

WEEK 6 | HOW DO I MAKE THE MOST OF LIFE?

WEEKLY OVERVIEW

In John 20:21 Jesus says, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." This week we will be exploring what Scripture says about how we can partner with God in His redemptive mission for the world, serving His Kingdom – both in the Church and in the world.

NOTE

- Reading assignments and devotionals will come from your Rooted Book weeks 6 & 7. You'll engage with select readings from each week rather than completing them all.
- During the week, you will be invited to explore your spiritual gifts utilizing the Spiritual Gifts Guide on the following pages of the Companion Guide.

DAILY WORK

Day 1: Call & Motive to Serve | Read pages 112-117

Day 2: Breadth of Service | Read pages 119-120

Day 3: Wired to Serve | Read pages 125-129

Day 4: Hands-On Love | Read pages 142-143

Day 5: Symbiosis (AKA: Give and Take) | Read pages 145-147

MEMORY VERSE

:We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

- Ephesians 2:10

"The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

- Matthew 25:40

EXTRA RESOURCES

- *Love Where You Live* by Shauna Pilgreen
- *No Longer Strangers* by Eugene Cho and Samira Page

BEFORE YOU BEGIN...

Pause to pray, inviting the Lord to show you through His word the ways He calls you to serve and share in His redemptive work. Take your time as you read through these pages. Slow down to notice how you might be stirred to respond to the call to serve.



SPIRITUAL GIFTS GUIDE

God gives every believer spiritual gifts to serve others and advance His Kingdom. These gifts are not just natural talents or skills, but Spirit-given abilities to reflect Christ's love and grace.

NOTE: There are countless resources and assessments available to help you discover your spiritual gifts. However, no spiritual gifts inventory tool can replace the experience of discerning your individual gifting with a trusted fellow believer in the presence of God. We would love to connect you with someone who can serve as a companion in this process.

Discerning your spiritual gifts begins with prayer and reflection on God's Word. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul reminds us that the Holy Spirit gives a variety of gifts, each unique and each meant to build up the body of Christ. Before exploring specific gifts, take time to slowly read through 1 Corinthians 12. As you read, notice the different gifts listed and consider how God might be at work in you. Ask the Spirit to open your heart and mind to see where He has uniquely equipped you to serve, encourage, and strengthen others in the church.

WISDOM (1 CORINTHIANS 12:8)

The ability to see situations from God's perspective and offer guidance that helps others make godly decisions.

- Do people often come to me for advice when facing decisions?
- When I read Scripture, do I see clear connections to everyday life?
- Have others affirmed that my input helps them see things more clearly?

SERVICE (1 PETER 4:11)

The desire and ability to joyfully meet practical needs, often behind the scenes.

- Do I naturally notice tasks that need to be done and step in to help?
- Do I feel fulfilled serving in ways that others may not notice?
- Does helping others energize me more than leading or being up front?

ENCOURAGEMENT (ROMANS 12:7-8)

The ability to lift others up with words or presence, offering hope and motivation.

- Do I enjoy speaking words or writing notes of encouragement to others?
- Do people tell me my words came at just the right time?
- Do I find joy in helping others stay strong in their faith?

FAITH (1 CORINTHIANS 12:9, 13:2)

The confidence to trust God deeply and inspire others to believe Him even in difficult circumstances.

- Do I find it easy to trust God when things look uncertain?
- Do I pray bold prayers expecting God to move?
- Do others say my faith encourages their own trust in God?

LEADERSHIP (ROMANS 12:8)

The ability to guide people toward God's purposes with clarity and care.

- Do I enjoy organizing and motivating people toward a goal?
- Do people naturally look to me for direction?
- Do I find joy in helping others succeed and grow?

ADMINISTRATION (1 CORINTHIANS 12:28)

The ability to organize details, resources, and tasks so that ministry goals are accomplished.

- Do I enjoy making plans, systems, or schedules that keep things on track?
- Do I notice when details are overlooked and step in to help?
- Do people rely on me to bring order to projects or events?

DISCERNMENT (1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-10)

The ability to recognize truth from error and perceive the action of God in the midst of His people.

- Do I often sense when something isn't right spiritually?
- Do others seek my perspective when making difficult choices?
- Have I recognized harmful influences before others noticed?

PROPHECY (1 CORINTHIANS 14:1-4, 1 THESSALONIANS 5:20-21)

The ability to boldly speak God's truth in ways that encourage, challenge, or guide others.

- Do I feel a strong urge to share truths from Scripture with others?
- Do people say my words bring them closer to God?
- Am I deeply moved when I see God's people drifting from His Word?

