

Memory Book Club

Lesson Planner – Year Four

Authored and compiled by Tamara Faris, RN, MS, Founder of Memory Books for Children International.

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Memory Book Club Lesson Planner – Year Four

Table of Contents

Introduction

Memory Book Club Format

What is a Talking Stick?

Monthly Lesson Plans – (37-48)

Discovering Your Giftedness, Lesson No. 37 - Introduction, Part 1

Discovering Your Giftedness, Lesson No. 38 – Introduction, Part 2

Benefits of Giftedness

Am I Talented or Gifted?

Is it Fruit of Spirit or Giftedness?

Beware of Counterfeit Gifts

How to Discover my Giftedness

Glossary of Gifts – Part 1 of 5

Glossary of Gifts – Part 2 of 5

Glossary of Gifts – Part 3 of 5

Glossary of Gifts – Part 4 of 5

Glossary of Gifts – Part 5 of 5

Explore and Experiment

Delight in the Lord

His Good Will and Pleasure

Bibliography

Lesson Completion Record

Introduction

Objective

The purpose of the Memory Book Club Lesson Planner is to give facilitators of Memory Book Clubs support by providing lessons, activity ideas, and supportive biblical scriptures designed to promote wellness and hope for children experiencing traumatic life events.

The Memory Book Club Lesson Planner is designed to be used in coordination with Memory Book Clubs and Memory Books. Children are invited to attend monthly Memory Book Clubs where they will receive a personal Memory Book. The personal Memory Book is designed to help children tell their own personal stories with words, drawings, artwork, poems, music and the act of story telling.

The Memory Book Club Lesson Planner should be used to guide children to reveal and express their own thoughts and feelings about what has happened to them. Some children may lack language or verbal skills to speak aloud, or lack understanding to express what they are feeling, but can use other methods we view as play, such as art, play acting, music such as singing or playing instruments to tell their story.

Lessons combine psychological and spiritual perspectives to help children grieve the things and people they have lost, while growing in greater sense of wellbeing and identity.

As a witness to a child's story, it is not important we fully understand what they are saying or showing us but that we are simply a witness to what it is they are expressing. That their story is important.

Lessons

Each of the twelve lessons contained in this Lesson Planner are designed to address thoughts, feelings, and circumstances children are experiencing in their lives, such as death of loved one, homelessness, violence, neglect, poverty, chronic or terminal illness, abuse, incarceration of parent, discrimination or bullying. Most children today are suffering from the presence of grief as the result of these circumstances. The innate sense of hope humans have during difficulties can produce a smile, but hidden deep inside children are silently grieving alone. The lessons promote self-esteem and

confidence while helping children develop a sense of identity in spite of what they are facing.

The lessons contained in the Lesson Planner should be considered 'simple seeds of truth' that have the capacity to encourage healthy developmental growth of trust, autonomy, industry and independence in children living in the midst of loss and enduring grief. As children grow they may revisit preserved stories and derive greater understanding, truthfulness, and insight into the events of their childhood.

These lesson plans are designed to help a child uncover thoughts and feelings they are having about their life, and discover they are valuable, their lives have purpose, and that they are loved by a God who will never ever leave them, abuse them or neglect their needs. That they are loved by a God they can trust, they can love, and live a life learning more about God and His love for them.

Memory Book Club is not an opportunity to tell children what we want them to know, but the opportunity for children to tell us what they want us to know creating a journey designed unique to the child and the needs he/she has. If we allow children to lead on this journey, by telling their story they will ultimately arrive in a place emotionally and spiritually suited for each and every child, unique in every way.

Club Activities

Club activities include 'talking stick time', lessons, time to work in personal memory books, optional craft or art ideas, and closing 'talking stick time'. These activities allow children a safe environment to grieve their losses, re-establish a healthy sense of identity, and express hopes and dreams. Memory Book Club activities are all designed to promote resiliency and post-traumatic growth after experiencing loss and traumatic events. Facilitators and peers act as a valuable witness to a child's story helping a child to discover they are not alone in their loss. Memory Book Club theme is 'I Am Somebody'.

More information

Training for facilitators of Memory Book Club is available in Training Manual, 2015. The Training Manual, 2015 and Introduction to Memory Books for Children and Memory Book Club power point presentation is available at www.memorybooks4children.com/resources. All facilitators are required to complete training prior to starting a Memory Book Club. Volunteers must complete training prior to helping with club events. Hard copies of the Training Manual, 2015 are available on request at memorybooks4children.com/contact us

While the concept of using a simple Memory Book may seem foreign or even too simple to address the needs of children who are grieving, research conducted to explore the outcome using a memory book as a tool by a grieving child reveals positive results by children orphaned, vulnerable and disadvantaged around the world. Most of these children have suffered some of life's most devastating losses, but exhibit resiliency and hope for their future when having a witness to their stories. (See Evaluation of Use of Memory Book Intervention by Orphaned Children in South Africa published by Journal of Pediatric Nursing, July/Aug 2014 for research) (Additional research examining the universality of the memory book as a tool in three distinct countries has been submitted for publication in 2017).

