

# Do Your Job

*August 27, 2023*

## Lesson Summary

### **Main Passages**

John 21:15-17,20-23; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

### **Session Outline**

1. You Are Gifted (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)
2. You Are Called (John 21:15-17)
3. Get to Work (John 21:20-23)

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### **Theological Theme**

Every believer receives spiritual gifts. Although we might feel tempted to compare gifts and wish for what others have received, Jesus was clear that each person should stay focused on using and developing his or her own gifts for the sake of the kingdom.



## Leader Guide

# Do Your Job

### Introduction

How often do you find yourself scrolling through social media and getting caught up in what other people are posting and doing? Do you ever start to wish your life looked more like theirs? Although we know we should not get caught up in comparing our life to what we see online or in person, the temptation to compare your life to others seems overwhelming.

While keeping up with what other people are posting and doing isn't wrong, it can produce negative consequences. It is a problem when you find yourself spending more time looking at others' lives than being present in your own. We often experience discontentment when we fall into the trap of comparing our lives to others. Scripture addresses the tendency to compare ourselves to other people and gives clear instruction on what to do when our focus rests more on what they are doing than on what we should be doing.

- ❓ When have you felt discontent from observing others' lives?
- ❓ Why is it especially tempting to compare yourself to others in the age of social media?

### Session Summary

It is important for all Christians to know and recognize they have been given gifts by the Holy Spirit. These gifts are widely diverse and yet all have a common purpose. Spiritual gifts should be used for the good of the body as a whole and not for personal gain.

**(To discover your gift see links in the application section of this study)**

We should not get caught up in comparing and assessing our gifts against those of another believer. It's easy to focus on what other people are doing instead of what God has called us to do. Peter did exactly that when he deflected Jesus's question in John 21 by asking about another

disciple. Jesus was clear and direct, telling Peter it wasn't his job to worry about what anyone else was doing with their gifts or calling but to stay focused on his life. This is helpful guidance for believers today. When we fulfill the role God has given us then the body will flourish, and the gospel will continue to spread.

## 1. You Are Gifted (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

Although all spiritual gifts come from the Holy Spirit, Paul stressed to the believers in Corinth diversity and unity both exist in these gifts. Each Christ follower receives gifts from the Spirit to be used for a common purpose. The gifts come from the same divine source and are specifically intended for certain individuals as the means of building up the whole body.

We tend to look at our spiritual gifts and either think too highly of them or devalue them based on others' gifts. Both responses are wrong. This is why Paul made a clear statement about the purposes and function of the gifts. We fail to use our gifts in the intended way when we become focused on comparison and pride or jealousy.

- ❓ How does it change your perspective on the gifts you and others have received to remember God gave each person specific gifts based on His desire for them? How does this make the value of all the gifts equal?

Paul said no matter the gift, all have a role, and all are valuable in God's kingdom. Paul addressed the temptation of thinking that one gift was better or more important than another. When you realize the common source and goal of the gifts, you can understand they all work together and are all vital to the work of the gospel.

- ❓ When have you been tempted to think too highly or too lowly of your spiritual gifts?

**Leader Note:** Have your group members share about their gifts in groups of 3-4

There is no place for inflating the value of your gift or devaluing it. God's power can be displayed and poured out in innumerable ways. Our role is to recognize the gifts we have received and use them to bring glory to God. Evidence of the spiritual gifts in our lives is described as the manifest presence of God. When sinful, imperfect human beings serve, love, share, teach, lead, and use their gifts rightly, it is proof that the Spirit of God is at work among us.

When we obey Scripture and fulfill the purpose of our gifts, others will notice that there is a greater power at work in us. Paul stressed that the common goal of the spiritual gifts is for the profit of all. We should never seek personal gain or glorification from our gifts but remember they were given to us for the good of the body of Christ as a whole.

- Application: How should the common purpose for the spiritual gifts affect the way you look at your own spiritual gifts?

## 2. You Are Called (John 21:15-17)

The interaction between Jesus and Peter in John 21 took place after the resurrection. It was a powerful moment of restoration and challenge for Peter. As predicted, he had denied Jesus three times prior to the crucifixion. That morning on the shore, Jesus took the time to restore Peter.

