



BIG IDEA

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

BIBLE

1 Corinthians 12:4–7, 12–18

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? What are we talking about today?

INTRODUCTION

- Welcome to the final week of Image Bearers!
- We've been talking about what it means to be made in the image of God—and how that shapes who we are and how we live.
- Today's big question is this: "What am I good at—and why does it matter?" Because here's the truth:
 - God didn't just give you gifts and talents to keep to yourself.
 - He gave them to you for a reason.
 - And it's not about being impressive—it's about making a difference.

HOOK – Superpowers and Showoffs

- If you could have any superpower, what would it be—and what would you use it for?
 - Now imagine having that power, but never using it. That'd be crazy, right?
 - But sometimes, that's what we do with the gifts God has given us. We hide them, downplay them, or use them to try and get attention instead of using them to help others.
 - The truth is, you were made to serve—and that means using what God gave you to build something bigger than yourself.
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One Body, Many Parts

- Read **1 Corinthians 12:4-7**
 - In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul talks about spiritual gifts—abilities God gives us to serve others.
 - Verses 4–7 say there are different kinds of gifts, but the same God gives them all.
 - And verse 7 says, “A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.”
- But he continues with more:
- Read **1 Corinthians 12-18**
 - In verses 12–18, Paul uses the example of a body.
 - A body has many parts—hands, feet, eyes, ears—and every part matters.
 - It wouldn’t work if the foot said, “I’m not a hand, so I don’t belong.” Or if the eye said, “I don’t need the rest of you.”
 - In the same way, the church (and the world) needs your part. Your gifts. Your presence. Your voice.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

- Here’s where it gets real: Middle school is one of the hardest places to believe that you matter.
- It’s easy to look at other people and think, “They’re better at everything. They have more friends. They’re more confident. Why would God use me?”
- So you start to believe your gifts don’t count—or that you have to use them to prove your worth.
- But that’s not what God says. God says He gave you your gifts on purpose—to serve, not to show off. To build people up, not build your own platform.
- And maybe deeper than that, you’ve been living like your value comes from how talented or successful you are.
- That’s exhausting. The Gospel frees you from that pressure. Because through Jesus, you don’t have to earn a spot on the team—you already belong to the body.
- God sees you. He gave you gifts. And He’s inviting you to use them to bring hope, healing, and help to others.
- So when you wonder if your gifts matter, remember: **They do—because the God who gave them to you is using them to make the world more like heaven.**

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

- So what does that look like this week?
- Start here: Ask yourself, “What has God given me?”
 - Maybe it’s a heart for people.
 - Maybe you’re funny or creative or helpful.
 - Whatever it is—name it. Then ask, “How could I use this to serve someone this week?”
- You don’t have to wait to be older. You don’t have to be the best. You just have to be willing.
- One encouraging word. One quiet act of service. One choice to include someone who’s usually left out.
- That’s how God works through you.

Closing Prayer and Dismissal to Small Group

- “God, thank You for giving each of us gifts that matter. Forgive us when we hide them or use them to get attention. Help us use what You’ve given us to serve others, to love well, and to be part of building something bigger than ourselves. Amen.”
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