Memory Book Clubs and Memory Books are designed for that process, to process grief; allowing children the opportunity to lead through the telling and retelling of their stories while others act as a witness simply agreeing to accompany them on their journey of grief.

“A young child in South Africa sitting at a small table at an HIV/AIDS clinic leaned over her paper burying her work with her arm and head. She looked up only to choose another crayon from the jar of many. I took a seat next to her and simply watched. She continued to cover her paper, choosing another crayon occasionally without acknowledging my presence. Then I simply said, ‘ You choose pink’. I said nothing else. ‘You choose orange’. Again, I responded with simply what she had done. The young child began to change crayons more frequently. Again, I responded with simply what she had done. After a few minutes, the child raised her head and shyly looked at me. As she continued to draw, she lifted her arm revealing her work. She changed crayons simply to produce my response. When she smiled, I smiled back. When she studied my eyes, I looked into her eyes. I was a mirror for this child. A mirror that says to the child, I am alive, someone sees me.” ~ Tamara Faris, RN, MS and Founder of Memory Books for Children International

“I have learned I am somebody. The messages I have heard at Memory Book Club have transformed my life.” ~Ugandan boy

Memory Book Club Format

Volunteers facilitate the club event by setting date and time, putting out advertising, rehearsing lesson and activity. If option 2 Activity is chosen art and craft supplies will need to be purchased and assembled. (art and craft supplies will be provided by individual club sponsors) Club format, including 'talking stick time' led by lead facilitator. There should be enough volunteers to facilitate club events to adequately interact with each child during club.

It is suggested Memory Book Club be held once a month, on same day, same week in same facility at same time to provide continuity. Filers may be sent to families for reminders of upcoming Memory Book Club. Memory Book Club may be one child and one adult, or many children with many volunteers.

Club begins – Facilitators begin club by singing theme song 'I Am Somebody'. Volunteer facilitators clapping hands together moving into a group where every face can be seen. (See 'I Am Somebody' wording and music)

First Talking Stick Time – Remaining in circle, lead facilitator welcomes everyone, introduces new children and new volunteers by name. Facilitator holds talking stick and reminds everyone how the talking stick rules work. See 'talking stick rules and use'. Lead facilitator asks if anyone would like to share something that happened this week; ie celebrated a birthday, learned to ride bicycle, lost a tooth, was sick. Passing the talking stick from person to person. If a child does not want to share anything they can simply say 'pass' and pass the talking stick onto the next person.

Lesson Time – Lead facilitator invites everyone to sit in circle. Facilitator reads lesson from Lesson Planner. These lessons are not designed to give in any particular order. Use your own discretion. Children may ask questions, make comments related to lesson. Facilitator may invite children to give examples from their lives about the lesson. Always remind everyone to the 'talking stick rules'. Supportive biblical scripture may be shared here.

Activity Time – Option 1 – Invite children to locate a picture or page in their personal memory book to write or draw what the lesson means to them. (Make sure every child is given a personal memory book). Facilitators may want to provide pencils, colored pencils, crayons for this activity. Invite children to write supportive bible scripture in their memory book.

Option 2 – If available, art and craft supplies to complete a craft can be provided by club sponsor here. Learning songs, or playing an instrument like drums, or a drama may be inserted here.

It is important to read and understand Reflective Art, Reflective Play and Reflective Listening techniques found in Training Manual, 2015 to assure this time is effective and valuable to children.

Talking Stick Closure Time – As children are completing their work, invite children who have finished to come to the front, and read their story or show their drawing from today's lesson. Remember to have them hold the talking stick whenever anyone shares. Thank them, and invite everyone to clap. Invite children to memorize the supportive biblical scripture and stand and share it (optional). Facilitators may want to give a sticker child can place in their memory book next to written scripture for this activity that promotes courage to accomplish this task.

Closing Time – Sing 'I Am Somebody' passing the talking stick from person to person as the song is sung. Thank everyone for coming and invite everyone to come next time, bringing memory books. Invite children and adults to bring a friend next time. (You may want to hand out a flier for next months date and time)

What is a 'talking stick'?

The talking stick has been used for centuries by many American Indian tribes as a means of just and impartial hearings. The talking stick was commonly used in council circles to designate the person who had the right to speak. When matters of great concern came before the council, the lead elder would hold the talking stick and begin the discussion. When he finished what he had to say he would hold out the talking stick, and whoever wished to speak after him would take it. In this manner the stick was passed from one individual to another until all who wished to speak had done so. The stick was passed back to the leading elder for safekeeping.

Permission to talk is given the person who is holding the talking stick. No one else is allowed to talk or whisper when someone else is holding the talking stick. During the first few Memory Book Club events, talking stick time may be very short, because children may not feel comfortable talking. In time more and more children will want to talk, and the time needed will increase.