### Do You Love Me?

Following their breakfast meal on the shores of the Sea of Tiberias, Jesus turned to Peter and asked a series of questions related to Peter's devotion. The first word for love, used in Jesus' first two questions, refers to a love that involves the will and personality. The second kind of love, indicated by the word for love used in the third question of Jesus, refers more to the emotions than to the will.

- Why would it be important for Jesus to restore Peter in the presence of the other disciples following Peter's public denial?

Jesus addressed Peter personally, using the name Simon, and asked about his love for Jesus. Before his denial of Christ, Peter had claimed to love Jesus more than the others. On this day, Jesus asked him to assess and restate his love. This gave Peter an opportunity to show his humility and reassert his love for Jesus. After asking this question twice, Jesus responded to Peter with a command on how to act toward God's people. Often, love for Jesus is revealed in our actions toward others.

- How does the way we treat God's people show our love or lack thereof for Jesus?

If we love Jesus, we will feed and tend to His sheep. We will stay focused on obeying the Word and not continually compare ourselves to those around us. Peter previously had an inflated sense of his own commitment to Jesus, and he was humbled by the reality of his own weakness. When we hold ourselves up or think our gifts are better than someone else's, we allow pride a place it should not have.

Jesus asked Peter a third time and this time responded by pointing to the sacrifice Peter would make as a display of his genuine love for Christ. Asking Peter the question three times aligned with the three times Peter had previously denied Jesus. After Jesus restored Peter, he renewed the commandment to follow Him.

This call is the same for all followers of Jesus. To reach the world with the gospel, we must be intentional about using the gifts we have been given. Jesus stated this clearly in Matthew 22:37. When we love God rightly, then we, like Peter, will recognize our calling and seek to use the gifts we have been given to profit the whole body and bring glory to God.

- ❓ Application: Can you honestly say you are seeking to love God with your whole heart, soul, and mind? What needs to change for this to be the case?

### 3. Get to Work (John 21:20-23)

In response to Jesus's command, Peter responded like we often do today. After hearing the Lord's challenge to him, Peter looked around at the others and asked a question about Jesus's intention for John.

- ❓ Why is it often easier to focus on what others are doing or not doing than on the ways Jesus is speaking to us directly?

When confronted with an issue, kids will often immediately deflect by turning the attention to another person. Apparently, we don't outgrow this tendency because adults often respond in the same way—even within the church. It may be when a leader invites you to step up into a new role or gives you an opportunity to put your gifts to use in a new way. Have you ever responded with a question designed to move the attention to a different person?

Instead of stepping up and living out the call of God on our lives, we often look for ways to deflect attention and avoid responding. Jesus knew what was happening addressed it with Peter.

- ❓ When have you sought to deflect attention instead of responding directly to an opportunity for you to serve or minister? What might you have missed by not taking this opportunity?

Without addressing John's call, Jesus essentially told Peter to mind his own business. The thing Peter needed to do was focus on his own calling instead of worrying about what everyone else was doing. The time to respond to Jesus is always now. It is clear Jesus wanted Peter to see this truth because He repeated the command for Peter to follow Him. We should heed this response as well.

Instead of delaying our response so someone else might step up in our place, we need to obey Jesus when we have the opportunity. We gain nothing from comparing our gifts and calling to others'. When God calls you to obedience, you may not even be the most skilled person for the task; it is more about the way God wants to shape and use you for His purposes and your own good. Stay focused on what God wants you to do. It is that simple.



Application: What do you need to do differently so that you respond appropriately to Jesus's call on your life?

## Conclusion

All Christ followers receive spiritual gifts. These are not tools of comparison or to create jealousy; the same Holy Spirit gives them with a common purpose. They are both diverse and unifying. These gifts are not meant for personal gain or glory but for the good of the whole body of Christ.

*First*, discover your gift. *Second*, find a coach or mentor to help you develop that gift. *Third*, go to work. Find a place to serve others using your gift. Receive the fulfillment God offers by using your gift faithfully.

Jesus had an important conversation with Peter following the resurrection in which He stressed the importance of obeying His call on our lives without becoming distracted by His purposes for others. By asking Peter the same basic question three times, Jesus restored Peter in front of the other disciples and made a vital point about Peter's calling.

When we question what our next step should be, we can look to what God has already commanded and just obey. In Matthew 22:37, Jesus made it clear our focus should be on loving God and people.

