

Last Sunday after the Epiphany ~ February 10, 2013



***Life Group & Family
Discussion Guide***

“The Gift Giver”

Romans 12:1-8

So far in our Sermon Series on the Holy Spirit, we have discussed who He is, how He regenerates our hearts (causes us to be born again), how He comforts us, how He transforms us, and how He is a seal and guarantee to us. Today we will discuss the fact that the Holy Spirit gives gifts to every believer with which they can (and should) serve people and advance the Gospel. It is an exciting thing to realize; if you believe, you have abilities given to you from the Holy Spirit (even if you never realized it before!).



DISCUSS WITH YOUR LIFE GROUP:

1. **Read Romans 12:1-8.** How does Paul's reference to "God's mercy" set the tone for everything else he says in this passage?

2. **Look up 1 Peter 4:10.** What does this verse tell us about spiritual gifts? How would this verse challenge a person who believed they did not have a gift?

3. **Look at Romans 12:2.** What is significant about Paul pointing out how we were conformed to the world, but are now being transformed by the renewing of our minds?

4. **Look at Romans 12:3.** Why is it so important that Paul say such things just before discussing a few spiritual gifts? How does the influence of the world skew our understanding of how important each gift is?

5. Do you know what your spiritual gift is? If so, discuss ways you have used it to serve people. If you don't know your spiritual gift, ask your Life Group members to describe you and what you seem to be good at. Then think of ways you could do what you're good at to serve in/through UPC.



DISCUSS WITH YOUR FAMILY:

1. A family is like a small church. If a church is supposed to function with everyone using his or her spiritual gift... how should a family function?
2. What do you think your spiritual gift is? Why? In what ways can you use your gift to serve the family? How about the church?
3. What are some of the ways the world is trying to conform us (get us to be like it)? What does Paul tell us to do (12:2)?
4. Take out a sheet of paper and write down the spiritual gift(s) of each family member. Notice any similarities (i.e. like father, like son). Now discuss ways your family could serve their neighborhood, in Christ's name, by combining everybody's gift mix. Make a plan to go serve!
5. Paul tells us to be a "living sacrifice." Explain how Jesus was a living sacrifice on our behalf.

SERMON NOTES