Please do not worry about the time needed to allow children to share. You may invite a number of children to share the topic of the day to promote self-esteem. If a child does not want to share, they simply take the talking stick and say 'pass', passing the talking stick to the next person. (A child may pass without saying anything at all. That is okay.)

The talking stick carries respect for free speech and assures the speaker he has the freedom and power to say what is in his heart without fear of reprisal, humiliation or judgment. The correct response to a child sharing is simply 'thank you for sharing' or simply repeats the final words the child speaks. Facilitators do not need to respond with correction or advice after a child has spoken. Simply repeating the words of what they say tells the child, I am heard. 'You feel happy to make your bloom today or you learned you are loved by God today'. When in doubt, always respond beginning with 'you _____' always keeps the focus on the child and their own story. Never use 'I' in this circumstance, because the story focus turns to you. If you are reminded of something in your own life, look for an opportunity to share it with someone at a different time and place because your story is important too.

The talking stick made of wood, 15 inches or 40 cm long, may be decorated with paint or simply plain, Make sure wood is smooth and absent of splinters. Store the talking stick in a safe place so it will not be necessary to replace. Never, ever use the talking stick for discipline, or even slapping across the hand when speaking. It must remain a friend to all.

Discovering Your Giftedness

Introduction

The purpose of this Lesson Planner - Year Four, Discovering Your Giftedness is to encourage and lead children in the discovery of the God-given gifts God places in each of us at the time of our creation. Every single person is divinely created by God to will and act according to His plan and purpose for His kingdom.

This Lesson Planner – Year Four is an appropriate follow-up to Lesson Planner – Year 3, Fruit of the Spirit. Lesson Planner Year 4 lessons do not contain crafts, but instead requires children to study the word of God, contemplate what God is telling them through prayer, and actively participating in the body of Christ, the church and community at large.

If you would like information about receiving Bibles for children and adults attending your Memory Book Club please contact us at info@memorybooks4children.com

Lesson No. 37 – Discovering Your Giftedness

Introduction - Part 1

Lesson

Fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, but the greatest of these is love. We can discover our spiritual giftedness, but if we lack the fruit of the spirit we will lack the growth, maturity, holiness, Christ-likeness and the fullness of the Holy Spirit. In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul warns the church about exalted giftedness, yet lacking the fruit of the Spirit. The church in Corinth was a disaster because it lacked fruit.

Spiritual giftedness is discovered, but fruit of the Spirit is developed. Spiritual giftedness defines what a Christian does, but fruit of the Spirit defines what a Christian is. A man may be a spiritually gifted pastor, but if he lacks love, patience, or long suffering the gift may mean nothing to the church. Gifts without fruit are like an automobile with flat tires, worthless.

Keep in mind, spiritual giftedness is task oriented for this life, considered temporal. But, the fruit of the Spirit is God oriented and will abide always and eternal. All scriptures related to spiritual gifts is accompanied by scriptures on the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is the indispensable foundation for the effective exercise of spiritual gifts.

Activity

Option 1 – Invite children to read what they wrote on last year lessons on Fruit of the Spirit, and what they learned.

Option 2 – Give list of fruit of the Spirit from above and ask children to write and draw each word and fruit in their Memory Books. Providing a supportive bible study on last years Memory Book Club Lesson Planner – Year 3 – Fruit of the Spirit may be an excellent way to help new children or children interested in additional time together.

Talking Stick Time

Invite children to come forward and read supportive scripture; I Corinthians 13:1-3
Suppose I speak in the languages of human beings and of angels. If I don't have love, I am only a loud gong or a noisy cymbal.....

Or read from additional reading list; Galatians 5:22-3; I Corinthians 13:4; Hebrews 11:6

Lesson Summary

Without the fruit of the Spirit, a spiritual gift may be ineffective and worthless.

Lesson Plan No. 38 –Discovering Your Giftedness – Introduction Part 2

Lesson

Even after we accept Christ as our personal Savior and ask Him to come dwell within us, our human nature is to want to be like and liked by everyone else. We want to dress like everyone, we want to go where everyone goes, and do what others do so we will be accepted and liked. This is choosing to follow the world and what it values instead of God.

God made you and me unique and special unlike anyone else. God tells us we don't have to be like everyone else. If we are like someone else, then there is no one to be just me. We should be free from following everyone else, and express our uniqueness. There is no one exactly like you. You were made one of a kind. You may remind someone of someone else. You may even look like someone else, like your father, your mother. But you are distinct and there is no one, no one just like you.

God wants us to celebrate with Him how and why He made us. He wants us to celebrate our uniqueness, our giftedness and talents He put inside each of us when He created us. Gods word tells us so. And it doesn't stop there. He asks that we do not thing we are better than someone else as we did when we were living after the world values. There is no room for pride when living for God, and what God values. We have all been sinner, so we must humbly thank God for the grace that He gave us to save us, and recognize each of us holds a special place in God's heart as His very own creation.

