer, inviting the Spirit to make Himself known in our lives and convict us where we are not yielded to Him.

Leader Guide

The main point of this session is: The Holy Spirit has worked throughout redemptive history and now empowers believers to grow, obey, and serve through His indwelling and gifts .

Focus on this goal: Live a Spirit-filled life by walking daily with the Spirit, using your gifts, and following His guidance in all areas of life .

Key Bible Passages: Ephesians 5:18-21; Romans 8:3-8; Acts 16:6-10

Before the Session

1. **Find** a short video of ducklings following their mother duck (or something like it) and be prepared to show it in Step One .
2. **Write** the word “Follow” on the board; you’ll use this as your focus throughout the session .
3. If you have access to a free Spiritual Gifts Inventory test, be prepared to share that information in Step 5 .

During the Session

STEP 1 - Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Open class by playing the video of baby ducklings following their mother .

Ask: *What are some reasons these baby ducks should follow their mother closely? What would happen if they didn’t? What are some characteristics of ducklings that make following their mother a necessity?*

Stress that the very survival of the ducklings depends on their ability to follow their mother . **Explain** that the same is true for us as believers: we must follow the Holy Spirit in order to walk by faith .

Open with prayer, asking the Spirit to lead your group through this last session .

STEP 2 - Filled with the Spirit

Explain: *The Holy Spirit has been at work since the first words of the Bible.*

Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1-2 aloud.

Engage learners in discussing the Holy Spirit's power at work at creation.

Use Day 1 to give a brief overview of the Spirit's work through Israel's leaders, people, prophets, and the new covenant.

Read Jeremiah 31:31-34 aloud as learners follow along in their Bibles; as a group, consider carefully how they can see the Son and the Spirit in the new covenant.

STEP 3 - Spirit's Work in Jesus

Invite one volunteer to read John 1:32 and 3:34 aloud.

Invite another volunteer to read Luke 3:21-22 aloud. As a group, **consider** how these passages point to the Spirit-filling of Jesus and how we see their relationship through these Scriptures.

Point learners to the paragraph from Day 2 that begins "Relying on the Holy Spirit," as well as the following four paragraphs,

Engage learners in speaking aloud all that Jesus did in the power of the Spirit within Him.

Explain that, just as Jesus was led and empowered by the Spirit, so too were the writers of God's Word.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Peter 1:21 to emphasize this truth.

STEP 4 - Purpose, Power, Practice

Group learners into four different teams and assign each team one passage: Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; Ephesians 4:7-16; and 1 Peter 4:10-11.

Instruct each group to discuss the gifts of the Spirit and to identify how they have seen one or more of those gifts in the people of their group.

Ask: *How have you experienced a blessing from the Spirit because of the Spirit-led actions of someone in this church?*

As a large group, **consider** the definitions of the bulleted list of spiritual gifts and how each gift edifies and guides a local congregation as individuals follow the Spirit.

STEP 5 - Discover Your Gifts

If you have access to a spiritual gifts inventory, **present** that information to your class and encourage them to take it during the week .

Point out that these inventories hold value, as does the local church body encouraging one another in the spiritual gifting that is evident in one another .

Enlist a volunteer to read the Sam Storms's quote from Day 4 .

As a group, **discuss** the benefit of developing one's spiritual gifting through generosity of time, money, resources, and service .

STEP 6 - Use Your Gifts

Guide learners to the "Category 1" and "Category 2" lists of spiritual gifts found in Day 5 .

Explain that there is little to no debate about the spiritual gifts given in the second category, but Christians have extremely differing views about the first category .

Give a brief overview about the two camps—cessationism and continuationism—and, if applicable, **explain** the view your church or denomination holds .

Encourage learners to seek God's Word for His presence in their lives as their primary focus, not to use differing opinions on the gifts of the Spirit as a foundation for arguments .

STEP 7 - Practical Application – Live Out the Session

Challenge learners to continue in their pursuit of developing their own spiritual gifts and encouraging them in others .

