

Week 02

LEADER GUIDE



CONNECT

Have everyone share the most awkward birthday, Christmas, or anniversary gift they have ever received. After everyone shares, decide as a group which of these gifts wins the most awkward gift award! (LEADER: Increase the fun factor by having some kind of inexpensive but fun award to give out.)

LEARN

Watch the video (Video #2 at sjepe.com/gps-resources) and fill in the blanks.

To discover your Masterpiece Mission, you must answer two questions about your gifts:

- What are my ordinary, everyday _____ and skills?
- What are my _____ gifts?

I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that. 1 Corinthians 7:7

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: 'When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.' Ephesians 4:4-8

Every believer has at least _____ Spirit-empowered gift - and when you use it, it unleashes a supernatural impact on the heart, mind, and soul of other people.

Knowing your gifts, both _____ and _____, is absolutely essential to engaging your Masterpiece Mission.

Examples of **natural versus supernatural gifts** are found in the life of King David.¹ From his boyhood days in the fields tending sheep, David honed the skill of the SLING (natural gifts) with sniper precision. He also learned to play the HARP, but his harp-playing was far more than sweet music to the ears:²

David played an instrument called the kinnor, which we translate as “lyre” or “harp.” The kinnor had around ten strings, and each string played a different note on what is called the pentatonic scale. David most likely learned to play the kinnor on the hillside or in the fields during quiet moments while he was shepherding, or late at night around the fire, and he was such an accomplished musician that King Saul invited David to play for him. But David’s harp playing for the king wasn’t for mere entertainment. When David plucked the strings on his kinnor, more than musical notes filled the air. His playing had supernatural power, impacting not only the ears but the hearts and minds of those listening.



We know this because the Bible tells us that an evil spirit was tormenting King Saul. At times, his torment was so intense, he would rage uncontrollably. Not sure what to do, his counselors recommended music therapy, and David was invited to be his music therapist. First Samuel 16:23 says, “David would take the harp and play it with his hand; and Saul would be refreshed and be well, and the evil spirit would depart from him” (NASB). David’s harp playing drove away Saul’s demon.

We don’t know exactly how or why, since the dynamics of the unseen realm cannot be graphed on a chart, and we don’t have clear instructions on how all this worked. But the Scriptures do provide us with windows into the interconnected realities of the seen and unseen realms. In this passage, we learn that David’s harp playing had an effect beyond the natural. The Spirit of God put his super onto David’s natural and created a supernatural ability to drive away demonic evil.



DISCUSS

- 1. What are your slings--your ordinary, everyday skills that you’ve learned and developed over the years?**
- 2. What is your harp--a Spirit-empowered ability that you could not do through your own natural strength, wisdom, or skill?**

¹ You can read about his life and calling starting in 1 Samuel 16.

² Excerpt from Wegner, Rob; Phipps, Brian. Find Your Place (pp. 69-70). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

- 3. Did you take the assessment yet? What are your top 2-3 gifts and what are your top 2-3 abilities? Where have you used these gifts and abilities before in your life? Where are you using them now?**

LEADER: Do your best to have everyone share. Some people will naturally be more reserved about sharing, but do your best to encouragingly draw out responses. Reminder: use the “groups within the group” format if you think that will help people feel more comfortable sharing.

Inevitably, some people are not happy with the results from their assessment. We immediately hear a “But!” or a “What About?” These two responses stem from two different causes. The “But!” people are unhappy about the gifts that are listed... [The ‘What About?’ people] are unhappy about the gifts that are not listed for them. They say something like, “What about the gift of . . . ?” They are expecting and hoping to see a gift that does not show up. More often than not, this is because they are attracted to a gift they’ve seen being used powerfully in someone else’s life.³

- 4. After taking the assessment, did you have any “Buts” or “What Abouts” in response to your top gifts?**

LEADER: Go first with this answer. This requires vulnerability, and you set the tone with your honesty!

Read the following verses:

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them...All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

1 Cor. 12:4,11

- 5. According to these verses, who determined your gift set? Does that change the way you view your gifts?**
- 6. Which of the four Gift Guidelines is most important for you to remember as you develop your calling? Explain.**

- Gifts were given to make you helpful, not happy. (1 Cor 12:7)
- Gifts foster interdependence, not independence. (1 Cor 12:20-21)
- Gifts are a means to love more than things to love. (1 Cor 12:31-13:1)
- Gifts are to be used to their fullest potential. (Rom 12:6-8)

³ Wegner, Rob; Phipps, Brian. Find Your Place (p. 74). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

7. These gifts are deposits from God, and He is expecting a return on His investment (see parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30). How does this motivate/inspire you? What happens when we don't faithfully exercise our gifts?
8. The gifts are not just about "Your body in the Body," but also Your Body FOR the body (aka "the common good" in 1 Cor 12:7). How are you building the church right now? Do you feel like you are using your gift?
9. Do you think "new" gifts might be added to the Scriptural lists if the lists were written today--for today's culture and current Body needs?

LEADER: #9 has no right or wrong answer. Theologians have debated this and still debate it to this day. I (Nate) personally do not think the spiritual gift lists in the Bible are "closed." I think there could still be room for new gifts to be given as the needs of the Church change within cultural contexts. However, any potentially new specific gifts can probably fit into the categories already listed in the New Testament. So we'll start with the Bible's categories (which the assessment uses). The point of the question is to help people see the purpose of the gifts--to build the Body--and be encouraged that they are gifted even if their gift does not have an *obvious* connection to the New Testament categories.

FOR NEXT WEEK

- **If you haven't yet, take the online gifts assessment** by clicking on the blue "Online Gifts Assessment" box at the bottom of this page: <https://sjepc.com/gps-groups>
 - *Once you create an account through the provided church-specific assessment link you must login to your account at www.giftpassionstory.com to access your account and view or complete your assessment.*
- **Take some extra time to journal about your slings & harps.** *How do you see God using each currently? Do you feel affirmed about things you are already doing? Do you feel drawn to step out in faith in any new ways of service? What is God trying to teach you right now?*
- Take some notes on Sunday's sermon.

PRAY

Ask for the Spirit's guidance as we seek to recognize and discover our slings and our harps. Pray for one another to trust God's wisdom and purpose for how he has gifted each one. Pray for our congregation's spiritual fitness through the way we steward these gifts.