Celebrate what makes you unique, and celebrate others for the same thing.

Activity

Option 1 – Invite children to write and/or draw in their Memory Book a unique quality that God gave them.

Option 2 – Invite children to write about a quality they admire about someone else.

Talking Stick

Invite children to come forward and share a way they lived for the world, and how living for God can change that behavior.

Invite children to come forward and recite supportive scripture; Romans 12:1-3 Brothers and sisters, God has shown you His mercy. So I am asking you to offer up your bodies to Him while you are still alive. Your bodies are a holy sacrifice that is pleasing to God.

When you offer your bodies to God, you are worshipping him. Don't live any longer the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what He wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect. Don't think of yourself more highly than you should. Be reasonable when you think about yourself. Keep in mind the amount of faith God has given you. Additional reading; I Corinth. 15:33-34; Col. 3:1-17; I Sam. 3:2-10: Proverbs 3:1-8

Lesson Summary

God wants us to turn away from living for the world, and experience the freedom and joy when living for God.

Lesson Plan No. 39 – Benefits of Giftedness

Lesson

One of the most powerful exercises as a Christian is to discover, develop and use your giftedness. Our giftedness is received, not achieved by natural talents, but at the discretion of God Himself. So the act of developing is as God pleases in His time and place. We must choose to be available and willing to use our giftedness to see it develop and the benefit.

First, we will all become a stronger, more effective Christian making our life count for God when we discover our giftedness in the church. When you know your giftedness you are more likely to develop healthy self-esteem. Not thinking more highly of yourself, nor crippling inferiority complexes, but learn that no matter what your gift is, you are important to God and important part of the whole Body of Christ, the church.

Second, when spiritual giftedness is in operation, the whole Body of Christ, the church, matures, gaining the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Some may deny their giftedness seeing it as less noble, or not wanting to be accountable, or even appealing to false humility as a way to cover up disobedience.

Thirdly, the most important benefit for discovering and using your giftedness is to glorify God. Using our giftedness helps us all become everything that God wants us to be!

Activity

Option 1 – Invite children to write in their Memory Book what they have learned about giftedness.

Option 2 – Invite any children to stand and pray asking God to help them discover their own giftedness.

Talking Stick Time

Invite children to come forward and read or tell what they know about giftedness from lesson.

Invite children to recite supportive scripture; 1 Peter 4:11 That in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion, forever and ever. Additional reading; Ephesians 4:13; Proverbs 15:2-3; Luke 22:24-27; Philippians 2:13-18

Lesson Summary

God does not gift according to our natural talents, but by what pleases Him and brings Him glory on earth and in the heavens.

Lesson Plan No. 40 – Am I Talented or Gifted?

Lesson

Both natural talent and spiritual giftedness are God-given, yet we can be a naturally talented worship leader, but not spiritually gifted to lead worship. Being naturally talented may include charisma, passion, a beautifully trained voice leading to a dynamic worship leader, but can still lack spiritual giftedness given by the Spirit.

While the world is filled with naturally talented teachers, leaders, or singing artists, only Christians can be spiritually gifted, because the indwelling Spirit, the Spirit of God through His Son Jesus, gives these gifts. The Spirit operates beyond any natural talent ability.

Natural talents and spiritual giftedness may have a relationship between one another, because God may take an unbeliever's natural talent and transform it into a spiritual gift when that person receives Jesus as their personal Savior. Likewise, God may give someone a spiritual gift that does not come naturally, and requires stepping out in faith, often with fear and trembling, to see the gift unfold. The gift of healing can, but does not require medical training because the power to heal comes directly from the Spirit of God as does all spiritual gifts.

Do not be confused by thinking talents or roles, like fixing automobiles, gourmet cooking, telling jokes, painting artwork or playing basketball is your giftedness.

Activity

Have all 19 spiritual gifts (wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues, hospitality, pastor, encouraging, administration, teaching, helping others, worship, evangelist, mercy, giving) as well as other things like football, cooking, hair stylist, musician, etc written individually large on paper. Mixing all the gifts and talents together, hold one up asking for one child to stand and tell the group if it is a spiritual gift or a talent.

Talking Stick Time

Invite children to come forward and recite supportive scripture; I Corinthians 12:7-11
The Holy Spirit is given to each of us in a special way....(continue to read from bible)
Additional reading; Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11-12; Ephesians 3:6-10; I Corinthians 3:16; I Peter 4; I Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6; I Thess. 5:19

Lesson Summary

Natural talent and spiritual giftedness are both God-given, but only spiritual giftedness uses the power and glory of God.

Lesson Plan No. 41 – Is it Fruit of Spirit or Giftedness?

Lesson

When you choose to live for God discovering your giftedness given to you by God Himself creates a path of serving Him and others. God is the giver of all gifts He has selected from his infinite pool of talents and blessings. Every gift is good. You should not feel slighted because God specifically chose this gift for you. It is up to you to discover what gift He has placed in your heart and how to use it.

