

## Small Groups Guide

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Sunday May 28, 2023

1. Give the group some time to just talk and share one another's joys/concerns.
2. Prayer (ask if anyone wants anything in particular prayed for)
3. Last Sunday's sermon
  - a. Exercise: Stop for a minute and find something in the look or outside to focus on. Look at it for 10 or 15 seconds. Why did you choose to focus on that one thing? Often, we tend to focus on the things that are most beautiful or the most useful. (Pastor Matt: I chose to focus on my cat as my example. I focused on him because I think he is really cool looking and he makes me happy.)

That is how we often function and assign worth to things. The things that are most beautiful or most useful have the most worth to us. In school, tv, social media and so on the people who get the most attention are usually "beautiful" by the world's standards (skinny, muscular, rich skin complexion, etc). Look up website ... <https://www.instagram.com/kimkardashian/?hl=en> ... Kim Kardashian has 375 MILLION!! followers. Why? Because she fits a certain mold that society says has worth.

Likewise, what careers pay the most? It is usually ones that require a college education or beyond. It is the careers that will help us the most. We deem jobs like a doctor, lawyer, or professor to be of greatest worth because of the training they need and how much people need them.

- b. So, if the world says that people have worth because of how they look and what they can contribute, then what does our faith say makes someone worthwhile and useful?
- a. Go over last Sunday's sermon.
  - i. Does anyone remember the sermon well enough to summarize it for the group?
    - Summary: Often in life, we feel that we don't make a difference, that we are useless, or that we don't have much worth. These are all understandable feelings, and most people get them. We usually feel like we are worthless or useless because of what someone tells us or because of some circumstance that we are in. For example, people who have not been to college and work retail jobs sometimes feel that they don't make a difference. However, if "God don't make no junk" as people have said, then we must have some or a great deal of worth. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 tells us that part of the worth we have comes directly from the gifts that God gives us. Be realizing that we have gifts from God, we can start to make peace with who we are. We need to realize that all God is asking of us is to use whatever those gifts are, and we will find great fulfillment in that.
  - ii. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
    - Did you notice anything in the scripture that you didn't notice during the sermon?
    - Where does the scripture say our gifts come from?

- a. It says at least 4 ... maybe 5 times that our gifts come from God who graciously gives them to make the world and church a better place
- If our gifts come from God, then what gift/s do you think God has given you?
  - a. Pastor Matt: For example, I never asked for it or worked on it, but I am good at getting along with people of all ages. I recognize that not every minister can do that.
- Are there any gifts that you wish you had, but feel that you don't possess?
- How can you use your gifts? What will you do this week with your gifts to make the world a better place?
  - a. Pastor Matt: For example, I can use my gift to care for people who are in nursing homes while also caring for teenagers at church and in town.
- iii. If there is time, read the rest of 1 Corinthians 12. It is an elaboration of what Paul says in verses 4-11. What do you learn about your gifts and your worth from the rest of this chapter? Definitely read 1 Corinthians 12:14 in The Message (I want you to think about how all this makes you **more significant**, not less.)

Some cultural background on the scripture:

- iv. 12.6 same God who activates all. God gets the credit for all the gifts, so no one can boast over their gift versus another's.
- v. 12.7 Speakers sometimes emphasized a matter by bracketing it; v. 7 and v. 11 together reinforce the dependence on God's Spirit to empower the activities in vv. 8-10.
- vi. 12.8 utterance of wisdom . . . utterance of knowledge. Corinthian culture valued speaking (in rhetoric), wisdom (in philosophy) and knowledge.
- vii. 12.8-10 Ancient orators liked to use lists (as also in vv. 28-30; 14.26), as well as repetition (here, "to another" seven times, most of them the same Greek term).
- viii. 12.9 gifts of healing. Gentiles in Corinth could seek healing at local shrines (especially that of Asclepius), but the Spirit provided healing gifts from the true God among the believers.

## MS and HS Small Groups Guide

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Sunday May 28, 2023

1. Give the group some time to just talk and share one another's joys/concerns.
2. Prayer (ask if anyone wants anything in particular prayed for)
3. Go over last Sunday's sermon.
  - a. Summary: A lot of people feel like they don't matter very much. They think that because they don't look a certain way, dress a certain way, not popular, don't make really good grades, etc that they aren't as good as good people or have no value. The Bible shows us that our value doesn't come from how we measure up to others, but from what God thinks of us and the gifts that God gives us.
  - b. Do you think that you matter to the world? Are you useful? Many people think that they aren't for many reasons or because of what others say about them.
  - c. Exercise: Stop for a minute and find something in the look or outside to focus on. Look at it for 10 or 15 seconds. Why did you choose to focus on that one thing? Often, we tend to focus on the things that are most beautiful or the most useful. (Pastor Matt: I chose to focus on my cat as my example. I focused on him because I think he is really cool looking and he makes me happy.)

That is how we often function and assign worth to things. The things that are most beautiful or most useful have the most worth to us. In school, tv, social media and so on the people who get the most attention are usually "beautiful" by the world's standards (skinny, muscular, rich skin complexion, etc). Look up website ... <https://www.instagram.com/kimkardashian/?hl=en> ... Kim Kardashian has 375 MILLION!! followers. Why? Because she fits a certain mold that society says has worth.

Likewise, what careers pay the most? It is usually ones that require a college education or beyond. It is the careers that will help us the most. We deem jobs like a doctor, lawyer, or professor to be of greatest worth because of the training they need and how much people need them.

- c. So, if the world says that people have worth because of how they look and what they can contribute, then what does our faith say makes someone worthwhile and useful?
- d. Read part of 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
  - i. God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people!
  - ii. What the Bible tells us here is that EVERYONE has gifts and all of these gifts come from God.
  - iii. Are there any gifts that you wish you had, but think you don't?
  - iv. What gifts, talents, or abilities do you think God has given you?
  - v. How can you use one of your gifts this week to make the world or someone's life better?

- Examples: If you are good at playing the guitar, you could write a song that would cheer people up. If you are a good listener, then take some time to be there for someone that is struggling.
  - vi. Often people think they don't have any gifts or anything they are good at. Maybe that is you. Try to realize that sometimes you have gifts that you don't even notice.
  - vii. Summarize the rest of 1 Corinthians 12: *There are many parts to a body, but each part is needed.* Read 1 Corinthians 12:14 in The Message (**I want you to think about how all this makes you more significant, not less.**) The gifts that God gives you specifically are what make so you significant and important!
4. Come back together as a whole group (MS together and HS together) and watch video ... <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/player/video/99571?session=99571>. Talk about pressures to fit in as a teenager when God has really called you to stand out.
  5. Closing prayer