Explain that today's session concludes the study of *God, Gift, and Guide: Knowing the Holy Spirit* by Gregg R. Allison .

Ask: *What will you take away from this study? How has this focus on the Holy Spirit changed your perspective on this third member of the Trinity?*

Explain that you'll close today's group time with a group-guided prayer of thanksgiving, in which each willing volunteer voices thankfulness for the Holy Spirit in your church, in your group, and in individual lives .

Close in prayer and **encourage** learners to come back next week for the new study to discuss more about spiritual gifts .

Leader Guide

The main point of this session is: Spiritual gifts are grace-filled, Spirit-given empowerments meant to build up the church, share the gospel, and reflect Jesus in love .

Focus on this goal: Spiritual gifts are for joyfully and humbly using to serve the church and advance God's mission .

Key Bible Passages: Ephesians 4:7-8,11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:1-4; Romans 12:6-8

During the Session

STEP 1 - Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Ask: *Does the idea of giving and/or receiving gifts make you giddy or groan? Why is that?*

Affirm that some people take pleasure in finding just the right gift for each person and some really love receiving gifts . Other people struggle with knowing what to give another, don't always know how to receive gifts graciously, or how to use well what they have been given .

Analyze how people might have similar positive or negative feelings about spiritual gifts .

Refer to the Introduction to this study to emphasize that the topic of spiritual gifts does not have to be confusing or complex .

Read the second and third paragraphs of that Introduction beginning with "According to the grace ."

Note today's session explores the question, *What are the spiritual gifts?*

Open in Prayer.

STEP 2 - The Source of the Gifts

Invite a volunteer to read Ephesians 4:7-8 .

Explain verse 8 is an allusion to (not direct quotation of) Psalm 68:18 that describes God as a King victorious in battle who receives gifts from those He captures .

Point out that Ephesians 4:8 declares this victorious King gives gifts to those He takes captive . Jesus, our risen, conquering King, turns everything upside down . He has taken us captive and in doing so has set us free and given us gifts .

Ask: *How can understanding that Jesus is the source of our spiritual gifts shape our attitudes and uses of our gifts?*

Request adults consult Ephesians 4:12 and **state** why Jesus gives His people gifts .

Emphasize: *Equipping the people of God to fulfill the mission of God was not a last-minute idea of God. It's been His plan all along.*

Read Joel 2:28 .

State *Jesus knew this promise was about to be fulfilled.*

Read John 14:12-13 . Discuss Day One, activity 1 .

Assert the good news was fulfilled at Pentecost .

Read Acts 1:8 .

Guide the group to read Day One, activity 2 aloud in unison . **Allow** volunteers to share their thoughts about those truths .

STEP 3 - The Spirit of the Gifts

Invite someone to read 1 Corinthians 12:1 . Discuss Day 2, activity 1 .

Note Paul wants readers to be aware these gifts are *spiritual* which is from the Greek word *pneumatika* .

Explain a pneumatic drill uses compressed air to drive a rotor . Its strong power makes a pneumatic drill suitable and safer for heavy-duty tasks in hazardous environments .

Ask: *What connections can we make between “pneumatika” gifts and pneumatic drills?* Refer back to Day 1, activity 2 . Analyze why we must be aware spiritual gifts are supernatural . **Declare:** *We can't take credit for power we didn't generate. We also can't give the excuse that we can't do what we have been called to do.*

Ask a volunteer to read 2 Peter 1:3 . Invite responses to Day 2, activity 2 .

STEP 4 - The Grace of Gifts

Ask: *If you were handing out tools to a group of people to get an important task accomplished, what would be the basis for who got what tool? Discuss Day 3, activity 1.*

Ask: *What is the basis for God's distribution of spiritual gifts? How can recognizing spiritual gifts are bestowed by grace rather than merit shape our attitude about our own gifts as well as other's spiritual gifts?*

Invite someone to read the next to last paragraph of Day 3 beginning with "So when we consider spiritual gifts." Invite responses to Day 3, activity 2.