Just as the body has many parts, the family of God has many parts, many gifts that are equally important. No part of the body, or of God's family is more important or less important than any other part. A foot cannot turn on an ear because the foot needs the ear to hear which way to run from danger. We need each other.

There are many different gifts. Some are gifted in teaching; others are gifted in healing or other miracles; some are gifted in prophecy or speaking in tongues; while others are gifted in hospitality, or gifted in helping others. Some may be gifted in wisdom, or gifted in worship. Some may be gifted in mercy; some gifted in evangelism or gifted in pastoring. God's family needs all the gifts in order to function smoothly. We are dependent on each other. If one part suffers, all parts suffer with it. If a part is honored, than each of us should rejoice together.

Ask God which gifts he has given you. Ask your family, friends, pastor, or teacher what talents and passions they see in you. Pray and ask God to show you how He wants you to serve Him. Remember God may use a gift in you that is yet to be revealed or developed. Be open to what God brings to you. Ask God to speak to your heart.

Activity

Option 1 – Invite children to write a short letter inside their Memory Book asking God to reveal and develop the spiritual giftedness He has created inside each of them.

Option 2 – Invite children to write in their Memory Book what the lesson said to them.

Talking Stick Time

Invite children to come forward and share what they heard God tell them. Celebrate together what each child reported.

Invite children to come forward and recite the supportive scripture; I Corinthians 12:4-5

There are different kinds of gifts. But, they are all given by the same Spirit. There are different ways to serve. But they all come from the same Lord. Additional reading; Hebrews 2:4, I Thess. 5:19-22; Romans 12:3-8; I Corinthians 12

Lesson Summary

God is the giver of all gifts. Your giftedness chosen by God is uniquely for you. Do not neglect it, but practice it often to please and live for God.

Lesson Plan No. 42 – Beware of Counterfeit Gifts

Lesson

Every single spiritual gift can and is counterfeited by Satan, a supernatural being with supernatural powers originating in the realm of darkness. In Exodus 7-8, magicians could publicly match some of the supernatural works that God did through Moses even though their powers were limited as is Satan's power. (Read Exodus 8-9)

Counterfeit gifts powered by Satan and his agents of evil, known as spiritual mediums, fortune tellers, witches, and spiritual guides can produce prophecies that come true, exorcism, even messages from the dead, and every other gift.

Within the Body of Christ, there are those gifted with discernment of spirits that operates like the body's immune system that identifies and destroys pathogens that cause sickness and death. The gift of discernment of spirits gives certain members of the Body of Christ the ability to ascertain whether behaviors purported to be of God are in reality, divine, human, or satanic.

Remember God within us is greater than he who is in the world. Knowing Satan exists and operates in this way should not intimidate us, for the Holy Spirit in us can overrule all the efforts of the enemy to confuse us. God determined we will fulfill His ministry through us with our spiritual gifts. Do not be confused or persuaded, but rely on the power of the Holy Spirit in you to uncover the counterfeit gift.

Activity

Invite children to write in their Memory Book what this lesson means to them. Invite adult church member with the gift of discernment of spirits to share with children their own testimony (no names please) and to pray for the removal of counterfeit gifts.

Talking Stick Time

Invite children to come forward and read or recite supportive scripture; Matthew 24:24 For false Christ's and false prophets will appear. They will do great signs and miracles. They will try to fool God's chosen people if possible, even the elect. Additional reading; Matthew 7:22-23; Exodus 7-8; I John 4:4; I Thess. 5:21-22

Lesson Summary

Although agents of darkness can confuse and persuade us to believe in counterfeit gifts, greater is the Spirit of God dwelling in His children.

Lesson Plan No. 43 – How to Discover my Gift?

Lesson

Prepare to succeed at discovering your gift (s) by the following 4 principles:

- 1) You must be a believer in Jesus Christ to receive the power through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that allows the free flow of God's gifts in each of us. No other religion, whether Buddhism, Islam, or Hinduism has a Savior who died for believer's sins, triumphed over death through resurrection, and lives within the believer as the Holy Spirit.
- 2) You must believe God can give you spiritual gifts by faith, even if you do not know what it (they) are. Being thankful for the gift(s) God has for you is the beginning of this step of faith.
- 3) You must be willing to work to discover the gift(s) God has for you. God will help you, as you explore the possibilities, study the bible, learn from other gifted people, and experiment with as many different gifts as you can.
- 4) You must pray to God. His guidance will enable you to discover your giftedness. Just ask and believe and He will unlock the beautiful possibilities for the ministry He has already placed within you.

Activity

Invite children come forward to dedicate or rededicate their lives to Christ. This prayer may be led by a known, strong example of a believer of Christ among the children (a first opportunity to see giftedness practiced in a child).

Invite all children to pray and ask God to fill them with the Holy Spirit and begin to reveal over time the giftedness God has placed within them. (This prayer may be lead by a child who has already exhibited the presence of his/her giftedness in club or church)

Talking Stick Time

Invite children to come forward and tell if they dedicated or rededicated their lives to Christ today.

