

Discussion Questions
Life in the Spirit



Discipleship
Course

Discussion Topics

Anointed for ministry and gifted to serve

The gifts of the Spirit

The purpose of Spiritual gifts

Identifying my gift(s), role(s),
and ministry in the body

The fruit of the Spirit

Building healthy relationships in the body of
Christ

Christian witness in the community and beyond

Revival in the local community

Anointed for ministry and gifted to serve

Q1 Read **ISAIAH 61:1-3** and **LUKE 4:18-19**

What had Jesus been anointed to do?

Q2 Read **LUKE 9:1-2; 10:1-9, 17-20; ACTS 1:1-10**

What did Jesus commission and anoint the disciples to do? What did he tell them to do after his resurrection?

Q3 Read **KNOWING GOD'S POWER: Gifted To Serve & Anointed for Ministry**

What is the difference between:

- being baptised by the Spirit into the Body of Christ at conversion
- being anointed for ministry?

Q4 Read **ACTS 3:2-8; 4:1-14; 5:1-16; 6:8-10; 7:54-60; 8:5-7; 8:26-39; 9:10-19**

What specific purpose was the anointing given on each of these occasions?

Q5 What experience have you had of the Holy Spirit anointing a person for ministry?

Q6 Do you know what God has called and anointed you to do? Discuss among the group how you might know.



The gifts of the Spirit: *Gifts of Knowing and Doing*

Q1 Look at **KNOWING GOD'S POWER: The Gifts of the Spirit** and **1 CORINTHIANS 14:26**.

What is the context for and purpose of the exercise of the gifts of the Spirit, according to Paul?

Q2 Paul lists nine specific ways in which the Holy Spirit may manifest God's presence. What are they?

Q3 He mentions three **GIFTS OF KNOWING**. What are they?

What is the difference between a Word of Wisdom and a Word of Knowledge?

Can you find an example of each in **JOHN 4 1-24**?

Q4 What experience have the members of the group had of these two gifts?

Spend some time in prayer together, asking God to give you words of wisdom and knowledge for particular situations you or members of the group may be facing at present.

Q5 What experience have members of the group had of the discerning of spirits? In what contexts might it be important?

Q6 Have a look at the section on **THE DOING GIFTS: Faith, Miracles & Healings**. **The GIFTS OF FAITH, MIRACLES** and **HEALINGS** really go together.

What is the key to them all? A method or technique? Total reliance on the Holy Spirit to show you what to do?

Q7 Have a look at **A BIBLICAL FRAMEWORK FOR MINISTRY**.

What roles do Natural Human Diagnosis and Spiritual Discernment play in works of miracles and divine healing?

Have any of the group experienced divine healing or witnessed God working miraculously?



The gifts of the Spirit: *Gifts of Speaking*

Q1 Look at **KNOWING GOD'S POWER: The Gifts of the Spirit 1 CORINTHIANS 14:1-25**

What three supernatural Gifts of Speaking does Paul mention?

Q2 Why have the Gifts of Tongues and Prophecy been so controversial in Church history?

Q3 What two different kinds of tongues are mentioned by Paul? What is the purpose of each?

Q4 What experience have members of the group had of Tongues as a private prayer language?

Has any of the group had experience of Tongues and Interpretation?

Q5 What are the differences between the Gift of Tongues, Interpretation and Prophecy?

Q6 What is the overall purpose of the gift of Prophecy in the Bible?

What two forms of Prophecy do we see in **2 SAMUEL 12**?

Q7 What examples of Prophecy have you experienced? Were they forth telling or foretelling?

Q8 Why is it important to test every word claiming to be a prophecy?

How are we to test prophecies, according to Paul in **1 CORINTHIANS 14**?

Q9 What complaint did God make about prophets in **JEREMIAH 23:9-22**?

How are we to test prophecies besides the words themselves?

Q10 How do we know David Wilkerson was a true modern prophet of God?

Spend some time in prayer and waiting on the LORD asking him to give Gifts of Speaking to the group.



The purpose of Spiritual gifts:

To build up the body of Christ

Q1 Read **1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-30** and **EPHESIANS 4:1-16**

Look at **KNOWING GOD'S POWER: Gifts, Roles and Ministries**

How does Paul describe the Church and its different members? What are the practical implications of what he says?

Q2 Who determines what gift(s), role(s) and ministries each person is to play? Are some people more important/less important than others in the fellowship?

Q3 What specific roles and ministries does Paul mention in the two passages? Are the lists meant to be exhaustive? And why are the lists in this order?