From Jesus's and Peter's interaction, we also learn we are to stay focused on what God wants us to do and not compare our calling with others. Although it is easy to get distracted by what everyone else is involved in, this is counterproductive to our own spiritual walk. It is time to respond in obedience to what God has called us to do.

## Resource Links

**Discover your gift:** <https://brentwood.servesurvey.com/>

### **Coaching:**

To become a coach: <https://brentwoodbaptist.com/event-details/?id=207773>

To be coached: <https://brentwood.church/coaching/>



What is God calling you to do to show your love for Him by loving His people?

## Prayer of Response

*Thank the Lord for the way He has gifted you and empowered you. Confess ways you have delayed in responding to His call and commit to obeying when He gives you opportunities to love His people and feed His sheep.*

## Additional Resources

- *Exalting Jesus in John* by Matt Carter and John Wredberg
- *John* by R.C. Sproul
- *Be Transformed* by Warren Wiersbe

## Disciples Multiplying Disciples



### Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

1. What does this passage say?
2. What did this passage mean to its original audience?
3. What does this passage tell us about God?
4. What does this passage tell us about man?
5. What does this passage demand of me?
6. How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
7. How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

\*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC



## For Next Week

### Session Title

- Time to Get to Work

### Main Passages

- John 9:1-7; James 4:13-17

### Session Outline

1. The Time Is Now (John 9:1-7)
2. The Time Is Short (James 4:13-15)
3. Do What You Know to Do (James 4:16-17)

### Memorize

*“If I want him to remain until I come,” Jesus answered, “what is that to you? As for you, follow me.” - John 21:22*

### Prayer

1. Ask God to show you your gifts and how to use them in your church and your community.
2. Ask God for guidance on your next step in developing your gifts.

# Historical Context of John

## Purpose

The purpose statement in 20:30–31 indicates that John wrote with an evangelistic purpose, probably seeking to reach unbelievers through Christian readers of his Gospel. If the date of composition was after AD 70, the time of the destruction of the Jerusalem temple, it is likely that John sought to present Jesus as the new temple and center of worship for God’s people in replacement of the old sanctuary.

## Author

A close reading of the Gospel of John suggests that the author was an apostle (1:14; cp. 2:11; 19:35); one of the Twelve (“the disciple Jesus loved,” 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:20; cp. 21:24–25); and, still more specifically, John, the son of Zebedee (note the association of “the disciple Jesus loved” with Peter in 13:23–24; 18:15–16; 20:2–9; 21; and in Lk 22:8; Ac 1:13; 3–4; 8:14–25; Gl 2:9). The church fathers, too, attested to this identification (e.g., Irenaeus). Since the apostolic office was foundational in the history of the church (Ac 2:42; Eph 2:20), the apostolic authorship of John’s Gospel invests it with special authority as firsthand eyewitness (Jn 15:27; 1Jn 1:1–4).

## Setting

The most plausible date of writing is the period between AD 70 (the date of the destruction of the temple) and 100 (the end of John’s lifetime), with a date in the 80s most likely. A date after 70 is suggested by the references to the Sea of Tiberias in 6:1 and 21:1 (a name widely used for the Sea of Galilee only toward the end of the first century); Thomas’s confession of Jesus as “my Lord and my God” in 20:28 (possibly a statement against emperor worship in the time of Domitian); the reference to Peter’s martyrdom, which occurred in 65 or 66 (21:19); the lack of reference to the Sadducees, who ceased to be a Jewish religious party after 70; and the comparative ease with which John equated Jesus with God (1:1, 14, 18; 10:30; 20:28).

## Special Features

The Gospel of John is different from the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—in that more than ninety percent of its material is unique. John’s Gospel does not focus on the miracles, parables, and public speeches that are so prominent in the other accounts. Instead, the Gospel of John emphasizes the identity of Jesus as the Son of God and how we, as believers, should respond to his teachings.

## Extended Commentary

### John 21:15-23

21:15 On Simon, son of John, see note at 1:42. Jesus's question do you love me more than these? probably meant, "Do you love me more than these disciples do?" rather than, "Do you love me more than these fish [i.e., his profession]?" or "Do you love me more than you love these men?" though each of the three meanings is possible.

21:15–17 Peter had denied Jesus three times (18:15–18, 25–27); now Jesus asked him three times to reaffirm his love for him before recommissioning him for gospel service.