KNOWLEDGE (1 CORINTHIANS 12:8)

The ability to understand and explain God's truth clearly so that others can apply it.

- Do I enjoy studying the Bible and making connections across passages?
- Do people say I help make Scripture easier to understand?
- Do I remember details and truths that others find helpful in decision-making?

TEACHING (JAMES 3:1)

The ability to explain God's Word in a way that brings clarity and application to life.

- Do I enjoy preparing lessons or explaining Scripture to others?
- Do people say I make complex truths easier to understand?
- Do I feel energized when helping others learn?

MENTORING

The ability to guide, teach, and walk alongside others in their faith journey over time. We see this modeled throughout the gospel in how Jesus led his disciples.

- Do I enjoy walking with others in long-term spiritual growth?
- Do I often invest in people one-on-one to encourage their faith?
- Do people see me as a trusted guide or mentor in their life?

SHEPHERDING (EPHESIANS 4:11)

The ability to care for and nurture others in their spiritual lives, like a shepherd with their flock.

- Do I feel a strong responsibility for the spiritual well-being of others?
- Do people feel safe and cared for when I'm with them?
- Do I naturally pray for and check in on others regularly?

GIVING (ROMANS 12:8)

The ability to joyfully and generously share resources to bless others and support God's work.

- Do I enjoy giving time, money, or resources to meet needs?
- Do I find joy in blessing others even when it requires sacrifice?
- Do I see generosity as an opportunity rather than an obligation?

MERCY (ROMANS 12:15, GALATIANS 6:2)

The ability to show compassion and empathy to those who are hurting or in need.

- Do I feel deeply moved when I see others suffering?
- Do people often come to me for comfort or support?
- Do I find joy in being present with those in pain, even when it's hard?

EVANGELISM (MATTHEW 28:18-20)

The ability to share the good news of Jesus in a clear, engaging way that helps people respond in faith.

- Do I naturally bring up spiritual conversations with others?
- Do people respond positively when I share my story of faith?
- Do I feel excited when someone comes to know Jesus?

HOSPITALITY (1 PETER 4:9-10)

The ability to make others feel welcome, accepted, and comfortable, often through opening your home or creating a safe space.

- Do I enjoy hosting and making people feel at home?
- Do I see my home or space as a tool for ministry?
- Do new people often become friends quickly in my presence?

APOSTLESHP (EPHESIANS 4:11)

The ability to be sent out with the gospel, often in new or cross-cultural settings, to start and strengthen communities of faith.

- Do I feel drawn to share Jesus with people outside my usual circles?
- Do I adapt well to new cultures or environments for the sake of the gospel?
- Do I feel called to start new ministries or groups where none exist?

**This guide is intended to serve as an introduction to spiritual gifts and is not exhaustive. Scripture mentions other spiritual gifts not listed here, and we would love to have a conversation with you about how we believe the Holy Spirit gifts individuals and how He has gifted you.*

REFLECTION & RESPONSE

HOW DO I DISCOVER MY GIFTS?

- Pay attention to what brings you joy in serving.
- Notice when others affirm how God is working through you.
- Look for patterns: When do I feel most alive in ministry?
- Pray and ask God to reveal how He has uniquely equipped you.
- Step out and serve — gifts grow stronger when they are used!
- Seek out a fellow believer and invite them to join you in your discernment process.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Which gifts stood out to me as I read the descriptions?
- When have I experienced God using me in ways that align with these gifts?
- What do others affirm in me when it comes to serving or leading?
- Where do I feel most alive and fulfilled when I'm serving?
- How could I begin practicing or developing one of these gifts in my Rooted group, church, or daily life?

NEXT STEPS

- Meet with a staff person or leader to prayerfully discern how God has gifted you - email contact@thecreek.org
- Explore ways to serve at The Creek, locally, and globally - thecreek.org/serve

**REMINDER: YOUR GIFTS ARE NOT JUST FOR YOU — THEY ARE FOR THE GOOD OF THE BODY OF CHRIST.
DISCOVERING AND USING THEM IS PART OF HOW GOD GROWS YOU AND BLESSES OTHERS.**

REFLECTION & RESPONSE

Select a few questions from each section on the previous page and use the space provided below to prayerfully reflect and journal your thoughts.

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FINAL REFLECTIONS

As you prepare for the conversation in your group, take a few moments to look over the readings and your responses from the past five days.

- What did God teach you this week? What questions do you have?
- What is one way God is inviting you to grow or change from this week's material?
- In light of this time of reflection, what are you asking God for?