

Week 25 LEADER Discussion Questions

LEADERS—Thanks for all you do each week! Please keep in mind that there are upcoming opportunities for your group to serve together:

- 1. The Egg Hunt—see <https://calvarybible.com/easter/>**
- 2. The 6:8 Project—see <https://calvarybible.com/68project/>**

Both of these include fun and meaningful ways to serve as a group!

Text: 1 Cor 14:1-25

Icebreaker: It's spring! What's your favorite part of this time of year?

1. Read this week's passage. What stands out to you from the text or from the sermon you heard Sunday?

2. What can we glean from verses 1-5 (and the previous couple chapters) about the purpose of spiritual gifts as they relate to the church?

They're meant to be a means of love that builds up the church. "Builds up the church" is a key phrase throughout the passage this week.

Application: Think of how this relates to the topic of love from chapter 13. What happens when we focus on trying to impress people with our gifts rather than loving them with our gifts?

3. Verses 6-19 identify gifts that mattered most to the Corinthians. In light of what Paul says in these verses, what do you think Paul means in verse 12 when he says, "strive to excel in building up the church"?

The Corinthians were "eager" to have spiritual expressions but their zeal sometimes led to divisive, self-advancing practices. Instead, their desire for the gifts should match a desire to add to the "common good" (ch. 12) of the church. Tongues have less potential to benefit the church for the reasons Paul states; however, prophecy or teaching have the potential and intent of blessing all who are present.

Application: Think of gifts that either you possess or that others around you possess. How are those gifts being used in building up Calvary?

4. Verses 18-19 include a scenario where Paul chooses to not exercise his gift. What does this reveal about Paul's attitude toward his own gifts and the good of others?

This is a call for wisdom. Spiritual gifts should be expressed but it is possible for the gifts to become a license for using them without proper consideration for the good of others. The gifts are best suited for certain situations and contexts. Some are "louder" than others. Imagine if everyone who had a teaching gift decided to teach each time the church gathered.

Application: In what scenarios might we also choose to limit how we exercise our gifts today? Explain what you think.

5. Verses 20-25 include the potential of our gifts to testify to God's presence among us before unbelievers. From the passage, what is it about the gifts that can help "declare that God is really among [us]"?

The gifts themselves demonstrate the supernatural power and presence of God. A church of gifted people can be undermined, though, if the gifts are not exercised in an orderly, humble, thoughtful way. Likewise, the gifts are no substitute for Christian character demonstrated through the fruit of the Spirit.

Application: We have "outsiders" among us each week. Pray together that we would use our gifts in a way that declares God's presence at Calvary.