21:18 Stretch out your hands refers to crucifixion, where a person's hands and arms are spread out and nailed to the crossbeam. Tradition says Peter chose to be crucified upside down because he felt himself unworthy of dying in the same exact manner as Jesus.

21:19 The reference to indicate by what kind of death Peter would glorify God echoes the reference "to indicate what kind of death he [Jesus] was about to die" in 12:33. This verse therefore establishes a connection between the deaths of Jesus and Peter. As God's Lamb, Jesus died for the sins of the world (1:29, 36); Peter died a martyr's death, giving his life as a witness to his faith in Jesus.

21:21–23 Like the final chapter of Matthew, the closing verses of John's Gospel dispel a rumor. Matthew denied that Jesus's disciples stole his body (Mt 28:11–15; cp. Mt 27:62–66) while John sought to lay to rest the rumor that Christ had promised to return during John's lifetime.<sup>1</sup>

### 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

12:4–11a The Spirit according to his will distributes a diversity of gifts to the body for its common benefit. Verses 4–6 and the beginning of v. 11 have a variety of wordplays that frame this section.

12:4–6 The same triune God brings about a variety of gifts and manifests diverse ministries within the corporate body. The different gifts ... ministries, and activities within the unified church reflect the essential unity and unified work of the persons of the Godhead (vv. 6, 11, 24, 27–28)—the same Spirit, the same Lord, the same God.

12:7–10 Each manifestation of the Spirit in a believer is given by God for the mutual benefit of the whole body of believers (cp. vv. 12–31). "Manifestation of the Spirit" refers to gifts, ministries, and activities made possible by the Spirit's enabling power (vv. 8–10). Similar lists of spiritual gifts are given in v. 28; Rm 12:6–8; Eph 4:11; and 1Pt 4:10–11.<sup>2</sup>

## References

1. Andreas J. Köstenberger, “John,” in *CSB Study Bible: Notes*, ed. Edwin A. Blum and Trevin Wax (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2017), 1710-1711.
2. F. Alan Tomlinson, “1 Corinthians,” in *CSB Study Bible: Notes*, ed. Edwin A. Blum and Trevin Wax (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2017), 1828–1829.

## Author Bio

### Matt Carter (Exalting Jesus in John)

Matt Carter serves as the Pastor of Preaching and Vision at the Austin Stone Community Church in Austin, Texas, which has grown from a core team of 15 to over 8,000 attending each Sunday since he planted it in 2002. Matt has co-authored multiple books including a commentary on the Gospel of John in The Christ Centered Exposition Commentary series. Matt also co-authored a novel of historical fiction, *Steal Away Home* which tells the real life story of famed pastor Charles Spurgeon’s unlikely friendship with former slave-turned-missionary, Thomas Johnson. Matt holds an M.Div. from Southwestern Seminary and a Doctorate in Expository Preaching from Southeastern Seminary. He and his wife Jennifer have been married for over 20 years, and they have three children, John Daniel, Annie, and Samuel.

### John Wredberg (Exalting Jesus in John)

Josh Wredberg has served on the pastoral staff of churches in Michigan, Illinois, and North Carolina, and as teaching pastor at Redeemer Community Church in Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina. He is a graduate of Maranatha Baptist University and Shepherds Theological Seminary. Josh has also earned a doctorate in preaching from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Cari, have three boys, Jack, Max, and Caed.

### R.C. Sproul (John)

R.C. Sproul (1939–2017) was founder of Ligonier Ministries in Orlando, Fla. He was also copastor of Saint Andrew’s Chapel, first president of Reformation Bible College, and executive editor of *Tabletalk* magazine. His radio program, *Renewing Your Mind*, is still broadcast daily on hundreds of radio stations around the world and can also be heard online.

### Warren Wiersbe (Be Transformed)

Warren W. Wiersbe, former pastor of the Moody Church and general director of *Back to the Bible*, has traveled widely as a Bible teacher and conference speaker. Because of his encouragement to those in ministry, Dr. Wiersbe is often referred to as “the pastor’s pastor.” He has ministered in churches and conferences throughout the United States as well as in Canada, Central and South America, and Europe. Dr. Wiersbe has written over 150 books, including the popular BE series of commentaries on every book of the Bible, which has sold more than four million copies. At the 2002 Christian Booksellers Convention, he was awarded the Gold Medallion Lifetime Achievement Award by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association. Dr. Wiersbe and his wife, Betty, live in Lincoln, Nebraska.