



Ice Breaker (in groups of 2 or 3 for larger groups)

What's your favorite type of gift to receive?

Talk About it!

QUESTION 1

John 14:15-17 New Living Translation

15 "If you love me, obey my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. 17 He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you."

John 14:25-26 New Living Translation

25 I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. 26 But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

John 16:13 New Living Translation

13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.

Discuss:

What are some of the things the Holy Spirit does for a believer?
How have you personally experienced some of these works of the Holy Spirit?

QUESTION 2

Romans 14:17-18 New Living Translation

17 For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve of you, too.

Discuss:

What has helped you to live in the reality of God's empowering presence?
What kinds of habits or life patterns get in the way of this?

QUESTION 3

Ephesians 5:15-17 New Living Translation

15 So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. 16 Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. 17 Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.

Discuss:

How are you engaging in the 'continual filling' that is described?
If you are not, why not? What steps could you take to live this out?



QUESTION 4

1 Corinthians 12:1-4 New Living Translation

1 Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. I don't want you to misunderstand this. 2 You know that when you were still pagans, you were led astray and swept along in worshipping speechless idols. 3 So I want you to know that no one speaking by the Spirit of God will curse Jesus, and no one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit.

4 There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all.

Discuss:

Why are pagan spiritual influences so captivating for people? In light of this, why is it important for Jesus' followers to make room for the Flow of the Holy Spirit?

QUESTION 5

1 Corinthians 12:5-7 New Living Translation

5 There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. 6 God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. 7 A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

Discuss:

Are spiritual gifts meant to be rare? What or who is at work in the use of spiritual gifts?
What did you learn in this message about the nature of the 'gifts' of the Spirit?

QUESTION 6

1 Corinthians 12:8-11 New Living Translation

8 To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. 9 The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. 10 He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. 11 It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

Discuss:

Are spiritual gifts meant to be rare? What or who is at work in the use of spiritual gifts?
What did you learn in this message about the nature of the 'gifts' of the Spirit?