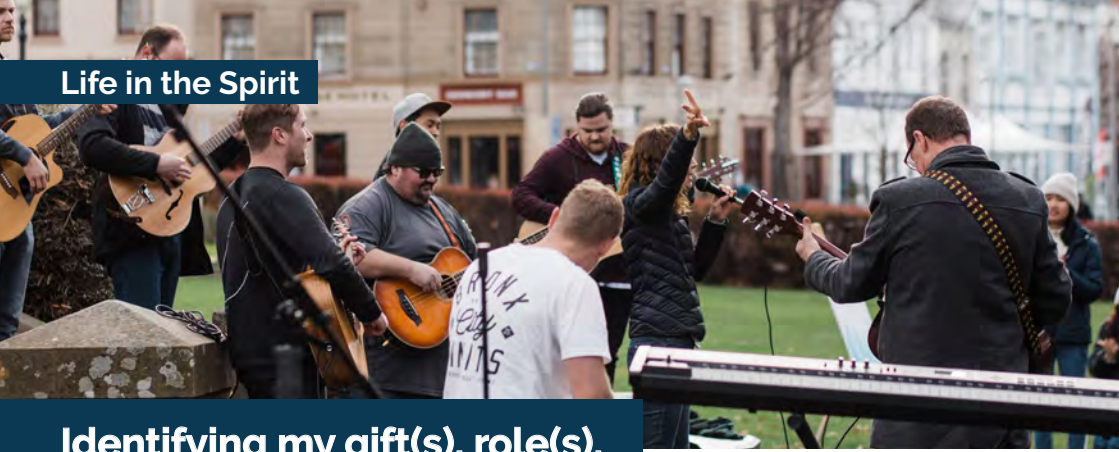
Q4 Look at **FINDING MY ROLE IN THE BODY**.

How might we discover the spiritual roles and ministries God is calling each person to fulfill? What is the difference between gifts, roles and ministries?

Q5 What different roles and ministries has God called each member of the group to fulfill? How do you know what part God has called and commissioned you to play in the Body?

Q6 What is the significance of the order of the fivefold ministries Paul lists in **EPHESIANS 4:11-12**?

Q7 How might one judge the health of a fellowship?



Identifying my gift(s), role(s), and ministry in the body

Q1 Read **1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-30** and **EPHESIANS 4:1-16**.

Look at **KNOWING GOD'S POWER: Gifts, roles & ministries**.

How does Paul describe the Church and the different members of it? What are the practical implications of what he says?

Q2 Who determines what gift(s), role(s) and ministries each person is to play? Are some people more important/less important than others in the fellowship?

Q3 Look again at **FINDING MY ROLE IN THE BODY**.

What area(s) of service/ministry does the Holy Spirit highlight and suggest to you?

Q4 Share with one another in the group with what you feel the Holy Spirit is saying. How clearly do the group support what individuals feel?

Spend some time praying together and asking God to confirm clearly what he seems to be saying to each person about his/her role within the fellowship.

Q5 Look at **GENERAL AREAS OF GIFTING & SERVICE** which you can download as a pdf from the *Resources* section.

What general areas of gifting might you be anointed for? In what way(s) are they different from your natural abilities in certain areas?



The fruit of the Spirit:

The vine life

Q1 Read **JOHN 15:1-5** and look at **KNOWING GOD'S POWER: The Fruit Of The Spirit**

What did Jesus mean when he told the disciples: *I am the Vine; you are the branches?*

Q2 What else did he say in verse 5? Do you know this to be true in your own life?

Q3 Read **EPHESIANS 3:14-20** Paul's Prayer for the Christians in Ephesus

What does Paul say is the soil in which God will produce the fruit of the Spirit?

Q4 Read **GALATIANS 5:16-23 The Works of the Flesh vs The Fruit of the Spirit**

What is the fundamental difference between:

a. The Works Of The **Flesh** and b. The Fruit Of The **Spirit**?

Q5 What is the Fruit of the Spirit? Who produces it? And how does he produce it?

Q6 Share with one another in the group your own experiences of God's pruning process?

How does it compare with the sentiments expressed by John Newton in the hymn *I Asked The LORD That I Might Grow?*



Building healthy relationships in the body of Christ (1/2)

Q1 Read **MATTHEW 22:36-40** The Royal Law of Love

When Jesus was asked what was the most important commandment, what did he reply?

Q2 Look at **KNOW GOD'S POWER: ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE**

There are three words in Greek for love - *eros*, *philia* and *agape*. What is the meaning of each? Which of the three did Jesus use when talking about loving others?

In what way is it different from the other two?