STEP 5 - The Purpose of the Gifts

State: *We may struggle with receiving gifts because we don't know what to do with them. That is not the case with spiritual gifts; they are not meant to sit on a shelf collecting dust but to be used to accomplish God's good purposes. Complete Day 4, activity 1.*

Evaluate how spiritual gifts might be misused and accomplish the opposite of the purposes detailed in Ephesians 4. Discuss Day 4, activity 2. **Explore** what it looks like to balance truth and love in exercising spiritual gifts.

Examine how keeping our focus on Jesus as Head of the body of Christ keeps our priorities in alignment as we use spiritual gifts to serve the body.

STEP 6 - The Outcome of the Gifts

Invite a volunteer to read Ephesians 4:16.

Determine the desired outcome of exercising spiritual gifts. Invite someone to read the paragraph beginning with "A healthy church."

Discuss: *How does using spiritual gifts according to Scripture create unity and love?*

Describe times you've seen this happen in gospel community.

STEP 7 - Practical Application – Live Out the Session

Ask in summary: *How do spiritual gifts connect to our mission to build the church and share the gospel?*

Draw attention to the "Focus on this goal" statement. **Ask:** *How can we focus on this goal this week?*

Close in prayer.

Leader Guide

The main point of this session is: Serving gifts are Spirit-given empowerments that reflect Christ's heart and build up the church through faithful action .

Focus on this goal: Embrace serving gifts—leadership, helps, mercy, and more—as vital expressions of the Spirit for God's glory and others' good .

Key Bible Passages: 1 Peter 4:11; Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-10; Ephesians 4:11

During the Session

STEP 1 - Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Ask if participants have given or received “coupons” that offer services as a gift. (For example: This coupon entitles you to one housecleaning, lawn mowing, babysitting, etc.)

Ask: *Which acts of service would participants enjoy receiving as a gift.*

Ask: *What if the coupon said, “This coupon entitles you to clean your neighbor's house.” Would that feel like a gift? Why?*

State: *In Christ's kingdom the gift isn't being served, but serving. When we embrace service as a Spirit-given, Spirit-empowered gift, we reflect Jesus who didn't come to be served, but to serve.*

STEP 2 - The Serving Gifts

Point out in Day 1 the four Scripture passages that list spiritual gifts .

Note: *It can be confusing to try to pull all the gifts together from these passages and they might not even provide an exhaustive list of spiritual gifts. It's helpful to organize them into two major categories.*

Complete Day 1, activity 1 .

Read the list of serving gifts in Day 1 and the paragraph that begins “Of course we want to be careful.”

Analyze how speaking and serving gifts complement one another .

Request adults refer back to 1 Peter 4:11, and state how the serving gifts are to be exercised . Invite responses to Day 1, activity 2 .

STEP 3 - Leadership

Invite volunteers to scan Romans 12:8 and 1 Corinthians 12:28 .

Identify the word that signifies leadership in each verse . **Briefly explain** the Greek root words for each leadership term .

Ask: *What are some unique abilities evident in a believer God has gifted with leadership? What makes leadership in Christ’s kingdom different from how the world regards leadership?*

Refer to the quotation of Matthew 20:25-28 and Day 2, activity 1 as the group discusses the second question .

Point out that servant leadership helps others flourish .

Ask: *How does that emphasize the necessity of serving with the strength God provides?*

Analyze how believers can treat leadership as a gift to be used humbly rather than a power to be abused or a responsibility to avoid .

Emphasize: *Our spiritual leaders are gifts! How can we treat them as such?*

Read the Day 2 paragraph beginning with “Note that a Christian does not need .”

Discuss Day 2, activity 2 .

STEP 4 - Helps

Read the Day 3 statement: *Practical work for the kingdom of God is a spiritual gift alongside the gifts we often argue about. In 1 Corinthians, this is called the gift of “helping,” in Romans this is called the gift of “service.”*

Discuss Day 3, activity 1 . Brainstorm practical examples of followers of Christ exercising the spiritual gift of helps .

