

Small Group Notes based on The Spirit 4

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- This Week: The Gifts of the Spirit.
 - There are two major ways God changes and empowers us through the Holy Spirit: Gifts and Fruit. Which of these are referenced in **John 7:37-39**?
 - Are there sometimes other things flowing out of God's people?
- What are the gifts of the Spirit?
 - Go over some lists in Scripture. **Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11**
 - Quite a variety don't you think? Do any of these make you nervous?
 - Do you think there are other Spiritual Gifts besides these?
 - Does a person have one gift for all their lives or what?
 - 4 quadrants and **Ephesians 4:11-15 (focus on v15)**.
 - Discuss the following possibilities for a person: lots of fruit and strong gifting, no fruit and strong gifting, lots of fruit but little gifting, no fruit and little gifting.
 - How do you get to the first category?
- Who are these gifts for?
 - This is team, not individual. (**Romans 12:5, 1 Corinthians 12:7, Ephesians 4:11-13**) and **1 Peter 4:10**.
 - So, the Church is a bunch of people all using their gifts together to advance God's Kingdom!
 - That is kind of foreign to our culture.
 - Our culture sees the individual as valuable.
- You are valuable. There is a tension between two types of value. Discuss the following:
 - You are valuable in the eyes of Jesus just 'cause. That's God's grace.
 - We like that in our culture because there is no responsibility with this.
 - Spiritual gifts are not needed for this type of value. There is no "transaction" in this type of value. However...
 - You are also valuable to the Body of Christ. You have a role. You have abilities. You have purpose!
 - But that value comes with a responsibility to the team.
 - If you don't do your thing, the Body of Christ will suffer. **1 Corinthians 12:25-26**.
 - Did you know that? If you don't do your thing the cause of Christ will be hindered. Think about that. What are practical ways that is true?
 - Understand these things:
 - Gifts usually require hard work and time to develop.
 - Your specific gifts are valuable, don't feel bad if you aren't an evangelist or worship leader. Every gift is valuable.
 - Value other's gifting even if you don't understand.
 - If we stand together, full of the Spirit with both fruit and gifts then we can be who Jesus said we would be in **Matthew 5:14**.
 - Wow, look at the responsibility in that!
 - Where are you at with the Fruit of the Spirit in your heart?
 - Where are you at with your relationship with your abilities?
 - Let's pray and ask for more fruit and more gifts. Then we can be the light of the world.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!