

## Discipleship Activity: Willingly serve my local church and community in the context of my spiritual gifts

### Spiritual Gifts Survey

Instructions:

“What’s in the Box?” is a simple approach to find and practicing our spiritual gifts. The task for the loving and mission-minded church is to ask, “What’s in the Box?” In other words, “What is in our members’ hearts that can significantly shape and move our church forward – today?”

Filling out the survey:

1. Indicate whether each statement is:

Almost	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently	Almost Always
1	2	3	4	5

For example, a statement might declare “I get really frustrated when I hear people talking about doing something but not doing it.” If you “almost never” feel that way, then you would circle the 1 under “almost never.” If you find that you frequently get upset about that, then you would circle number 4.

2. As you answer all the statements, put the number you chose for each question in the light gray area of the column to the right. You should have 10 numbers in each column. Add up the total for each column and write the score in the box at the bottom of the chart.
3. The higher scores are in the areas of the gift you might have. The way to know for sure is to practice using those gifts, and as you have success, you will become more certain about the way God has gifted you.

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully” (Romans 12:6-8).

The ChristWise approach to spiritual gifts is based on Romans 12:6-8. Some studies on spiritual gifts have up to 24 different spiritual gifts as part of their inventory. For new members, we use the passage in Romans because it simplifies the gifts into seven major categories, which are easier to manage.

The following is a summary of the gifts with a short explanation and an example of what that might look like as you use it to minister to others.

### Prophecy: Speaking the wisdom of God

The term *prophecy* might scare people because it carries all kinds of ideas from calling fire down out of heaven to being able to see into the future. While those experiences may occur, the gift of prophecy has more to do with a person’s ability to understand and speak wisely on behalf of God. Individuals who have this gift have the ability to be “in tune” with God in a special way. They tend to be willing to speak up, speak out, and go against the flow of peer pressure. You might see it in the way a young person tries to get people to “do the right thing.” We don’t want to avoid the possibility that they might see “dreams and visions,” but mostly the gift involves courage and character and being really perceptive.

### Server

Those who just want to get things done have tremendous value to the church. When God lives in such individuals, great things happen for Him. While some may just want to make plans, helpers make lists of the things to do and get started. They feel best when they are working, and even if the details seem menial, they see how the little parts can fit into the big picture. You can see it in children who always have to be helping, constantly volunteering, and can’t sit still for very long.

## **Teacher/Learner**

We combine the gift of teacher/learner because most good teachers love learning. Rarely are teachers effective if they are not teachable themselves. In the church, they like to study and discover truth and also enjoy finding the best ways to communicate it. Such kids not only love it when they understand but they enjoy the way they discovered it and seem to be willing to help others learn.

## **Builder**

Builders have the ability to challenge and strengthen others with their words and deeds. Often called the gift of encouragement, it comes from the idea of building a house. We construct a house step-by-step, piece-by-piece. It is obvious as well that while it takes time to build a house, it requires only one stick of dynamite or one earthquake or tornado to utterly destroy it. The same is true with our words and actions. Negative words and actions can destroy quickly, but positive affirmation builds gradually. The builder has a special ability to say the right thing at the right time. Desiring to move people forward with their words and actions, they tend to be positive, proactive people.

## **Giver**

Those who joyfully spend their time, talents, service, and resources for good works we call givers. They don't have to have a lot of money to have this gift—most young people don't. But their sacrificial spirit and generosity tend to stick out. What drives them is not the appearance of being a generous person, but that they just feel so good about helping other people that they are free with their time, their stuff, and their energy.

## **Leader**

People have many different ideas about what really makes someone a leader. The word literally means “to stand before,” or “to preside.” Some think it is the person who is the loudest. One of the best definitions for leadership is “the ability to influence others.” This could go both ways (positive or negative). Have you heard some of the stories great leaders tell about their childhood—all the trouble they caused? Somehow, thought, they were able to influence others. The best leaders are ones who tend to get others involved instead of being the one who does everything themselves. A leader who has to go everything is usually a server in the wrong job.

## **Compassion**

The gift of compassion is the natural inclination to show mercy and to bring help and healing to another person. If someone is lonely, hungry, or hurting, the gift of compassion moves people deep within. Such individuals have to do something about a problem. You can see it in those who reach to injustice or unfairness. When there is an opportunity to make a difference, they become a part of the healing. The difference between someone with the gift of compassion and someone who is a server is that compassion sees someone in pain sooner than others.

