

## Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

**Date of Sermon:** February 25th, 2018

**Speaker:** Paul Ferguson

**Title:** Spirit of Mission: The Gifted Life

**Introduction:** The 'Spirit of Mission' series of talks intends to inspire us to see the importance of the work of the Spirit in our own attempts to share our faith and talk about Jesus. This talk explores the place of the Spirit and the gifts in faith sharing.

**Review:** Invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review.

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 12: 1 - 11; Romans 12: 3 - 8.

**Reflect:**

- The apostle Paul writes about the gifts of the Spirit as both unifying and diverse. What is the challenge with trying to hold these two ideas together?
- Why do you think we are tempted to value other people's gifts more greatly than our own?
- If gifts speak about the giver, then what do these gifts listed here tell us about God?
- Share your own experience of exercising a gift of the Spirit. (After answering this question read the question at the bottom of page 2, try not to look before you have answered this one)
- Why do you think we can often feel the gifts of the Spirit belong in the church meeting? After all the Spirit was given for witnessing! Acts 1: 8

**Read:** Luke 19: 1 - 9

**Reflect:**

- Jesus was full of the Spirit and drew on the Spirit's resources all the time. He often used the gifts of the Spirit in his interaction with people.
- Talk about the Zacchaeus story. How can you identify the Spirit's activity here?
- If Jesus already knew who Zacchaeus was and saw him up in the tree (we are not told these details either way) what did Jesus sense the Spirit telling him to do?
- If the right way to read this is that Jesus was 'in touch' with Zacchaeus and his desire for freedom what does this tell us about what we might sense from the Spirit when talking to our friends/neighbours/work colleagues?

**Leaders:** feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes.

**Don't feel you have to use all of the material,** but  
do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond  
and **DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!**

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## Reflect

- What seeking to listen to the Spirit's nudges when talking others Paul talked about some practical ideas to employ.
  - Recognise that God is present in your interaction with others. How might this simple idea change how you feel about faith sharing?
  - Prayerfully approach conversations with others. This can be in advance or within the context of the interaction. Again, how might this simple idea change how you feel about faith sharing?
  - Ask God good questions: Jesus where are you already at work? Lead me to people who are receptive and is there someone you want me to talk to, care for or pray with? How might this simple idea change how you feel about faith sharing?
  - Have you any thoughts to add to this?

## Finally:

Pray for one another that we would have the openness and boldness to step out and exercise the gifts God gives when sharing our faith.

## And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

## Question from page 1.

- Why do we almost always gravitate toward the more, on-the-face-of-it, supernatural gifts and miss out things like service and giving?

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