

## PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- You can watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- You **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.

**Welcome:** *Icebreaker – What is the best gift that you have ever given a loved one?*

**Study Context:**



## What's Going on This Week

This week, Pastor Danny Strange brought us into the twelfth week of our series titled *A Church that Pleases God*. Pastor Danny directed our attention to *Romans 12:3-8* as we talk about how we are called to **grow** in our relationship with Jesus Christ by learning how to pour out the spiritual gifts we have been given. Pastor Danny suggests that the spiritual gifts are “portions of grace” that we receive to be given out. As you engage with this study guide, continue to ask yourself how you can use these gifts to give gifts whether it is a ministry you can offer, abilities you have been given, or your presence somewhere.

**“A spiritual gift is a *portion of grace* God has given you for the purpose of building up the body of Christ.” – Pastor Danny Strange**



## **GROUP MEETING** (60 – 90 minutes)

### **Worship** (10 – 15 minutes)

*Take time with your group and prepare your hearts as you enter the presence of God for this meeting.*

<b>Option 1: Worship Music</b> Have someone share their favorite song. You can find it online, play it, and even sing along with your group! Have them explain why the lyrics have impacted them!	<b>Option 2: Spiritual Gift Assessment</b> One way to determine your spiritual gift is to ask those familiar with you. <b>After the group is over</b> , spend some time going around and identifying the Spirits work in each other!	<b>Option 3: Self-Reflection</b> <b>2 Timothy 1:6-7</b> Paul encourages Timothy to let the gift of God fan into flame! Spend some time reflecting on your life and all the ways God has empowered you with gifts!
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### **Word #1: Explore your Spiritual Gifting** (15 – 25 minutes)

*Primary Texts: Romans 1:11-12, 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11* – Listed are the common passages that are incorporated in the discussion on spiritual gifts! The Greek word spiritual gift is *charismata* which suggests that spiritual gifts are “portions of *charis*” or “portions of *grace*”. Thus, we first understand spiritual gifts through the lens of the greatest spiritual gift we have received, which is the gospel. Then we see that our abilities, our ministry efforts, and our very lives have been given to us as spiritual gifts to be distributed to others around us. **Which spiritual gifting do you feel like you identify with the most? In what ways is God calling you to distribute the “portion of grace” that has been given to you (a) to share the gospel with people around you, (b) to build up the church, and (c) to build up your neighborhood?**

**Host Tip:** If your group is struggling to think about their spiritual gifts, perhaps spin the question to ask something like, “What breaks your heart as you look around at the church or the people around you?”

### **Word #2: Use your Gifts to Love One Another** (15 – 25 minutes)

*Primary Texts: Romans 12:9-21; 1 Corinthians 13; Ephesians 4:1-10; 1 Peter 4:7-9* – What is interesting about the conversation around spiritual gifts is the fact that each of these key passages on the subject are surrounded by encouragements to love one another. Without love at the center of our spiritual gift, then Paul suggests that we are like a clanging cymbal. **In what ways can you utilize your spiritual gift to contribute to your life group? How can your spiritual gift be used to hold each other accountable to spiritual growth and maturity throughout the week?**

**Host Tip:** Our life groups are designed to ignite everyone to practice their spiritual gifts within the group. Think of how each person can contribute to the mission of creating a **welcoming** environment, a **worshipful** experience, a deep study of the **word**, and an outward **witness** focus. Challenge each member to participate and build up each of these pillars of the group!



## Witness (20 – 25 minutes)

- Pray for the Unfolding Events in the [Russia – Ukrainian crisis](#).
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would show you how you can pour out your spiritual gifts!
- Pray that the Holy Spirit to help you where you are most weak!
- Pray for any individual prayer request that comes up in your group.
- Pray for the entire group and how they may be able to participate in future group meetings.
- Pray for an interaction with someone who you can invite into your next group meeting!
- Pray for God's hand in the multiplication and revival of your group!

Stay up to date with our Prayer Ministry by signing up to be an intercessor online at [3Crosses.org/pray/](https://3Crosses.org/pray/)!

## Throughout the Week

- **Prepare for Next Week:** *Discipleship - Primary Texts: Matthew 28:16-20* — We grow by building one another up. Who are you pouring into? Who is pouring into you?
- **Follow up between group members:** Have each member of the group pick one other group member to follow up with about how they are growing in their faith as they learn to keep in step with wherever the Holy Spirit is leading them.
- **Join relief efforts locally and around the world:** Looking to contribute to what is going on both locally and around the world? Visit our website and volunteer in our [neighborhood resource center](#) or help sponsor an [indigenous missionary](#)!
- **Life Groups 2022:** For more information about joining a group, hosting a group, or general inquiries, contact AJ at [avanegas@3crosses.org](mailto:avanegas@3crosses.org) or Carmela at [carmela@3crosses.org](mailto:carmela@3crosses.org)