

Aims:

The aims of this module are to help our members:

1. Find out their different gifts from God and to discover what are the special gifts given to each of them
2. Encourage the use of these gifts in serving others



This module will set out the steps of the programme based on three weekly 1.5-hour sessions.

Aim.

The aim of this first session is to raise girl's awareness of God's gifts to us by reading the bible and learning about these gifts.

Objectives:

Introduce the girls to the bible and help them find Romans 12 v 6-8, Ephesians 4 v 11-12 and then 1 Corinthians 12 v 4-6. Explain what these verses mean and how these gifts affect our daily lives.

Teaching:

God doesn't make two people the same. People are different because God makes each person to be unique. We have our own individual personality, which will be influenced, by education, training and life experiences. (You will be using gift boxes to illustrate what the gifts are all about.) As a result our personalities show certain characteristics; some will be strengths and some will be weaknesses however there will be some things we will all do really well.

Spiritual Gifts: A spiritual gift is a wonderful gift, it is given by God and its purpose is to help build His Kingdom through service to others. The gift is not tangible - it cannot be held, it cannot be seen. You cannot wrap it up; you can however take it along with you wherever you go or you can store it away where it lays waiting for you to discover it. Don't waste these precious gifts, they are yours to keep. They are always under our control. We must first identify our strongest motivational gift and then look to see how and where we can use our gift/gifts to serve the Lord.

The seven Motivational Gifts are:

Prophecy - someone who will share the Word of God and being able to see things as God sees them.

Serving/Helper - someone who meets others needs with work or labour.

Teaching - someone with the ability to make others understand God' word.

Exhortation/Encouragement - Encouraging others to grow in faith and commitment, keep people motivated.

Giving - Someone who will give what others need, sharing one's time, talents and/or possessions.

Leading - Being able to efficiently organise people and resources so as to achieve common goals.

Mercy - Someone who acts on feelings and compassion for others.

Remind the girls that they have spiritual gifts too, though many do not know it because of their age or lack of knowledge that spiritual gifts exist. They may need help in determining where

their strength lies. This is where the Bible passages outlined above will help. The girls need to know that they can help build God's Kingdom and that they are a part of the body of Christ.

Planning and Preparation:

- Find several boxes all different sizes, place inside pieces of paper on which will be written a natural gift and then wrap the box as a present. These natural gifts need to be able to show our uniqueness as individuals. For example good at sport, good at math. Make up a second set with Spiritual gifts.
- Bring 2-3 large pieces of newsprint, together with felt pens
- Have a game for the girls to play
 1. **Have a large jigsaw** of people showing all sorts of different features, nose, eyes, colour of hair etc, and have a time trial to see which group can put it together the fastest.
 2. **Character Cards** - requires a packet of picture cards with a variety of different characters on them (cartoon characters, Star Wars, Disney, Super-heroes, etc.). You will need approximately 30 cards for a ten-person group, more if your group is larger.

Players sit in a circle. The Game Leader spreads the cards out, face up in the centre of the circle, while explaining the game.

Description: Each player chooses one to three cards. The Game Leader tells players to choose characters that represent a part of themselves — their personality or character. When everyone has their card(s), players introduce themselves in turn to the rest of the group. They say their real name first, show the cards they have chosen, and explain how they are like the characters on the cards.

Note: The Game Leader begins in order to set the tone, establish safety, model risk, and encourage meaningful explanations. "Character Cards" allows players to reveal their self-perceptions and identities; insecurities or labels are often stated through the character. If players are willing to risk, the game can deepen their understanding of one another. This game can be adapted for most ages.

Activities:

1. Open the gift boxes and talk about the natural gifts, then open the spiritual gifts and explain about these gifts.
2. Move girls into groups of 3 - 4 and have one girl draw an outline (on newsprint) of a girl (draw around another girl or freehand) and then ask girls to write down each other's characteristics on the body in an appropriate place i.e. eyes on head etc.
3. Play games

Devotions:

Everyone has a gift.

Object A tall glass container. Equal parts of salad or cooking oil, coloured water, and syrup in separate containers. When these ingredients are poured together and shaken gently, they will mix then settle to separate ingredients again. Hint: put in the water and oil first, as the syrup clings to the bottom of the container. The harder you shake the mixture, the longer it will take to settle. The ingredient having the greatest density will sink to the bottom.

Lesson: Everyone has a place to serve, a talent to offer.

Text: "So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us" (Rom. 12:6)

Outline

Introduce object: Everyone here is unique, different and special. Pretend these containers with different coloured liquids are different people.

1. Just as there are differences in these liquids, so are there differences in people. (Show the liquids.)

2. As the liquids are poured together, so are we together working in a group, in the same place, for the same goals? (Pour the liquids together and shake gently.)

3. The individual differences remain. People are given different gifts so they can make their own contributions. (Allow the mixture to settle.)