Ask: *How can helping in practical ways be the most spiritual thing we can do at times?*

Invite responses to Day 3, activity 2 .

STEP 5 - Mercy, Giving, and Faith

Invite someone to read Romans 12:6-8. **Request** the group identify the serving gifts listed in these verses.

Discuss Day 4, activity 1.

Ask: *How does Romans 12:8 say the gift of giving is to be exercised.*

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. **Note** that verse 9 identifies faith as a spiritual gift.

Ask: *Does the fact that mercy, giving, and faith are spiritual gifts distributed by the Spirit to each person as He wills mean that if He has not graced us in one of these ways that we aren't required to show mercy, give, or demonstrate faith? What does it mean? What are some practical examples of followers of Jesus using their supernaturally powered, grace-given gifts of mercy, giving, and faith?*

Invite responses to Day 4, activity 3.

STEP 6 - Healing and Miracles

Discuss Day 5, activity 1.

Use the Day 5 remarks to explain the role of healing and miracles in the apostolic era. **Ask:** *How might the gifts of healing and miracles look different today than from the time of the apostles?*

Emphasize that healing and miracles might look different today but that doesn't mean they aren't happening.

Ask a volunteer to read James 5:15-17. **Analyze** what it looks like for us in this age to pray for healing and miracles. **Ask:** *Why do we hesitate to pray for miracles? How can we not lose faith when God doesn't choose to heal or perform a miracle we desperately pray for?*

Invite someone to read the final paragraph of Day 5. **Invite** responses to Day 5, activity 2.

STEP 7 - Practical Application – Live Out the Session

Read 1 Peter 4:11 again.

Analyze why each of the service gifts examined in this session must be from the strength God provides. **Urge** adults to embrace and use the serving gifts in ways that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything.

Close in prayer.

Leader Guide

The main point of this session is: Speaking gifts are Spirit-empowered tools to proclaim truth and build up the church.

Focus on this goal: Understand and use speaking gifts with humility, clarity, and love for God's glory and the church's growth.

Key Bible Passages: Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-10; 12:28; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 4:11

During the Session

STEP 1 - Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Guide the group to list the most common top ten fears.

Write responses on the board, making sure to include "public speaking."

Recall that 1 Peter 4:11 organizes spiritual gifts into two major categories: serving and speaking.

Say: *Last session we discovered being empowered to serve is a gift. This session we'll examine the truth that speaking isn't something to fear, rather it is a Spirit-empowered gift that graces the believer with the supernatural ability to proclaim truth and build up the church.*

STEP 2 - Speaking Gifts

Invite someone to read the speaking gifts listed in Day 1.

Ask: *How are speaking gifts also gifts of service? Are those with serving gifts also to speak at times? Elaborate.*

Use Day 1, activities 1 and 2 to explore how all believers are to speak.

Request a volunteer read Ephesians 4:15-16.

Evaluate why these verses are important to keep in mind when discussing the speaking gifts.

State: *Even if Christians disagree on these gifts, we must focus on the goals of building up the body in love and glorifying God rather than winning people over to our opinion.*

STEP 3 - Apostleship

Read 1 Corinthians 12:28 and Ephesians 4:11. **Ask:** *Keeping in mind that we are to “leave room for charity and grace” when discussing debated gifts, why should we be wary of people who use the title “apostle” for themselves? Explain the meaning of the “age of the apostles.”*

Emphasize from Day 2 that “we are living in a different era of the work of the Spirit.” **Explain** the Greek word for *apostle* can also mean “one sent.” **Ask:** *Based on that definition, who might have the gift of apostleship in this present church age?*

Read the Day 2 paragraph beginning with “This gift of missionary endeavors...” **Evaluate** why this gift is so desperately needed in the church today. Discuss Day 2, activity 2.

