

Mosaic: Disciplined Artwork (6)
Romans 12:1-10, Week of March 11, 2018
Bay Park Life Groups - Leader

When we minister to others through our gifts, we are tapping into the inexhaustible energy of God. When we exercise our gifts, the Holy Spirit flows through us like at no other time.

~ Charles Stanley¹

There is no limit to what a man can do so long as he does not care a straw who gets the credit for it.

~ Charles Edward Montague²

Work at your gifting; don't play with your gifting (Romans 12:6-8)

~ Sunday Sermon

Warming up . . .

1. Thinking over the 6 weeks of Mosaic, what helped or challenged you most?

Digging in . . .

Read Romans 12:1-10 together

2. What verse or idea stands out to you most and why?

Leaders

- Note how the topic of spiritual gifts is bookended by the call to consecration (1-3) and the call to love (9-10).
 - In view of God's mercies (1) we are urged (passion and priority) to offer ourselves to God . . .
 - As living sacrifices, not dead or dying ones
 - Wholly (body), not just our hearts (feelings), minds (theology) or wallets separately.
 - Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, his good pleasing and perfect will (2). What does that look like? Using our God given spiritual gifts in all humility, unity and passionately . . . **For** by the grace given me I say to every one of you (3).
3. The Greek word *hyperphronéō* (3) means to think better or more highly of oneself. How does our "hyper" self-absorption (aka pride) affect the use of our gifting? Can you think of Biblical and personal examples?

¹ Charles Stanley, *The Wonderful Spirit Filled Life*, (Nelson Books, 1992), p

² .Charles Edward Montague, *Disenchantment*, ch. 15, 1922

4. We all long for great unity in our homes, communities and places of work and worship. In verses 4-5 we learn that by divine design our gifts are given to unite us. The use of them moves us from independence to interdependence. As *members of one another*, knowing our gifts is only half the equation. Paying attention to others, their gifting and needs, helps us understand how, where and when to use our gifts.

How does understanding the gifting of others shape the use of your gifts at home, work or church?

5. Did you notice the way the gifts are listed in verses 6-8? It's not a complete list, nor is it a grocery list. Rather, each gift listed is accompanied by a simple tag line. The message is clear, *work at your gifting; don't play with your gifting*. This is a far cry from the "your lucky to have me volunteer so take what you get" attitude often expressed in churches. What passages of scripture, attitudes or actions can help us move from a half hearted to fully devoted posture of serving?

Leaders

- Your challenge will be to keep the conversation constructive. People will tend to drift into guilt tripping solutions, which don't work because they lack the ability to motivate and compel. Keep asking: How can we encourage people? Does that work for you?
- Be prepared to share from your personal experience. How did you end up leading a LifeGroup? What motivates you? How has God grown your serving attitude?

6. Of the gifts listed in Romans 12, which would you be voted most likely to have? Least likely?

Prophecy = Uncanny ability to hear from God. These messages can take the form of exhortation, correction, or insight into otherwise undisclosed circumstances.

Serving = Lit. a table waiter; someone who ultimately excels in doing not just discussing.

Teaching = Lit. to cause to learn; studying, organizing, and helping others grow.

Encouraging = Coming alongside to build up, defend, comfort, guide.

Giving = Strategic engagement with money and possession for Kingdom growth.

Leadership = Lit. to stand before; to rule or manage.

Mercy = The hands and feet of God to the afflicted.

7. Reread verses 9-10. In what circumstances might “hate” be an expression of “love?” Examples?

Driving it home . . .

8. Divide up into groups of 2-3 for prayer and
- How can we pray for the use of your gifting?
 - Start your prayer in worship by focusing in on Romans 12:1 - *in view of God's mercy*

Leaders:

- Most people are uncomfortable praying in larger groups. It's also a lot less personal. By dividing up your group regularly for prayer you will be leading them skilfully and growing the prayer experience of your group.
- It's so easy for our LifeGroup prayer times to default to request based as opposed to worship driven and saturated. You will do your people a great service by repeatedly modelling, teaching and encouraging them to focus on worship in prayer.
 - It's how Jesus taught his disciples to pray (Mtt 6:9-13).
 - It takes the focus off of us, our limited strength and resources, and puts it on God and his limitless power and ability.
 - It helps move people away from the “I can fix your problem for you” discussions that often accompany our prayer times. Why pray to God if we can fix one another's problems? We pray because God can do so much more than we can and worship is our needed reminder of that.