

# KNOWN

## MIDWEEK EVENT

### Gifted

### *Session 3—The Motivating Factor*

#### **The Question**

What should motivate me to use my spiritual gifts?

#### **The Point**

Spiritual gifts are used to honor God.

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:7-11

#### **REVIEW**

The third session Bible study made the point that there are no unimportant parts of the body of Christ. This midweek study will help us see what our motivation should be in using our spiritual gifts in the Kingdom.

#### **DISCUSS THESE POINTS**

- > On a white board or large piece of paper write the question “What do you do?” and direct students to list all of the activities they participate in. (For example: band, choir, sports, chess club, and so on.) After responses are gathered, read aloud some of the items from the list. **[Slide 3]**
- > What is your motivation for doing these activities?
- > We are going to be discussing motivation this week. Just as there is something that motivates us to participate in the activities we listed here, we are going to discover what should motivate us to serve the Lord.
- > Write The Question for this session on a large sheet of paper: What should motivate me to use my spiritual gifts? **[Slide 4]**

#### **A. Love for others. [Slide 5]**

- > Write “Love for Others?” on a large sheet of paper. Then write “Love One Another” below that. Discuss what it means to love others. What is the first thing that comes to mind with you see this question? **[Slide 6]**
- > Read 1 Peter 4:7-8. **[Slide 7]**
- > What do you think these verses mean? What are we told to do? Why?
- > As the end of all things approaches, believers will need to be clear minded. We must also be watchful of things that would distract us from prayer. We must live lives that are disciplined—in other words, we must exercise self-control. We do this so that we will be in the right frame of mind for prayer. Prayer is all that will get us through the time leading up to the end of all things.
- > What do you think it means to be disciplined in prayer? What might that look like?
- > The love Peter wrote about is a little more than simply a “love one another” commandment. As the end gets closer, pressure on the church will likely intensify. We must be careful not to allow petty sins to divide us. Peter said to maintain an “intense love for each other.” Intense is defined as: existing in an extreme degree; having or showing a characteristic in extreme degree; marked by or expressive of great zeal, energy, determination, or concentration; exhibiting strong feeling or earnestness of purpose. (*meriam-webster.com*) **[Slide 8]**
- > What are some ways we can keep our love at full strength—or have an intense love for one another? What difference would it make in our youth group if we all showed this kind of love for one another at church? What difference would it make in your Christian walk if we showed this type of love for one another at school and on our sports teams?
- > Peter’s statement about love covering a multitude of sins is about forgiveness and not ignoring sin.

Our strong, intense love for one another will motivate us to be forgiving so that we will be effective in spreading the gospel message. Our love for one another must be intense and grow stronger as we walk alongside one another through the difficulties of the last days.

### **B. A desire to serve others. [Slide 9]**

> Read 1 Peter 4:9-10. **[Slide 10]**

> What comes to mind when you hear the word hospitable?

> Hospitable: given to generous and cordial reception of guests; promising or suggesting generous and cordial welcome; offering a pleasant or sustaining environment; readily receptive. (*meriam-webster.com*)

### **[Slide 11]**

> When you see these definitions, what would that look like in our youth group? How does a hospitable attitude toward others lead you to serve them? What are some ways we can show hospitality to one another?

> Why should we do this without complaining? What is the opposite of complaining? (willingness and cheerfulness) In other words, we should serve willingly and cheerfully.

> Verse 10 reminds us of the fact that God has given spiritual gifts to His children. Our gift is to be used to minister to others. It is not for our individual benefit, but for the benefit of others.

> Using our gifts to minister to one another is another way that we can show love to one another. A good manager of what God has given will make sure that the grace of God is shared with others in the body of Christ. "Varied grace of God" refers to the idea that the grace gifts (spiritual gifts) given by the Lord are varied, and the implication is that all are needed to build up and strengthen the church.

> How is our group doing at being managers of God's grace? What do we need to improve?

### **C. A passion to glorify God. [Slide 12]**

> Read 1 Peter 4:11. **[Slide 13]**

> The two examples given by Peter cover the general ways we communicate with others: words and actions. When we speak, we should speak the words of God. When we serve (take action), we should do it in the power of the Holy Spirit.

> What reason did Peter give for speaking God's words and serving in His strength? When Peter says "everything" in this verse, what does he mean? What is the ultimate purpose of our speaking and serving? What does it mean to glorify God?

> Why do we find it difficult (or at least it appears that we find it difficult) to do these things?

> When we serve in our own strength and speak only our own opinions, we, in a sense, are stealing the glory that only God deserves. All that we say and do should be for His glory—He is the only One deserving of any glory in the first place.

### **WRAP IT UP**

> Divide students into "Prayer Triplets." Encourage each member of the triplet to pray for his or her partners that they will: **[Slide 14]**

1. Be clear minded and diligent in their pursuit of God.
2. Avoid distractions that could keep them from using their gift for His glory.
3. Learn to love one another more and more—and that their love would be intense.
4. Glorify God with their words and actions.

> Close by praying the above elements over the whole group.

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