

## Leader's Guide for Session Four: *Gifted in Christ*

Ask participants to read the pamphlet before meeting for study.

### **Materials Needed:**

Pamphlet: *Gifted in Christ* by Craig Kennet Miller

Bible

Newsprint or white board and markers

Make photocopies of the *Session Four Small Group Activity Handout*

### **Key Terms & Concepts from *Gifted in Christ***

**Spiritual Gifts (Gifts of the Holy Spirit)** – are divinely imparted for the purpose of serving God and God's people. Some gifts are newly given to Christians, for example, those who spoke in other languages (tongues) in Acts 19:6. Other gifts emerge over a lifetime of divinely supervised preparation. Think of Paul's preparation before he become an apostle. Long before his conversion, Paul's cosmopolitan experiences with people of Jewish, Greek and Roman backgrounds prepared him to relate to Gentiles. His familiarity with scriptures as a member of the Jewish Sanhedrin gave him the background necessary to help newly established churches work through emerging theological issues.

Ephesians 4:11–12 lists the ministry offices: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. The Holy Spirit endows a person with qualities enabling him or her to carry out the functions of the office.

The various lists of spiritual gifts in scripture overlap significantly. God endows Christians in a variety of ways for Christian ministry.

**Spiritual Fruit (The Fruit of the Spirit)** — The understanding is that Holy Spirit develops within Christians the graces, or *fruit*, of "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control" (Galatians 5:22–23). The term "fruit" is often used figuratively in scripture. Both John the Baptist and Jesus taught that a disciple should produce fruit (good works) as evidence of true repentance (Matthew 3:8, Luke 3:8) because a good tree (a repentant individual) does not produce bad fruit.

**Spiritual Clothing (Armor)** –Armor is another word used in a figurative sense in scripture. - In the New Testament, Paul made frequent use of the word. In Ephesians 6:10–18, Paul urged the Ephesian believers to "put on the full armor of God" in order to be prepared for the opposition that awaits Christians in the spiritual realm. Later, Paul urged Colossian Christians to put on the spiritual clothing of: compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience and love (Colossians 3:12–14).

## **Bible Readings:**

The leader should prepare for the lesson by reading and reflecting on the following passages under each term.

### **Spiritual Gifts**

Romans 12:4–8  
Ephesians 4:11–16  
1 Corinthians 12  
1 Peter 4:10–11

### **Fruit of the Spirit**

Galatians 5:22–23

### **Spiritual Clothing**

Ephesians 6:13–14  
Colossians 3:12–14

## **Summary of Content:**

Author Craig Kennet Miller begins with the question, “What do Christians do?” What follows in the pamphlet are the exciting answers to that question.

All Christians are gifted in Christ. You are gifted not for yourself, but to build up the body of Christ.

Miller uses the acronym G.I.F.T.E.D as a teaching device for the major concepts in the pamphlet.

The Bible contains several lists of spiritual gifts. See Romans 12:4–8, Ephesians 4:11–12, 1 Corinthians 12:8–9.

Christians are called to bear the *fruit of the Spirit* (Galatians 5:22–23) and exercise *spiritual gifts* in the community of faith.

## **Small Group Activities:**

### **Icebreaker**

Sylvia listened in awe as the guitarist played in concert. Others in the audience said, “He’s so gifted.”

What does it mean to be *gifted*?

What do you believe people should do with their gifts?

Find a partner. Describe the “natural” talents and abilities that you believe you have. Talk about how you might use any of these talents and abilities to serve God by helping others.

### **Discussion Starters**

1. Natural abilities or spiritual gifts, is there a difference between the two? Discuss.
2. Why do you believe God gives us spiritual gifts? What ultimate purpose should the spiritual gifts accomplish? Who benefits from the exercise of the spiritual gifts?
3. Read Psalm 139 aloud. What does it mean to be *wonderfully made*? What wonderful gift(s) do you believe God has given you?
4. Read Romans 12:4–8 aloud. Which of these spiritual gifts do you see expressed in your local church? Share examples.
5. Read Ephesians 4:11–12 aloud. Which of these gifts have you seen in action? Describe any personal benefit you have received from the ministry of an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor or teacher.
6. Read 1 Corinthians 12:8–9 aloud. What do you know about these gifts? Have you sensed that any of these gifts are present in you?

### **Closing Prayer**

**(In Unison)**

**Loving God, your Word declares that we were *fearfully and wonderfully made*. You knew us before we were born. You see the entirety of each life before you. You know the special gifts that you gave to each of us. Now, reveal those gifts to us so that we might serve you with them. Show us the people who may benefit from allowing your gifts to be exercised through us. Help us to remember that we are “blessed to be a blessing” to others. Thank you for trusting us with special gifts from you; gifts that we will use for your glory. Amen.**

### **Next Steps**

Take one of the online spiritual assessments in the suggested resources. Once you receive the results, pray about where and how God wants you to exercise your spiritual gift(s). To learn more about spiritual gifts read [\*Equipped for Every Good Work\*](#) by Dan R. Dick and Barbara Miller Dick

Be sure to look at the [\*Online Supplement: Equipped for Every Good Work\*](#) by Dan R. Dick and Barbara Miller Dick

## Suggested Resources:

[Spiritual Gifts Assessment](#)

[Spiritual Types Test](#)

[Equipped for Every Good Work](#) by Dan R. Dick and Barbara Miller Dick

[Online Supplement: Equipped for Every Good Work](#) by Dan R. Dick and Barbara Miller Dick

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*Kwasi Kena is the Director of Evangelism Ministries for the General Board of Discipleship. Please direct suggestions and comments to him at [kkena@gbod.org](mailto:kkena@gbod.org). Copyright © 2007 the General Board of Discipleship.*

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## Session Four Small Group Activity Handout

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