# Spiritual Gifts Survey

Questions	Answers					Gifts						
	Almost Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently	Almost Always							
I am very sensitive to what is good and what is not.	1	2	3	4	5							
I am the first person to jump in and help others.	1	2	3	4	5							
I like to be in charge of people	1	2	3	4	5							
I can sense when others are hurting and I reach out to them.	1	2	3	4	5							
I feel it is my job to provide and continue to give resources to those less fortunate than myself.	1	2	3	4	5							
I want people to work together.	1	2	3	4	5							
I do not like games in which people can loose.	1	2	3	4	5							
I see the Bible as truth.	1	2	3	4	5							
I want to be appreciated for the tasks I do for others.	1	2	3	4	5							
I have a vision for the future.	1	2	3	4	5							
I don't like to focus on the bad in others.	1	2	3	4	5							
I trust that God will take care of me.	1	2	3	4	5							
I get many tasks don in time.	1	2	3	4	5							
Major decisions are hard for me to make.	1	2	3	4	5							
I feel that God directly speaks to me.	1	2	3	4	5							
It is easier for me to do things for others than just to listen and talk to them.	1	2	3	4	5							
I like new goals and new pursuits.	1	2	3	4	5							
I want others to be happy.	1	2	3	4	5							
I don't like others to know how much I give of my resources.	1	2	3	4	5							
I have a real sense of respect for those older than I am.	1	2	3	4	5							
I feel best when everyone else is happy.	1	2	3	4	5							
I want to tell others of what God has said to me.	1	2	3	4	5							
I see the needs of others and act on that.	1	2	3	4	5							
I respect those who are older than I and those who have more wisdom than I do.	1	2	3	4	5							

Questions	Answers					Gifts						
	Almost Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently	Almost Always							
I don't like to hurt others by my actions or words.	1	2	3	4	5							
If I cannot give money or objects, I will give of my time.	1	2	3	4	5							
I get along well with people regardless of their age.	1	2	3	4	5							
When others are hurting I have a hard time thinking about anything else.	1	2	3	4	5							
I can be harsh and blunt when I talk to people.	1	2	3	4	5							
I cannot leave a project until it is completed in the best possible way.	1	2	3	4	5							
I want to work with a good group of people to accomplish a task.	1	2	3	4	5							
I hurt when I see others in pain and sorrow.	1	2	3	4	5							
I love to give of myself and my resources.	1	2	3	4	5							
I feel as if I'm most helpful when I'm in charge.	1	2	3	4	5							
I tend to believe what other people tell me.	1	2	3	4	5							
Sometimes I have a low self-esteem.	1	2	3	4	5							
I prefer to be a follower.	1	2	3	4	5							
I do not let others know when criticism has hurt me.	1	2	3	4	5							
I don't want to be the center of attention.	1	2	3	4	5							
I always give 10 percent of my earnings and then offerings on top of that.	1	2	3	4	5							
If people don't like me or what I have done, I don't let it upset me.	1	2	3	4	5							
I feel that I can help other by praying.	1	2	3	4	5							
I do not like to be wrong in the opinions I hold.	1	2	3	4	5							
It is easier for me to do a job than to find someone to do it.	1	2	3	4	5							
I am good at networking and finding people to help the cause.	1	2	3	4	5							
I enjoy reaching out to those who are sick, or to those who seem upset.	1	2	3	4	5							
I like to cheer people up by what I donate to others.	1	2	3	4	5							
I do not really like to do detailed work.	1	2	3	4	5							

Questions	Answers					Gifts						
	Almost Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently	Almost Always							
I can't stand it when people fight or are hateful to each other.	1	2	3	4	5							
I want to see others grow deeper in their relationship with Christ.	1	2	3	4	5							
Sometimes I help so much that I don't focus on the spiritual needs of others.	1	2	3	4	5							
I like my life to be organized.	1	2	3	4	5							
I don't want people to feel left out or alone.	1	2	3	4	5							
My biggest desire is to share with others what Jesus did for them on the cross.	1	2	3	4	5							
Letting others know how I feel comes pretty easy for me.	1	2	3	4	5							
I notice quickly when others feel left out.	1	2	3	4	5							
I know when others speak if their words are from God.	1	2	3	4	5							
I enjoy being hospitable to others.	1	2	3	4	5							
I tend to be a workaholic.	1	2	3	4	5							
I would enjoy going to a poverty-stricken society to reach out to others.	1	2	3	4	5							
I am happy to do without things so that others can live a better life.	1	2	3	4	5							
I like to dream of better ways to get things done.	1	2	3	4	5							
I tend to think of the other person's feelings.	1	2	3	4	5							
I want to be instrumental in sharing the gospel and changing people's lives.	1	2	3	4	5							
I am the first to offer my help in a task that needs to be accomplished.	1	2	3	4	5							
I put my heart and soul into the job and organization that I am a part of.	1	2	3	4	5							
I communicate with people on a one-on-one level, not in large groups.	1	2	3	4	5							
I manage money well.	1	2	3	4	5							
I feel as if I have to win when playing a game.	1	2	3	4	5							
I can sense when people are lying to me.	1	2	3	4	5							
<b>Totals</b>												
						<b>P</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>C</b>

**P=Prophecy**

**T=Teacher**

**G=Giver**

**C=Compassion**

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**B=Builder**

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