Invite children to come forward and recite the supportive scripture; John 14:6 Jesus answered, 'I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.' Additional reading; Acts 4:12; I Timothy 1:12-16; John 10:10; Hebrews 6:18-20; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Lesson Summary

A Christian's giftedness already exists inside each of us waiting to be discovered.

Lesson Plan No. 44 – Glossary of Spiritual Gifts – Part 1 of 5

Lesson

A review of 24 spiritual gifts over the next 5 Lesson Plans is listed in alphabetical order, not based on importance or lack of importance. Remember every and all parts of the body is important, especially those parts serving quietly and hidden. God gives these to certain members of a church body.

Administration – Understand clearly the immediate and long-range goals of a church or community to devise and execute effective plans for the accomplishment of those goals. Supportive scripture – Luke 14:28-30; Acts 6:1-7; Titus 1:5-9

Apostle – Hears from the Holy Spirit and sets things in order according to church's health, growth, maturity and outreach. Supportive scripture – Luke 6:12-13; Ephesians 2:20; Ephesians 4:11-13

Deliverance – The ability to cast out demons and evil spirits. Supportive scripture – Matthew 12:22-28; Luke 10:12-20; Acts 8:4-8; Acts 16:16-18

Discerning of Spirits – To know with assurance whether certain behaviors purported to be of God are in reality divine, human or satanic. Supportive scripture – Matthew 16:21-23; Acts 5:1-11; I Corinthians 12:10; I John 4:1-6

Activity

Invite children to write the spiritual gifts and definition in their memory books. Invite children to write supportive scripture of each spiritual gift in their memory books.

Talking Stick Time

Invite children to come forward and read or recite supportive scripture; Romans 12:2 Don't live any longer the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what He wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect. Allow children to come forward and read from each spiritual gift supportive scripture.

Lesson Summary

There are different kinds of gifts by the same Spirit. Different ways to serve, but coming from the same Lord. Different ways to work, but only God makes it possible.

Lesson Plan No. 44 – Glossary of Spiritual Gifts – Part 2 of 5

Lesson

This is a continued review of 24 spiritual gifts over the next 4 Lesson Plans, listed in alphabetical order, not based on importance. Remember every and all parts of the body is important, especially those parts serving quietly and hidden. God gives these to certain members of a church body.

Evangelist – To share the gospel with unbelievers in such a way that men and women become Jesus’ disciples and responsible members of the Body of Christ. Supportive scriptures; Acts 8:5-6, 26-40; 14:21; 21:8; Ephesians 4:11-13; 2 Timothy 4:5

Exhortation – To minister words of comfort, consolation, encouragement and counsel to others in such a way that they feel helped and healed. Supportive scripture – Acts 14:22; Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 10:25

Faith – To discern with extraordinary confidence the will and purposes of God for the future of His work. Supportive scripture – Acts 11:22-24; 27:21-25; Romans 4:18-21; 1 Corinthians 12:9

Giving – To contribute their material resources to the work of the Lord liberally and cheerfully, above and beyond the tithes and offerings expected of all believers. Supportive scripture; Mark 12:41-44; Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7; 9:2-8

Activity

Invite children to write the spiritual gifts and definition in their Memory Books. Invite children to write supportive scripture of each spiritual gift in their Memory Books.

Talking Stick Time

Invite children to come forward and read or recite supportive scripture; Romans 12:2 Don’t live any longer the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what He wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect. Allow children to come forward and read from each spiritual gift supportive scripture.

Lesson Summary

There are different kinds of gifts by the same Spirit. Different ways to serve, but coming from the same Lord. Different ways to work, but only God makes it possible.

Lesson Plan No. 44 – Glossary of Spiritual Gifts – Part 3 of 5

Lesson

Continued review of 24 Spiritual gifts.

Healing – To serve as human intermediaries through whom it pleases God to cure illness and restore health apart from the use of natural means. Supportive scripture; Acts 3:1-10; 5:12-16; 9:32-35; 28:7-10; I Corinthians 12:9, 28

Helps – To invest the talents they have in the life and ministry of other members of the Church Body, thus enabling those others to increase the effectiveness of their own spiritual gifts. Supportive scripture; Mark 15:40-41; Luke 8:2-3; Acts 9:36; Romans 16:1-2; I Corinthians 12:28

Hospitality – To provide an open house and warm welcome for those in need of food and lodging. Supportive scriptures; Acts 16:14-15; Romans 12:9-13; 16:23; Hebrews 13:1-2; I Peter 4:9

Intercession – To pray for extended periods of time on a regular basis and see frequent and specific answers to their prayers to a degree much greater than what is expected of the average Christian. Supportive scripture; Luke 22:41-44; Acts 12:12; Colossians 1:9-12; I Timothy 2:1-2

Interpretation of Tongues – To make known in the vernacular (first language) the message of one who speaks in tongues. Supportive scriptures; I Corinthians 12:10, 31; 14:13-14; 26-28

Activity

Invite children to write these spiritual gifts in their memory book.

