

Gifted for Good

For teens ages 12–14 · about 45–60 minutes · Buried & Raised · game **Gifted for Good** · built on **1 Corinthians 12:4–7, Romans 12:6–8, and 1 Peter 4:10**

Your students live in a culture that trains them to chase the spotlight. Social media rewards the loudest voice, the funniest clip, the person who gets noticed. Church can accidentally copy that script — youth group becomes a stage instead of a training ground. This session teaches what Scripture actually says: **every believer receives gifts from the Holy Spirit**, and those gifts exist for the church’s good, not personal fame. Baptism joins them to Christ’s body; gifts equip them to **serve** that body.

Before you teach anything, pray.

Some students feel invisible and wonder if God skipped them. Others already love attention and need help seeing gifts as stewardship, not stardom. Ask the Spirit to make this room hungry to serve — not ashamed of being unseen, not addicted to being watched.

The heart of the lesson

Paul writes that there are **varieties of gifts**, but the same Spirit distributes them to each person as He wills (1 Corinthians 12:4–7). No one gets everything. Everyone gets something. Romans 12 lists gifts like serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, and leading — each exercised with **sincerity** and according to the grace given. Peter sums it up: **“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace”** (1 Peter 4:10).

Gifted for the body, not the spotlight.

The root issue behind gift confusion is ego — either “I’m not talented enough for God to use me” or “I’m the main character and everyone should notice.” Symptoms include volunteering only when adults will praise you, refusing behind-the-scenes work, comparing your gift to someone else’s and quitting, or treating youth group like a talent show instead of Christ’s body. Worldly gift-use seeks applause; godly gift-use seeks **the common good** (1 Corinthians 12:7).

Youth group is a training ground — not a stage.

God’s way out is Spirit-empowered service in community. Discover what God gave you. Start small. Stay faithful when nobody claps. Gifts grow through use, not through posting about them. A teenager who sets up chairs, encourages a lonely kid, helps in kids’ church, or prays faithfully in the back row is exercising spiritual gifts — even when the room never cheers. Here’s the hope: **your gift matters because the body needs you**, not because the algorithm noticed you.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-7

“Now there are varieties of gifts... but it is the same Spirit who **activates all of them in everyone**. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit **for the common good**.”

1 PETER 4:10

“As each has received a gift, use it to **serve one another**, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”

How the session flows

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| 1 Gifts for the body. 1 Corinthians 12:4–7 and why gifts exist. | ~8 min |
| 2 Stewards, not stars. Romans 12:6–8, 1 Peter 4:10, spotlight vs. service. | ~12 min |
| 3 Play the game. “Gifted for Good” on screen. | ~12–15 min |
| 4 Quiet honesty. Reference card, private reflection. | ~5 min |
| 5 Worksheet. In class or take-home reinforcement. | ~15 min |
| 6 Serve this week. One concrete act of body-building service. | ~8 min |

Screen for the game, printed cards and worksheets, pens. Optional: list real service roles in your youth ministry students can sign up for before they leave.

Leading it, part by part

Gifts for the body

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4–7 plainly. Same Spirit, different gifts — wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, helps, administration, and more across the chapter. Stress **everyone**: not only extroverts, not only singers, not only students adults already praise. The purpose clause matters: gifts are **for the common good**, meaning the whole church benefits. Tie back to membership (lesson 39): you belong to a body; gifts are how your membership becomes visible.

Stewards, not stars

Walk through Romans 12:6–8 — prophecy in proportion to faith, service, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, mercy. Each gift has a character quality attached (zeal, cheerfulness, sincerity). Then 1 Peter 4:10: stewards manage what belongs to another. Your gifts belong to God and are loaned for the church. Contrast spotlight thinking (I serve when people watch) with service thinking (I serve because Christ’s body needs me). Invite students to name both temptations honestly.

Play the game

Run “Gifted for Good” — rounds sort spotlight attitudes from biblical service, anchor Scripture on gifts, and work real teen scenarios about youth group, group chat, and volunteering. Twelve to fifteen minutes. Bridge: every answer points back to serving the body, not collecting applause.

Quiet honesty

Hand out the reference card — private, five quiet minutes. Let students name whether they feel overlooked or overexposed, and what kind of service they are willing to try. No public pressure to perform spiritual maturity.

Worksheet

Scripture lookup and true/false on gifts. Reinforces 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and 1 Peter 4 without repeating the card’s prayer focus.

Serve this week

Close with one practical assignment: each student names one way they will serve the body before next week — setup, encouragement, prayer partner, kids’ ministry help, welcoming a visitor. Leaders collect cards or worksheets if appropriate. Pray briefly that gifts would build the church, not feed egos. Read 1 Peter 4:10 once more.

Take it further

- According to 1 Corinthians 12:7, why does the Spirit give gifts? Who benefits?
- What gifts does Paul list in Romans 12:6–8? Which ones are not “on stage” gifts?
- What does it mean to be a **steward** of God’s grace in 1 Peter 4:10?
- What is the difference between using a gift for the spotlight and using it for the body?
- Why is comparing your gift to someone else’s a trap? (1 Corinthians 12:4–6)
- What behind-the-scenes service could strengthen your youth group this month?
- How does social media train us to want gifts for fame instead of for good?
- What is one gift you think God may be growing in you — and how could you use it this week?

A final word

Do not let youth group become a junior version of celebrity culture. Present the Spirit who distributes gifts, the body that needs every member, and the stewardship that turns talent into love. Give them Scripture, the game, the card, and a real chance to serve. Somewhere in your room a teenager thinks they have nothing to offer — and another thinks the room revolves around them. Both need the same truth: **gifted for the body, not the spotlight.**