STEP 4 - Prophecy, Teaching, Exhortation

Consider why prophecy is another hotly debated spiritual gift **State:** *We cannot say prophecy is no longer a spiritual gift; it’s mentioned in all four lists of spiritual gifts and clearly identified as an important gift.*

Read 1 Corinthians 14:1 **Contrast** the Old and New Testament types of prophesying **Ask:** *Do you think most people want future-telling or forth-telling? Do you think most need future-telling or forth-telling? Explain. Consider examples of the gift of prophecy in the church today, both among “professional” ministers and lay-people.*

Read 1 Corinthians 12:28a (stopping at “teachers”) **Ask:** *How would you describe the spiritual gift of teaching?*

Invite someone to read 1 Corinthians 12:7-8 **Determine** the relationship between messages of wisdom and knowledge and the spiritual gift of teaching.

Ask: *What are ways believers can utilize their gift of teaching?* **Discuss** Day 3, activity 1.

Invite adults to use their mobile devices to look up definitions for *exhortation*. **Discuss** Day 3, activity 2.

Ask: *How can the gift of exhortation be exercised in paid and unpaid, public and private ways? When have you benefited from someone utilizing their Spirit-empowered gift of exhortation?*

STEP 5 - Evangelism

Invite someone to read Ephesians 4:11. **Ask:** *Which gift is mentioned that the group hasn't already examined.*

Request volunteers read Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 24:45-48; and Acts 1:8.

Ask: *Are these commissions from Christ just for preachers and those with the spiritual gift of evangelism? Explain.*

Invite responses to Day 4, activities 1 and 2.

Determine what sets apart the spiritual gift of evangelism from every believer's responsibility to share the good news of Christ.

Discuss: *Why are lay Christians, rather than church staff members, often the more effective evangelists? Who have you known who obviously has the gift of evangelism and what makes you say that? What is our responsibility if evangelism is not our spiritual gift?*

STEP 6 - Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues, and Discernment

Ask: *What are your initial thoughts when considering the gifts of tongues and interpretation of tongues?*

Relate from Day 5 the author's understanding of the gifts of tongues in Scripture.

Discuss Day 5, activity 1.

Request adults consult their Bibles and state how 1 Corinthians 12:10 words the gift of discernment.

Evaluate why the gift of discernment is so vital. **Consider** how the gift of discernment can be used negatively. Discuss Day 5, activity 2.

STEP 7 - Practical Application – Live Out the Session

Inquire: *Paul asks in 1 Corinthians 4:7, "What do you have that you didn't receive?" Why is that an important question to consider in regard to the speaking gifts? Why is humility in forth-telling truth just as vital as power, wisdom, knowledge, and clarity?*

Urge group to be intentional about humbly speaking the truth in love this week.

Close in prayer.

Leader Guide

The main point of this session is: Every believer is Spirit-gifted to serve the church—discovery comes through humble, intentional service in community .

Focus on this goal: Help believers identify and use their gifts through surrender, service, and Spirit-led confirmation—to build up the church and glorify God .

Key Bible Passages: 1 Corinthians 12:7, 15:58; 1 Timothy 4:14; Matthew 5:15; 16:24; 25:21; Romans 12:1; Galatians 5:13; 6:2; Hebrews 10:24; Proverbs 11:14; Acts 13:1-13; 16:16; Psalm 37:5

During the Session

STEP 1 - Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Ask: *What were you good at when you were a kid? What were you not so great at?*

Guide the group to explore how they discovered they were, or were not, good at sports, academics, or the arts .

State: *One reason we want to expose children to different activities is so they can discover what they are, and are not, gifted at. Just like children discovering their talents, discovering our spiritual gifts occurs through doing, trying, sometimes succeeding, and other times failing.*

Read the main point of this session statement .

STEP 2 - Why You Should Discover Your Gift

Ask: *Why do we want children to discover their talents and abilities?*

Note *Day 1 explores why we should discover our gifts.*

Discuss Day 1, activity 1 . Consider what this passage teaches about God .

Emphasize this passage does not teach that God is difficult as the third servant accused . He was using that as an excuse for his own failure .