Invite children to write these supportive scriptures in their memory book.

Talking Stick Time

Invite children to come forward and read or recite the supportive scripture; Romans 12:2 Don't live any longer the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what h wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect.

Lesson Summary

There are different kinds of gifts by the same Spirit. Different ways to serve but coming from the same Lord. Different ways to work, but only God makes it possible.

Lesson Plan No. 44 – Glossary of Spiritual Gifts – Part 4 of 5

Lesson

Continued review of 24 Spiritual gifts.

Knowledge – To discover, accumulate, analyze, and clarify information and ideas that are pertinent to the growth and well-being of the Body of Christ. Supportive scriptures; Acts 5:1-11; I Corinthians 2:14; 12:8; 2 Corinthians 11:6; Colossians 2:2-3

Leadership – To set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the future and to communicate these goals to others in such a way they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish these goals for the glory of God. Supportive scriptures; Luke 9:51; Acts 7:10; 15:7-11; Romans 12:8; I Timothy 5:17; Hebrews 13:17

Leading Worship – To accurately discern the heart of God for a public worship service, to draw others into an intimate experience of God during the worship time and to allow the Holy Spirit to change directions and emphases. Supportive scripture – I Samuel 16:23; I Chronicles 9:33; 2 Chronicles 5:12-14; Psalm 34:3

Mercy – To feel genuine empathy and compassion for both believers and nonbelievers who suffer distressing problems, and to translate that compassion into cheerfully done deeds that reflect Christ's love and alleviate the sufferings. Supportive scripture; Matthew 20:29-34; 25:34-40; Mark 9:41; Luke 10:33-35; Acts 11:28-30; 16:33-34

Miracles – To serve as human intermediaries through whom it pleases God to perform powerful acts that are perceived by observers to have altered the ordinary course of nature. Supportive scriptures; Acts 9:36-42; 19:11-20; 20:7-12; Romans 15:18-19

Missionary – To minister whatever other spiritual gifts they have in a second culture. Supportive scripture; Acts 8:4; 13:2-3; 22:21; Romans 10:15; I Corinthians 9:19-23; Ephesians 3:6-8

Activity

Invite children to write these spiritual gifts in their memory book.

Invite children to write these supportive scriptures in their memory book.

Talking Stick Time

Invite children to come forward and read or recite the supportive scripture; Romans 12:2 Don't live any longer the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect.

Lesson Summary

There are different kinds of gifts by the same Spirit. Different ways to serve but coming from the same Lord. Different ways to work, but only God makes it possible.

Lesson Plan No. 44 – Glossary of Spiritual Gifts – Part 5 of 5

Lesson

Pastor – To receive and communicate an immediate message of God to His people through divine anointment. Supportive scripture – Luke 7:26; Acts 15:32; 21:9-11; Romans 12:6; I Corinthians 12:10, 28; Ephesians 4:11-13

Prophecy – To receive and communicate an immediate message of God to His people through divine anointment. Supportive scripture – Luke 7:26; Acts 15:32; 21:9-11; Romans 12:6; Ephesians 4:11-13

Service – To identify unmet needs involved in a task related to God’s work, and make available resources to meet those needs. Supportive scripture – Acts 6:1-7; Romans 12:7; Galatians 6:2,10; 2 Timothy 1:16-18; Titus 3:14

Teaching – To communicate information relevant to the health and ministry of the body in such a way others will learn. Supportive scripture – Acts 18:24-28; 20:20-21; Romans 12:7; I Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11-13

Tongues – To speak to God in a language they have never learned and/or to receive and communicate an immediate message from God to His people through a divine anointment in a language they have never learned. Supportive scripture – Mark 16:17; Acts 2:1-13; 10:44-46; 19:1-7; I Corinthians 12:10, 28; 14:13-19

Wisdom – To know the mind of the Holy Spirit in such a way as to receive insight into how given knowledge may best be applied to specific needs in the body of Christ. Supportive scripture – Acts 6:3, 10; I Corinthians 2:1-13; 12:8; James 1:5-6; 2 Peter 3:15-16

Activity

Invite children to write these spiritual gifts in their memory book.

Invite children to write these supportive scriptures in their memory book.

Talking Stick Time

Invite children to come forward and read or recite the supportive scripture; Romans 12:2 Don’t live any longer the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what h wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect.

Lesson Summary

There are different kinds of gifts by the same Spirit. Different ways to serve but coming from the same Lord. Different ways to work, but only God makes it possible.

Lesson Plan No. 46 – Explore and Experiment

Lesson

For the past 5 Lessons we have studied the spiritual gifts found in the Bible. Now it is time to explore and experiment the possibilities of as many gifts as you can so when you come across the gift you know God has given to you, it will be recognized for what it is.