Q3 Read **COLOSSIANS 3:1-20** Living The New Life In Christ

Look at **KNOW GOD'S POWER: Building Healthy Relationships**

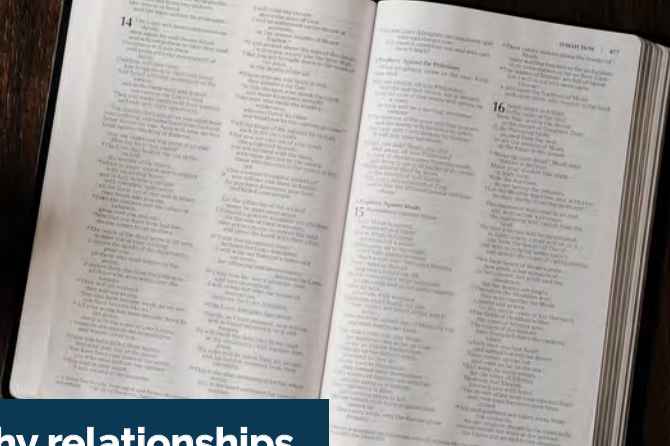
Summarise Paul's advice for building healthy relationships in the Body of Christ.

Q4 What are the commonest kinds of problems in Christian fellowships?

How might Paul's advice in **COLOSSIANS 3:1-20** be a solution to these problems?

Q5 Read **EPHESIANS 5:21-30**

What does Paul say in verse 21 is the key to harmonious relationships? What does this mean in practice?



Building healthy relationships in the body of Christ (2/2)

Q1 Read **MATTHEW 6:9-15** and look at **KNOWING POWER: The Lord's Prayer Part 2: Praying for Forgiveness**

Why does Jesus tell us to forgive others who have hurt us?

Q2 Read **LUKE 7:36-54**

What is the point of the parable Jesus told? If I have a problem forgiving those who have hurt me, what have I forgotten?

Q3 There are three elements involved in the act of forgiving someone who has hurt me -

- Getting in touch with the hurt and allowing God to heal it.
- Getting in touch with the anger I feel at being hurt and letting go of it.
- Letting go of my desire for revenge/to hurt the person who hurt me

Which of these have you found the most difficult?

Q4 Is there anyone in the fellowship I need to forgive?

- Is my forgiveness dependent on their willingness to admit they have hurt me?
- What does the other person need to do if s/he wants to be forgiven, according to Jesus?
- How often does Jesus say we need to forgive those who have hurt us and ask for our forgiveness of them?

Q5 Why is forgiving someone who has hurt me not letting them off the hook? Is it the same as ignoring possible criminal activity or issues where a law has been broken?

Q6 Who benefits most from obeying Jesus' instruction to forgive those who have sinned against us? In what way(s)?

Christian witness in the community and beyond

Evangelism and mission

Q1 Read **MATHEW 28:19-20, LUKE 4:18-19; Chapters 9 and 10; and ACTS 1:1-8**

Look at **SHARING CHRIST'S SUFFERING: From witnesses to martyrs**

What commission did Jesus give all those who claim to be his disciples?

Q2 Read **2 CORINTHIANS 5:14** and look at **The Key: Christ's Compassion**

What is the motivation for all evangelism and mission?

Q3 What is meant by the phrase The Love Cycle Of Ministry And Mission?

How can it be seen in the fellowship's reaching out to the local community?

Q4 Share among the group how you sense God has called you to share the love and compassion of Christ with others in your community, at work or further afield?

Q5 Evangelism has been described as "One beggar telling another where s/he found a loaf of bread."

How can we improve our witness to neighbours and others in the community?

Q6 Look at **SHARING JESUS' LOVE FOR A SUFFERING WORLD.**

Look at the history of one of the organisations listed.

How did each of these organisations begin?

To whom did God give the vision for sharing Christ's compassion? How did the original vision develop and grow?

Can you see parallels with how God is working in your local community?

Revival in the local community

Q1 Read **EZEKIEL 37** **The Vision of the Valley of Dry Bones**

In what ways is this a picture of the Church in times of revival?

Q2 Read **ACTS 8:1-25** **The Spread of the Gospel in Samaria**

What characteristics of revival are to be seen in the spread of the gospel in Samaria?

Q3 Conduct some research into revivals in Church history, including any reports of revivals in your local community.

What features are common to all these revivals?

Q4 Look at **KNOWING POWER: Testing The Genuineness of Spiritual Manifestations**

What five tests did Jonathan Edwards suggest as a result of his experience of the move of the Holy Spirit in the New England revival in the 18th century?

Q5 Read the account of revivals in different parts of the world: for example, the Great Awakening in the 18th century, revivals in Kilsyth (Scotland), Wales in 1904, the Hebrides (Scotland) in 1948, or in your own community.

What evidence was there to show it was a genuine move of the Holy Spirit and not simply mass hysteria?

Q6 What is the ultimate test of a genuine work of the Holy Spirit, according to Jesus in **MATTHEW 7:15-20**?

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