A screenshot of a website

Description automatically generated

**OPEN THE CONVERSATION**

Take some time to build relationships with the students:

* Ask for each student’s high and low from the week.
* Today’s RBQ (Relationship Building Question): What is the best gift you have ever received?

**INTRODUCTION**

Have you ever received a gift that you didn’t expect but really needed? Maybe it was a gift that perfectly suited you—like a book you’ve been wanting to read, a jacket that kept you warm, or a special tool for a hobby you enjoy. The thing about gifts is that they’re meant to be used and appreciated. In the same way, God has given every believer spiritual gifts. These gifts are like tools that God has specifically designed for us to use to serve others. Whether it’s serving, teaching, encouraging, or any other gift, God wants us to use these gifts to help build His kingdom. We are called to discover those gifts and use them for God’s glory.

In 1 Corinthians 12, the Apostle Paul writes to the church in Corinth to help them understand the importance of spiritual gifts and how they are meant to be used. The church was struggling with division, and people were comparing their gifts, thinking some were more important than others. Paul reminds them that the Holy Spirit gives gifts to all believers, and that each gift is important, no matter how big or small it seems.

***READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-11 - God Gives Gifts to All***

1. Why do you think it’s important for every believer to have a gift? How does it make you feel to know that God has given you a gift for a purpose?
2. How does it feel to know that spiritual gifts come from the Holy Spirit, not from our own abilities? How can this impact our attitude towards the gifts we have?

***READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-20 - Diversity and Unity of the Gifts***

1. What are some different ways people serve in the body of Christ? How do these different gifts work together to make the Church strong and effective? Can you think of examples in your life where you've seen people using their gifts for the Church?
2. Have you ever felt left out or like your role wasn’t as important as others? How can we overcome feelings of comparison and focus on our own unique gifts?

***READ 1 CORITHIANS 12:21-31- The Purpose of the Gifts***

1. What do you think would happen if people didn’t use their spiritual gifts? How does understanding the purpose of your gifts affect the way you view serving others?

**WRAP UP**

**Ask the students to think of one specific way they can use their spiritual gifts to serve others this week.**

*Ask for any prayer requests and pray for everyone to discover and use their spiritual gifts to bring glory to God and build up the body of Christ.*

**EXTENDED CUT**

The apostle Paul wrote the letter to the Corinthians to address various issues in the church, including divisions, moral problems, and misunderstandings about spiritual gifts. The church in Corinth was facing a lot of internal conflict, and many were struggling with their roles within the body of Christ. Some members of the church were boasting about their spiritual gifts, comparing themselves to others, and creating divisions based on who had what gifts. This led Paul to teach them about the diversity and unity of the gifts and how each person’s role was vital in building the body of Christ. Paul also wanted to remind the Corinthians that spiritual gifts are not signs of personal superiority. In a culture that often-emphasized individualism and self-glorification, it was easy for the Corinthians to elevate certain gifts (such as speaking in tongues or prophecy) over others (like helping or showing mercy). Paul’s letter corrects these misunderstandings, stressing that all gifts come from the same Spirit and are equally valuable for building up the church.

In our world today, the concept of spiritual gifts is just as relevant. The Church today is made up of diverse people with various talents, abilities, and callings. Just like in Corinth, it’s easy for us to fall into the trap of comparing our gifts with others. Spiritual gifts today can look like teaching, serving, encouraging, leading worship, giving, organizing events, providing hospitality, counseling, praying for others, and many other forms of service. The key is to recognize that our gifts are not for our personal fame or success. Instead, they are for the building up of the body of Christ. When we use our gifts to serve others, we are reflecting Christ’s love and helping the Church grow in strength and unity.

**1. Why do you think it’s important for every believer to have a gift? How does it make you feel to know that God has given you a gift for a purpose?**

It’s important for every believer to have a gift because God designed us all to contribute to His kingdom in different ways. Each gift plays a vital role in building up the Church. Knowing that God has a purpose for each of us can be encouraging and motivating, knowing that we are not left out or overlooked. It helps us see that we are part of something bigger than ourselves.

**2.** **How does it feel to know that spiritual gifts come from the Holy Spirit, not from our own abilities? How can this impact our attitude towards the gifts we have?**

It’s humbling to realize that our gifts come from the Holy Spirit and not from our own talents. This helps us remember that we are not the source of our abilities, and it keeps us from becoming prideful. Instead, we should feel grateful and recognize that we are stewards of the gifts God has given us, using them for His glory rather than our own.

**3. What are some different ways people serve in the body of Christ? How do these different gifts work together to make the Church strong and effective? Can you think of examples in your life where you've seen people using their gifts for the Church?**

We are all created with unique talents and abilities. Different people serve in many different ways—some might teach Sunday school, some might lead worship, others might serve meals to those in need, or even pray for others. When everyone works together, the Church is stronger. For example, in a church service, one person may lead worship, another may preach, and others might prepare food for events. Without each role, the church wouldn’t function as well. Every role is needed for the body to be healthy.

**4. Have you ever felt left out or like your role wasn’t as important as others? How can we overcome feelings of comparison and focus on our own unique gifts?**

It’s easy to feel left out, especially when we compare ourselves to others, but every gift is valuable to God. Instead of comparing, we should focus on what God has called us to do. We should ask God to show us how to use our gifts to serve others and trust that He has placed us in the body for a reason. When we stop comparing, we can appreciate the diversity of gifts and celebrate how they work together to build up the Church.

**5. What do you think would happen if people didn’t use their spiritual gifts? How does understanding the purpose of your gifts affect the way you view serving others?**

If people didn’t use their spiritual gifts, the Church would be missing key parts and would be weaker as a result. The body of Christ can’t function well if everyone isn’t using their gifts. Understanding the purpose of our gifts helps us see that serving others is not just about helping them—it’s about helping the Church grow and fulfill God’s mission. When we serve, we help others know and experience God’s love.