

Young Women Active for Christ

November 2011



EXERCISING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Draw Near—*Worship and prepare your heart to hear from God's Word.*

Share prayer requests and spend some time in prayer. Listen to worship music of your choice and prepare your heart to hear from God's Word today.

Suggested songs: "Do Everything" – Stephen Curtis Chapman "If We Are the Body" – Casting Crowns
"The Light in Me" – Brandon Heath "My Own Little World" – Matthew West

Go Deep—*Dig into the Bible to learn truths from God's Word.*

After last month's study, you probably have some idea of what your spiritual gifts may be. This month, we will learn about putting those gifts into action.

If you have ever played a sport, you know there is a lot more to being a good athlete than just showing up for the game. Being a good athlete takes commitment. You have to spend time practicing and learning how to play the game. You have to know what to do for your specific position so that you can help your team win.

Being a member of the church is a lot like being on a team. Each person in the church has a specific gift from God, and each person is made to fill a specific purpose with his or her gift. Just like you can't impact the score of a game if you are sitting in the stands, you can't have a positive impact on God's kingdom if you choose to sit on the sidelines. We must each take an active part in the church for it to work like it should.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-31. In this passage, Paul is trying to get the people at the church in Corinth to understand about spiritual gifts. He wants them (and us) to understand that everyone is not going to have the same gifts and that different people are made to do different jobs in the church. Whatever your spiritual gift, it is important to the church. God gave you your specific gift so you could use it to bring Him glory (1 Corinthians 14:12).

Reflect—*Discussion questions.*

Why do you think Paul compared the church to a person's body?

Based on verse 17, how do you think the church would work if we all had the same spiritual gift?

Do you think Paul thought all the spiritual gifts were important? (Look at verses 22-24.)

What do you think Paul was trying to teach the people in verse 23?

What do verses 25 and 26 tell us about how we should treat each other? Why do you think Paul thought it was important to include this in his letter to the church at Corinth?

Get Real—Apply God's Word to your life.

This month, look for ways to use your spiritual gifts. Check out the ideas below or discuss some ideas with your group.

If your spiritual gift is...

Giving

Operation Christmas Child. It is a great way to give the joy of Christmas to children all over the world. Check out www.samaritanspurse.org/occ/ for more information.

Service

helping prepare and serve a Thanksgiving meal for a needy family. To find out how to get involved, ask your parents to help you find a local soup kitchen where you can volunteer, or ask your guidance counselor at school if he or she knows of a family in your school that needs help.

Administration

organizing an event for your group. You could plan a Christmas Cookie party (and donate the extra cookies to a soup kitchen), or organize a food or clothing drive. Use your awesome organizational and planning skills to set up a night of fun for your friends where you can help the less fortunate at the same time.

Teaching

volunteering to babysit for some friends at church. Parents will appreciate the night off (they probably need some time to shop for Christmas gifts without the kids), and you can use your gift of teaching to teach the kids Bible stories. Or, you can partner with some other friends in your group and sponsor a Parent's Night Out at your church (a friend with the gift of administration would help a lot here). Be sure to get an adult help you, and you probably need some adult volunteers to help if you are going to be keeping a large group of kids.

Talk with your friends and see what you can do to get off the sidelines and put your gifts into action. Write down your ideas here:



About the Author

Christina Hopper is 24 years old and lives in Vernon, Alabama. She is pursuing a degree in English and Secondary Education at Mississippi University for Women. Christina attends Sulphur Springs FWB Church in Northport, Alabama, where she teaches the junior youth group.