



Small Group Discussion Guide

March 12, 2017

Sermon Title:

"Managing Life: Abilities"

Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Scripture Reading: Romans 12:4-11

Leader: *Please allow a moment for introductions/visiting, and then have someone offer a brief prayer for God to meet with your group.*

Getting Started: What is something you do that you are good at? What is something you do that you do not excel at, but really enjoy?

Discussion:

1. Review Romans 12:4-11. What abilities are mentioned? Are there others you could add from other parts of scripture?
2. What is the primary point of Romans 12:4-11 (hint: if . . . then)?
3. **Gifts / *charisma*** (v 4). Who do you know that has a clear giftedness from God? What is their gift? How do they use it for God's kingdom?
4. What about you? Do you have a "gift" that God has entrusted to you?
5. **Service / *diakonia*** (v 5). What are some common abilities we overlook as a means of furthering God's kingdom?
6. Do we emphasize special abilities (*gifts/charismata*) too much and common abilities too little? Why do we as Christians so often overlook the simple abilities we can use to make a difference?
7. **Work / *energema*** (v 6). How do you earn a living? Is there a way you can use your vocation in ministry to others?
8. Some Christians are not willing to use vocational abilities in the life of the church. What are some of the reasons they offer? Are these appropriate?
9. **Activity / *energema*** (v 6). Share one or two hobbies or activities you enjoy. Can these be used for kingdom purposes?
10. Have you ever noticed how much energy and effort we expend to "have fun"? How can we use those activities to grow faith and ministry?

11. Read verse 7. What is the purpose of each ability that is bestowed by the Holy Spirit? Is this purpose limited only to spiritual or charismatic gifts?

Closing: Close *by praying for each other. Go **SHARE JESUS . . . in Service!***