Conclusion: Be willing to let God use you.

Everyone here is unique, different, and special. Pretend these containers with different coloured liquids are three different people. They are different in color and texture, just as people are different in looks and personality. God made them that way. This world would be very dull if everyone were exactly alike.

I'm going to pour these liquids together. We'll pretend that they are meeting just as we are.

We are working together, in the same place, for the same goals. We help each other and sometimes we get all mixed up and blended, as these liquids do when I shake them.

Do you see what is happening when I hold this container still? The liquids are beginning to settle.

You can see them just as they were before, except that they are stacked on top of each other.

Even though they were mixed, they are separating and becoming distinct again. Each person is separate and important to the group because each person has something special to give, such as singing, speaking, thinking up things to do, organizing material, and keeping things running smoothly, or showing concern for others. Each person has a place to serve, a gift to give, a talent to share.

The saying "A place for everything and everything in its place" goes for people, too.

Everyone has something to offer. Be willing to let God use you.

Prayer:

Coach's Tip

Remember that girls can be very boastful about what they can do. Ensure you have control and have a talent or gifting for each of your members at this session.

Aim.

The aim of the second session is again to raise girl's awareness of God's gifts to us by reading the bible and learning about these gifts.

**Objectives:**

To help girls find the book of Matthew 7 v 7 - 11 Explain the meaning of this verse and how these gifts affect our daily lives.

Teaching:**Talk about birthdays and getting gifts!**

Have one of the gift boxes from last week re-wrapped - have one of the girls unwrap the box which will be empty. Actually there is no gift - would your parents do that to you - don't think so. But God doesn't put his gifts to us in a box or wrap them up but he does give us things every single day. God doesn't even wait for our birthday. And Jesus says that the gifts God gives us are much better than birthday presents. Does God make sure you have enough food? enough clothes? Does God give you your parents, who give you such great gifts? Does God give you friends and relatives? Look outside: Does God give you nice sunny days? pretty flowers? a beautiful world? Does God give you things to make you happy? Does God give you love? We could go on and on, couldn't we? God gives us all sorts of good things. God gives us everything we need. Every day God gives us good gifts.

Planning and Preparation:

- Some of the boxes from last week - put the gifts that God has given us to make a birthday cake inside.
- Birthday Cake
- Have a scavenger hunt made up with the gifts God gave us that day e.g. sun shining, flower buds on a tree etc.

**Activities:**

1. Open the gift boxes
2. Talk about God's gifts needed to make the birthday cake i.e. earth to plant the wheat seeds, water and sun to make them grow so we will be able to make flour.
3. Have the scavenger hunt, the winner gets to blow out the candle and cuts the cake then shares it with everyone.

Devotions:**Sharing What We Have**

Equipment: A box of marshmallow fish and a box of biscuits (plain to look something like bread). Small plastic or paper plates - as many as needed.

Preparation: Prepare a plate or plates (max. of 4) with 2 fish and 5 biscuits on each. Hide the full boxes away so that they are not seen when the children come in.

Scripture: When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages would

not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." John 6: 5 - 14 (NIV)

Do you sometimes feel that you have nothing to offer Jesus? You say I can't do anything special. I can't play a sport like so and so, or I can't sing like that person, or I am too shy to do anything!



There was once a boy whose mother gave him five loaves and two fish for his lunch. It was a little like this plate of food that I have here. (show one of the plates). The Bible does not give us his name, but let's call him Joshua. He wanted to go and hear Jesus and was very excited. He was very surprised to find SO many people there - yes, over 5000 men, and that did not include the women and the children, and there were many there just like him. He pushed forward to be near Jesus so that he could see him clearly and hear what he had to say.

A little later he heard Jesus and his disciples having a conversation about food. What was that? They were saying that people were hungry and there was not enough food. One of the disciples was saying that it would take a huge amount of money to buy food that would even give everyone just one bite. Joshua looked around him. It seemed that his mum was the only one who had given him any food. He began to feel hungry, but he felt too shy to eat his food in front of the others. He wanted to share, but who would he share it with? Then he got an idea! He would ask one of the disciples.

So Joshua made his way to a friendly looking disciple called Andrew, and offered his food. Andrew was so kind. He looked at Joshua and gave him a broad smile. He put his arm over his shoulder and led him over to Jesus. Joshua felt quite nervous, but also very special! All the crowd could see him. Jesus made him feel so welcome. He thanked Joshua for the five loaves and two fish. Then, instead of eating it or sharing it with a few people, he asked the disciples to get everyone to sit down. That took some doing! It was quite some time before everyone was seated. Jesus took the loaves and fish and lifting his arms in the air, he blessed them. Then the most amazing thing happened. Jesus began to break off pieces of bread and fish, and the more he broke the more there seemed to be. People looked with huge eyes! They blinked. Was this really what they were seeing? Maybe they were dreaming.