Ask: *What did the two servants who did not squander their gifts hear from the master.*

Read the Day One paragraph that begins “Our goal should be to serve our Master well .”

Invite someone to read 1 Timothy 4:14 .

Evaluate ways believers neglect their gifts and what happens when they do .

Discuss Day 1, activity 2 .

Discuss: *Why might realizing our gifts are not given to us primarily for us, enable us to be intentional about discovering what the Spirit intends for our lives?*

STEP 3 - Surrendered and Servant-Hearted

Ask: *What might be some steps in discovering our gifts? Why might we want to know what our gifts are before we start serving?*

State: *Perhaps we hesitate to get involved in serving in new ways because we're afraid of failing, of discovering we are not gifted in that area. Which is why discovering our gifts requires humility.*

Examine what a posture of surrender looks like in a believer's life .

Discuss Day 2, activity 1 .

Point out: *Paul discusses spiritual gifts in Romans 12:3-8.*

Ask: *What might the well-known verses of Romans 12:1-2 mean in the context of spiritual gifts? How can a servant-hearted posture of surrender enable us to be used by the Spirit in ways we might not have anticipated?*

State: *When it comes to discovering how God has supernaturally gifted us, we're not to wait for the big thing or the perfect thing; rather we're to jump in and do the thing that needs doing!*

Invite responses to Day 2, activity 2 . **Read** the last paragraph of Day 2 .

STEP 4 - Be Spiritually Self-Aware

Ask: *Can anyone state Newton's First Law of Motion? (A body at rest stays at rest; a body in motion stays in motion) .* **Evaluate** how that law of physics may apply to how we discover our spiritual gifts .

Invite someone to read the J . D . Greear quote in Day 3 . **Say:** *That is what happened in Antioch.*

Invite someone to read Acts 13:1-3. **Declare:** *The church at Antioch was a living example of Hebrews 10:24-25.* Discuss Day 3, activity 1.

Emphasize discovering our spiritual gifts requires humble commitment to community.

Ask: *How have others' affirmations helped confirm spiritual gifts in your life? What gifts have you seen in others in this group that you'd like to affirm?*

Note: *Intentional conversations about spiritual gifts can help us be spiritually self-aware. We can also use critical thinking questions to become more aware of our gifts. It can also be helpful to consider our affinities, abilities, and affirmations.*

Ask: *As we discover and exercise our spiritual gifts, how can we appreciate others' affirmations without becoming dependent on those affirmations?*

STEP 5 - Your Story and Your Gifts

Invite someone to read a portion of Paul's testimony from Acts 26:12-18.

Discuss Day 4, activity 1.

Read the Day 4 paragraph beginning with "We are not Paul."

Invite volunteers to share how their unique life stories, their vocations, and their natural talents have shaped their gifting for ministry.

STEP 6 - Be Intentional

Note: *Discovering our gifts is an active, not passive, endeavor. The best way to discover our spiritual gifts is to get active serving, allowing successes and failures to confirm what our gifts are and are not.*

Note: *Spiritual gifts inventories can be a helpful tool.*

Indicate the free assessment available at lifeway.com/spiritualgifts. **Explore** cautions believers must exercise when using these assessment tools.

Invite responses to Day 5, activity 2.

STEP 7 - Practical Application – Live Out the Session

Review ways believers can be intentional in discovering their spiritual gifts.

Ask: *Which intentional steps have you already taken? Which would you like to take and how can we support and encourage you to do so?*

Close in prayer.

Leader Guide

The main point of this session is: Spiritual gifts are for building up the church—not self—through humble, loving service in community.

Focus on this goal: Equip believers to use their gifts in church, daily life, and beyond—through spiritual growth, community, and service.

Key Bible Passages: Romans 12:3; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 13:1-13; 16:1-4; Philippians 2:3-4; Hebrews 10:24-25; Galatians 5:13; Acts 5:42; Titus 2:14; 1 Thessalonians 2:14; Psalm 119:9; 1 Timothy 4:8; 2:15

During the Session

STEP 1 - Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Encourage the group to describe a good gift-giver.

