

Image Bearer – Week 5

Middle School Ministry Teaching Guide

BIG IDEA

God gave you gifts, not to build your own platform, but to serve others and build His church.

BIBLE

1 Corinthians 12

ABOUT THIS WEEK

God gave you unique gifts—not to show off, but to build up others and serve His mission. Your talents don't define you, but they are tools God wants to use. Discovering and using your gifts helps you live out who you were made to be.

WHAT?

- If you could have any superpower, what would it be? And what would you use it for?
- It's fun to dream about superpowers, but did you know that God has actually given you real abilities that come directly from Him?
- They may not be laser vision or flying, but they are so important to serving Him and others.
- Your gifts, personality, talents, and passions were given to you for a reason.
- And that reason isn't to just show off, it's to serve others and reflect God to the world.
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 12-18
- Paul compares the church to a body. Every part is different, but every part is important.
- Just like a body needs all its parts to function, the church needs you and the gifts God gave you.
- Some of you might be good at encouraging others. Some of you might be good at solving problems or making people laugh or helping behind the scenes.
- All of those are tools given to us by God that can be used to serve others and point them to Jesus.
- Your gifts aren't random. They're a part of God's design to help you play a role in His mission.

SO WHAT?

- Middle school is a time when you start to notice what you're good at, but you're also tempted to use those gifts for popularity or to serve yourself.
- Are you using your gifts to serve others or just to stand out?
- What if your gifts were meant for something bigger than yourself?
- You don't have to wait until you're older to be used by God. You can start making a difference RIGHT NOW!

NOW WHAT?

- **Challenge:** Think of one way this week you can use a gift God gave you to serve someone else.
- Encourage someone who's struggling.
- Help your family without being asked.
- Use your creativity to bring joy to someone.
- **Next Step:** In small groups, we have an assessment that you can take to help you discover the ways God may have gifted you specifically.