But they were not dreaming! From the two fish and five loaves, there was enough food to feed all 5000 men plus women and children. What excitement! And when everyone had had enough there were still twelve basketfuls left over!

Jesus took the small gift that the boy gave and used it in a special way.

Jesus can use the gift that we have and use it as well. Maybe we find it easy to talk to others,

and we can make them feel better when they are feeling sad. Maybe you are able to share your time, or your computer, or your games, with someone that does not have. They will see what you have done and begin to help others as well. Maybe we do well in sport and we can show others that we follow Jesus by being fair and not getting upset while playing sport. Through that others in the team may see that and change their attitudes. A whole team could change from you using what you have. Slowly the whole team may become better. It may be in sharing your pocket money. There are many ways we can share the gifts and talents that we have.

Now I have here not just one plate, but four plates with loaves and fish. Who would like one?

(As soon as they have been "claimed" say) Hold on! You have just been given five loaves and two fish. What did the boy who got them in our story do with them? That's right, he shared them. Now how about you share them with others?

How did that feel? It is not always easy to share what we have got. Sometimes we think our possessions are too valuable to share. Maybe they will get broken. But Jesus wants us to share no matter how hard it may be! And he promises that he will take the little that we have and use it.

Now look what I have here! When the boy shared what he had, everyone got! I have enough here for everyone - so come and get it!

Prayer:

Dear Jesus. Please help me to share what I have and would you then use it in a special way. Thank you that nothing we bring is ever too small for you to use.

Aim.

The aim of the third session is again to raise girl's awareness of God's gifts to us by reading the bible and learning about these gifts.

Objectives:

To help girls find Luke 10 v 25-37 the Parable of the Good Samaritan. There is a power point you can download for this story, go to 2003 Sermons4Kids, Inc. and Henry Martin and it comes up with slides, go to the bottom and click on power point.

Teaching:

Talk about the parable: discuss what happened and how we could do something with the gifts given by to us by God.

Have one of the Gift boxes from last week and ask the girls what they could put in these to take to someone else, an elderly person, a sick person even someone who is lonely.

Every day God gives us good gifts to share.

Planning and Preparation:

- Some of the boxes from last week
- Ingredients to make some cookies or flowers to make a simple flower arrangement
(Make sure both are simple and easy to make)

**Activities:**

1. Have the girls make simple cookies (could be no-bake) or
Make a simple flower arrangement with stems wrapped in foil
2. Place the present in a box and ask the girls to give their gift to an elderly, sick or lonely person in their neighbourhood.

Devotions:**The parable of the Good Samaritan:**

"What must I do to go to heaven?"

The man was a religious leader - an expert in Jewish religious law. He knew the 'right' answer - he wanted to know if Jesus did.

"What does the Bible say? What do you think?" Jesus replied.

"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind," the man said. "And love your neighbour as yourself.

It was a brilliant reply. "Right!" Jesus said. "Do this and you will live!"

The man was hurt. Surely he had done all that was expected. Did Jesus think he did not care about his neighbour?

He asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?"

Jesus replied by telling him a parable - a story that makes a point. He wanted the man to take a fresh look at his attitudes.

A Jewish man was travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho. The road is lonely, desolate and rocky - bandit country. The man was attacked, beaten up and stripped of his clothes. The bandits took his money and left him half dead beside the road.

By chance a Priest came along and saw the man lying there. He crossed over to the other side of the road, and quickly walked on by. A bit later, a temple assistant also came along the road. He looked at the bruised and bleeding man, but he didn't stop to help either. A Priest and a temple assistant - freshly come from worshipping God - and neither of them had stopped to help their fellow Jew? Well, there were bandits around - it would be dangerous to stop and help. They really didn't want to get involved.



Then a Samaritan came along. Now, Samaritans were despised immigrants, a different race and a different religion, hated by the Jews. But when the Samaritan saw the man, he felt deep pity for him.

Kneeling in the dirt beside him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with medicine, and bandaged his injuries. Then he helped the man onto his donkey, and took him to an inn.

The Samaritan spent the night looking after the hurt man. The next day, he gave the innkeeper some money, and told him to take care of the man. "If the bill runs any higher than that," he said, "I'll pay what's owed next time I am here."

Jesus told the story to shock the people and make them think. The Priest and the temple assistant did not stop to help their own countryman. The despised Samaritan was the hero that freely gave his time and money to help a stranger and an enemy. He did what pleased God. Jesus turned to the man who had asked him the question. "Now, which of these three people would you say was a neighbour to the man who was attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked.

"The one who helped him," the man replied.

Then Jesus said, "Yes - now you go and do the same."

The man had asked, "Who is my neighbour?". In the story, Jesus taught that everyone is our neighbour, and should receive our love, our compassion and our help.

Prayer:

Coach's Tip:

Remember to tell parents what the girls are expected to do with their gift and to make sure their daughters are safe.