

SESSION 8: ACTIVATING YOUR GIFTS - SMART GOALS

Welcome, Review Study/LIFE Starter Journaling: 20 minutes

Discuss your **SPIRITUAL GIFTS** with your group.

Session #8 Teaching: Activating Your Spiritual Gifts: 10 minutes

Well, it's time to ACTIVATE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS. Read Romans 6:13b, "Give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God" (NLT).

Maybe you already know what you're good at, but you're just not using it for the Lord. You're using it for yourself. You need to humble yourself and dedicate to the Lord every gift you have. Push all of your excuses out of the way, and say, "God, I dedicate what you gave to me back to you." What is stopping you from activating your gifts? What do you think God wants you to do with your gift?

Gifts are like muscles: The more you use them, the bigger they get. You can strengthen and develop and grow what God has given you. Any gift that God gives you can and should be developed. You get better at it by practice, studying, and learning from other people who have the same gift.

Read Romans 12:6: "We are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. If our gift is to speak God's message, we should do it according to the faith that we have" (GNT).

What's the best way to discover and dedicate and develop and deploy your spiritual gifts? YOUR Small Group can be your testing ground! You can test and develop your spiritual gifts in the safe and supportive environment of friends who will encourage you.

Today, I want you to start your time together with this prayer:

"God thank you for saving me and being merciful to me. Thank you for giving my life purpose and gifting me to fulfill the passions, values, and opportunities you have given me. Thank you for your Holy Spirit living in me to equip me to live the life you have saved me to live. Help me to discover and deploy the gifts you have given me. In Jesus' name, AMEN."

Small Group Discussion: 20 minutes

Maybe you already know what you're good at, but you're just not using it for the Lord. You're using it for yourself. You need to humble yourself and dedicate to the Lord every gift you have. Push all of your excuses out of the way, and say, "**God, I dedicate what you gave to me back to you.**"

- What is stopping you from activating your gifts?
- What do you think God wants you to do with your gift?

Read Romans 12:6: "We are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. If our gift is to speak God's message, we should do it according to the faith that we have" (GNT).

- What's the best way to discover and dedicate and develop and deploy your spiritual gifts?

YOUR LIFE Study Group can be your testing ground! You can test and develop your spiritual gifts in the safe and supportive environment of friends who will encourage you.

Discuss This Week's Homework: 5 minutes

Review Session #4 again and the entire study and use the following worksheet(s) to create some Faith-Based SMART Goals and commitments. Download the PDF and create as many SMART Goals are appropriate to you. These will help you activate everything we've covered in this study. See sample below:

Faith-Based SMART Goal Worksheet

Goal Name:		
Today's Date:		
Start Date:		
Date Achieved:		
WHY? Why this goal matter's to me?		
The benefits of achieving this goal will be:		
PARTNERS: Select partners that will help acomplish goals. PARTNER #1		
PARTNER #2		
PARTNER #3		
SPECIFIC: What will you accomplish?		Specifically, ask God for direction when you're in prayer.
MILESTONE #1		
MILESTONE #2		
MILESTONE #3		
MEANINGFUL: How does this goal ift into God's pupose for your life?		Specifically, ask God how this goal fits into His plan for your life, so you can achieve His purposes.
ATTAINABLE: Consider the God-given resources around you and trust that God will provide the rest of the resources in His perfect timing.		If this goal is from God, He will provide ALL the resources that you need to get started. Take the time to look around your and see those resources God has provided.

SESSION #8

WK. 8 DEVO 1

Read James 4

When making goals, the first thing to do is to submit your plans to God.

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

F=Focus: to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

SESSION #8

WK. 8 DEVO 2

Read Matthew 6:25-34

Goals are a target for you to hit, but don't let fear and worry crowd your thinking when setting goals.

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SESSION #8

WK. 8 DEVO 3

Read Proverbs 21

As you go about setting goals this season, put your spiritual goals at the very top of the pile, your spiritual growth is where the majority of your focus should be.

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SESSION #8

WK. 8 DEVO 4

Read Luke 14:25-34

In making plans, we need to be wise. Things won't always be smooth sailing and flourishing. Just like the ant we need to make plans for a rainy day and put aside resources for the unexpected.

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