Ask: *From what we've learned in this session series, which of those descriptions of a good gift-giver apply to God and why?* **Consider** how those descriptions might describe how believers are to receive spiritual gifts.

State: *We must express gratitude for our gifts, acknowledging we didn't earn them by their own merits. Additionally, we must use our gifts, not to selfishly serve ourselves, but to serve Christ and His church.*

STEP 2 - Your Gifts Are Not You

Discuss: *Why might some people be content to just learn about spiritual gifts? Why is it essential we progress from learning about the gifts to actually using them? Why is the phrase, "It's not about you" absolutely vital to keep in mind as we think about using our spiritual gifts?*

Invite someone to read Philippians 2:3-4. **Analyze** how these verses relate to spiritual gifts. **Determine** ways people use spiritual gifts out of selfish ambition or conceit, looking to their own interests.

Read the Day 1 paragraph that begins with "Before every act of service."

Examine what it means to proceed with confidence and humility.

Ask a volunteer to read Romans 12:3. **Evaluate** what it means to think about ourselves and our gifts sensibly.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:27-31. **Ask:** What is the better way?

Invite someone to read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3.

Determine examples (no names) of people exercising spiritual gifts without love. **Discuss** Day 1, activity 2.

Guide the group to paraphrase 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 positively, stating what can happen when we use our spiritual gifts out of love for God and others.

STEP 3 - Your Gifts in Community

Ask: *How have you observed attitudes toward church attendance change after the 2020 pandemic?*

Declare: *What has not changed is what God's Word says about gathering with God's people.*

Ask a volunteer to read Hebrews 10:23-25. **Use** the Day 2 remarks to provide the historical context for these verses.

Invite responses to Day 2, activity 1.

Point out: *This study has referred numerous times to the lists of gifts provided in 1 Corinthians 12:7-10 and 28-30.*

Request someone read what comes between those two lists in 1 Corinthians 12:14-24.

Discuss: *How might we say without words, "I'm not needed?" or "You're not needed"? How are both superior and inferior attitudes about our spiritual gifts evidence of sinful pride? What does God say about our gifts in this passage? Why might those considered to be the weaker members of a church body actually be some of the most necessary and effective? What does this passage indicate about the importance of being part of a local church?*

STEP 4 - Not Only on Sunday

Ask: *Why do you agree or disagree with the Day 3 statement: Most of the work of Christ happens outside the four walls of the church.*

Ask: *What is the implication of that for how, when, and where we utilize our spiritual gifts? What if we have a speaking gift that's typically used within the context of the gathered church, but there's no opening to use that gift—what should we do?*

Read the Day 3 paragraph that begins “If you read the New Testament.”

Discuss Day 3, activity 1.

Explore how being involved with this small group can help participants use their spiritual gifts.

Invite responses to Day 3, activity 2.

STEP 5 - Our Gifts Are for the Body

Invite someone to read 1 Corinthians 1:2.

Explore what this verse reminds us about the church.

Ask: *Have you ever felt connected to the worldwide body of Christ? If so, when and why? If we are connected to the universal church, what is our responsibility to that body?*

Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-4. **Discuss** Day 4, activities 1 and 2.

STEP 6 - Practice and Preparation Make Perfect

Ask: What are some good ways to develop a skill?

Invite someone to read 1 Timothy 4:8.

Discuss: *How can we train physically? Who benefits when we do? Who benefits when we train ourselves in godliness?*

Lead a discussion on how believers can train themselves in godliness.

Evaluate how prayer and Bible study can help believers discover and develop their spiritual gifts.

Read the Day 5 paragraph that begins “If God has given us a mission.”

Discuss Day 5, activities 1 and 2.

STEP 7 - Practical Application – Live Out the Session

Note: *The goal of this session is to: Equip believers to use their gifts in church, daily life, and beyond—through spiritual growth, community, and faithful service.*

Ask: *What are ways we can work toward that goal, both individually and as a group this week? this month? this year?*

Close in prayer.