First, look for needs in your church and community. Get to know gifted people (people serving) and ask, 'Can I help with this?' Be available for any job, whether you feel equipped or even like it. When you are invited to help, pray and ask God to give you a servant's heart filled with humility, passion, and love to fulfill this assignment. Remember all parts of the body are important, especially ones who do their work quietly and hidden from an audience. Remember discovering your giftedness does not come quickly. Give each assignment a fair assessment, and do not give up.

Second, examine your feelings related to doing a task. While stepping out in faith sometimes may begin with feelings of fear and apprehension, but serving God in your giftedness leads to accessing all that God has made you to be. Eventually you will discover the passion, skills, and heart that is inside you.

Thirdly, evaluate your effectiveness by examining what you have accomplished for the body of Christ. If you experiment with a gift and consistently do not see desired outcomes, ask others to confirm what you may expect. This may not be my giftedness. Do not be discouraged. Simply go onto another area to serve God.

Activity

Invite children to write in their memory books what God has been revealing to them in the last few lessons.

Talking Stick Time

Invite children to come forward and read or recite the supportive scripture; James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all liberally.

Invite children to come forward and read from additional reading list; Jeremiah 29:11-13; 2 Corinthians 2:15; 2 Corinthians 4:7; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Galatians 3:28; 6:9

Lesson Summary

God created you equipped to fully carry out the spiritual gifts already in you.

Lesson Plan No. 47 – Delight Yourself

Lesson

God knows every detail of our psychological condition, our metabolism, our personality, and understands our feelings and desires. God knows if we enjoy a task we will do a better job than if we do not enjoy it. So it is God's plan to match the spiritual gift He gives us with how we are created. That is why God reserves assigning spiritual gifts for Himself because God is the only one who truly knows us.

When we are doing God's plan and purpose for our lives, serving in our spiritual giftedness, we will be doing what we want to do because God has given us the desire as a part of our being. Do not confuse trials and struggles that will accompany serving God in our spiritual giftedness, because most areas to serve God will include challenges and need to solve problems and meet needs of the body of Christ.

Remember to stay focused on the Lord, and your relationship with Him daily. Do everything as if you are doing it unto the Lord alone. Look to the Lord for direction, assurance, and reward. The Lord will lead you to your desires, which will match God's spiritual gift He created you for.

Activity

Invite children to write what they learned about this lesson called Delight Yourself. Invite children to write a letter to God asking Him to give them the Desires of their hearts.

Talking Stick Time

Invite children to come forward and read what they wrote about the lesson, or from the letter to God.

Invite children to come forward and read or recite the supportive scripture; Psalm 37:4 Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Additional reading; Ephesians 1:4; 2:10; 3:20; Philippians 1:6; 2:14-15; 3:12; Colossians 1:10; 3:12; 3: 23

Lesson Summary

God is able to do far more than we could every ask for or imagine by His power working in us.

Lesson Plan No. 48 – His Good Pleasure

Lesson

A testimony from Tamara Faris, Founder of Memory Books for Children

I want to tell you a story. Many years ago, after raising my children, I decided to return to complete my university education. I had no idea about what I should study, but one day after being accepted a university counselor suggested I enter the nursing program. Most of my family and friends responded by saying, they never knew I wanted to be a nurse. Neither did I, I said.

I entered the program, but was immediately met with fear from past failures of chemistry and math. The program was very difficult, and at times it seemed a miracle I would advance, but eventually became a nurse. After nursing for 4 years and traveling to South Africa as a tourist something inside me began to stir. While in South Africa, my heart ached for the children I met who were orphaned and vulnerable. Just like my childhood, I wondered if they felt loved or valued.

In 2005, after volunteering 3 months as a nurse in South Africa I facilitated the shipment of 80 memory books to children in an orphanage so they could tell their stories. Today, over 35,000 children have been gifted with a memory book across the globe with countless others impacted by the message, I am somebody. From South Africa to Nigeria and 15 African countries between, to Romania, and India, to the Philippines, Indonesia, and Thailand, from South to North America children are preserving their own unique stories and drawings of identity and hope inside a personal memory book.

When I began this journey by listening to that quiet stir within me, I never knew then where it would take me. Today I recognize the voice of the Holy Spirit inspiring me to acknowledge the shared sympathy I had for vulnerable children, the years of practicing mothering, nursing, and my own relationship with God that would create an intersection in my life. Today I have discovered my spiritual gifts as teacher, encourager, mercy and healing through the ministry of Memory Books for Children.

Today, I am pleased we are making this journey together to discover the plans and purpose God created inside each of you. I pray God will use these lessons to open this gift, His call upon your life, your spiritual giftedness that will bring God's fullness and blessing to your life and glory to God forever. ~ Tamara

Lesson Summary

God created me. God chose me to glorify Him with my life.

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All scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version. (1982). Thomas Nelson, Inc.

Lessons Completed

Lesson Plan No.

Facilitator Name

Date