



Preparation:

- Before Your Group Meets
 - Spend time prayerfully engaging the select verses that are used throughout this week's session.
 - Read through all the material so you'll be able to better facilitate the discussion.
 - Think through ways you can further help your group learn what is being taught instead of simply rehashing what's been taught in Freedom. Write down two or three ideas.
- When Your Group Meets
 - Summarize the "Intro."
 - Call on group members to read the passages corresponding to the appropriate question.
 - Walk your group through each question. Use the "Leader Guide" to facilitate the group discussion.
 - Discuss the "Moving Forward" section with your group and help them formulate specific plans for moving forward.
 - Share with your group the resources from the "Keep Digging" section.
 - End in a time of prayer

Intro:

Spiritual gifts are not often talked about. Over my years in ministry I have heard several misunderstandings of spiritual gifts and the purpose of them; (not necessarily in this order) spiritual gifts are given to be used in the church, spiritual gifts inventories are not the best way to find out your spiritual gifts, and spiritual gifts are not the fruit of the Spirit.

Definitions:

1. Spiritual Gifts: *any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church.*

Discussion Questions:

Spiritual Gifts are to be used in the church

Read: 1 Peter 4:10-11

1. What is the purpose of the gifts?
2. What gifts do you think you've been given? Have you seen growth/discovered new gifts as you've matured in your faith?
3. Does it really matter if the Church is pursuing Spiritual Gifts, even if they are doing everything else right? (Worshipping, preaching the Gospel, praying...)

Spiritual Gift Inventories are not the best way to find out your spiritual gifts

Read Romans 12:3-8

4. Have you ever taken a Spiritual Gifts inventory? Did it help/hurt you in understanding your gifts?
5. What are the best ways to find out your spiritual gifts?
6. Why do you think an inventory may not be the best way to find out your gifts?

Spiritual Gifts are NOT the Fruit of the Spirit

Read: Galatians 5:22-24, Romans 3:3-8

7. What is the difference between the fruit of the Spirit and spiritual gifts?
8. Spend some time discussing what you think your gifts are and what you are hoping to learn more about this semester through studying the gifts together at Freedom and in your group.

Review:

Scripture tells us that the Spirit apportions to each believer gifts. These are different than the Fruit of the Spirit, to be used in the building up and edification of the church and are best cultivated in community with other believers where we can practice and use our gifts to carry out the purpose of the Church.

Keep Digging:

Systematic Theology books by: Erickson, Grudem
<http://theresurgence.com/series/spiritual-gifts>