

SCRIPTURES FOR 9/3/06 LIFEGROUP LESSON

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:12

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.

Exodus 4:10-11

Moses said to the LORD, "O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue." The LORD said to him, "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the LORD?"

Matthew 25:24-26a

"Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant!

Genesis 2:18

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

2 Timothy 1:6-7

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

<p>NOTE TO LEADER: There is a lot of material here. Familiarize yourself with it so you know which stuff you are most comfortable with and what you will cut if you get short on time. Try to keep the lesson/discussion 20-30 minutes in length. Good luck and let me know if you have any questions. - Ed</p>

LESSON 1: DIG

NOTE TO LEADERS: All items in *italics* are for your information and not designed to be read aloud.

INTRODUCTION:

We are back on the building blocks for our campaign “2006: The Year of Construction.” This month we will be covering the building block “Participation.” Jon began by explaining that we have a “gift.”

YOU HAVE A GIFT

Have someone read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7.

So, you HAVE a gift and it is for the COMMON GOOD, not merely for YOUR good. This has also been translated “for the profit of all.”

What does that mean, exactly? How does it impact you, personally?

Let’s go back to an old favorite...

Have someone read 1 Corinthians 12:12.

Have you discovered what part of the body you are – in what capacity you are indispensable?

YOU ARE A GIFT

Your very presence in this body of believers and in the body of Christ is a gift. You are uniquely qualified to be you and you are indispensable to the body.

Have you ever found yourself a blessing to someone when you didn’t expect to be? Has anyone been a blessing to you in the same way?

Have someone read Exodus 4:10-11.

Do not underestimate what God can do with your life. That’s what Moses did and look what God did with HIS life!

DON’T BURY YOUR TALENT

Have someone read Matthew 25:24-26a.

Like the master in this parable, you have been entrusted by God with talents. Are you investing them or burying them?

Do you have a talent or gift that you have not been using to edify the church?

If so, what would you need to do to dig it up?

Remember, your gift is for the common good. You must share it with others within the body. Recall what Jon shared about the creation account in Genesis 2:18, that while all God created was “good,” it was “not good” for man to be alone. We must use our gifts and talents by coming alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ to serve and share and work together.

NEVER FEAR!

Do you have a buried talent that you are afraid to use? God speaks to this all through scripture.

Have someone read Genesis 1:27.

I once heard this scripture interpreted, “God don’t make no junk!” and that’s true. You are made in God’s image; you are imprinted with His likeness; you have intrinsic value and purpose. You need to stop worrying about whether you are good enough or talented enough, and you need to stop comparing yourself to others.

Have someone read 2 Timothy 1:6-7.

Have you ever thought about volunteering for something but were afraid to do it?

Have you ever stepped out and tried a new thing in the church and found you were surprisingly good at it?

CONCLUSION

We are not to be timid; the spirit that says, “You have nothing to offer,” is a liar. We need to dig up our talent and invest it! God will bring the increase.