



LESSON 17 | Spiritual Gifts

Bible Basis: Daniel 2:1–47; Acts 3:1–10

Key Verse: Romans 12:6 “We all have gifts. They differ according to the grace God has given to each of us.”

Key Question: What gifts and skills has God given me to serve others?

Key Idea: I know my spiritual gifts and use them to bring about God’s plan.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 17, “Spiritual Gifts” or story script (below)

Master Supplies List

- ☐ *Believe Storybook Bible* (optional)
- ☐ PowerPoint slides or printable posters of illustrations
- ☐ Small, wrapped gift box
- ☐ Empty box
- ☐ Wrapping paper
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ Adhesive bandage (to put on a stuffed animal)
- ☐ Stuffed animal
- ☐ Coin (real or pretend)
- ☐ Family Page (one per child)

Optional Supplies

You will need the following supplies based on which option(s) you choose in **STEP 3 | Explore More:**

- ☐ **OPTION 1:** Card stock, the Leaping Man template (one per child), glue stick, crayons, scissors
- ☐ **OPTION 3:** Small box, wrapped in gift wrap; CD player or MP3 player and children’s worship music
- ☐ **Option 4:** Crayons or markers, Let’s Color! sheet (one per child)
- ☐ **Option 6:** Two puppets

STEP 1 | Come Together (10 min)

Supplies: Small, wrapped gift box; empty box; wrapping paper; tape; adhesive bandage (to put on a stuffed animal); a stuffed animal; a coin (real or pretend)

Teacher Prep: Put an adhesive bandage on the stuffed animal. Place the pretend money (or coin) and stuffed animal inside the box. Keep the wrapping supplies nearby.

INTRODUCTION

- GATHER the children.
- SAY, Today we are going to talk about gifts. (Hold up the gift)
- ASK, How many of you like receiving gifts? (Take responses)
- SAY, We do not just get gifts on birthdays or holidays, though. God gives us gifts all the time. Can you think of some of the gifts or good things in your life that God has given you? (Take responses)
- SAY, That's right, he gives us food, our homes, and a beautiful world to live in.
- CONTINUE, God has also given us something called "spiritual gifts." Spiritual gifts are things God's Holy Spirit gives us the power to do so we can show God's love to other people. These are things we wouldn't be able to do without God's help!

GIVING OUR GIFTS

- SAY, Guess what? Today God wants to show you what some of *your* spiritual gifts are. God wants to give you a gift! (Hold up the box containing the coin and stuffed animal)
- LOOK inside the box and act excited. Make comments about how excited you are about what's inside.

GIFT OF MERCY

- PULL out the stuffed animal with a bandage on it.
- SAY, This animal is hurt and needs some help to heal and to feel better. Who wants to help her feel better?
- GIVE the animal to a child.
- EXPLAIN, You know what? You just might have the spiritual gift of mercy! A person who has this gift is good at helping hurting people, hurting animals, and a hurting world to feel better!
- ALLOW children to take turns hugging the "injured" stuffed animal.
- SAY, Some of you here today might have the spiritual gift of mercy. I

pray that God would use your hands and your words to bring healing and happiness to those who are hurting.

GIFT OF GIVING

- PULL out the coin or pretend money.
- SAY, This is money! Who wants to donate or give this money to the church or to a charity that is doing good things in the world to serve others?
- GIVE the money to a child.
- EXPLAIN, You know what? You might have the spiritual gift of giving! A person who has this gift is good at giving away money to people and groups who are doing God's work in the world!
- SAY, Some of you might have the spiritual gift of giving. I pray that God would use every nickel, dime, and penny you give to spread his love and light in the world.

REVIEW

- SAY, God gives us spiritual gifts, but he wants us to use them to be a blessing to others. When we do this, it is like giving God a gift too.
- COLLECT the stuffed animal and coin or pretend money from the children and place them back in the box.
- WRAP the box as a gift to offer to God. Allow the children to assist you with wrapping the box in bright wrapping paper with a tag that says, "Our Spiritual Gifts."
- SAY, In today's story, we will learn about people in the Bible who had different spiritual gifts and how they used their gifts to help other people and to do God's work in the world.

KEY VERSE

- REVIEW this week's Key Verse. You may want to repeat the verse slowly a few times until the children are able to say it from memory.
- **NOTE:** You may also choose to review last week's Key Verse together.

Romans 12:6

We all have gifts.

*(place open palms together and
move hands away from body as if
giving someone a gift)*

They differ according to the grace
God has given to each of us. *(point to God in heaven)*

STEP 2 | Hear the Story (15 min)

Supplies: *Believe Storybook Bible* (optional), PowerPoint slides or printable posters of illustrations

INTRODUCTION

- TELL the children that they will be learning more about spiritual gifts.
- SAY, We already learned that each of us has spiritual gifts, or things God gives us the power to do in order to show his love to other people.
- CONTINUE, Now we are going to learn how Daniel and Peter used their spiritual gifts to help others and to please God.

READ CHAPTER 17

- READ aloud the story script below or chapter 17, “Spiritual Gifts,” from the *Believe Storybook Bible*.
- SHOW the illustrations included with this curriculum on PowerPoint slides or printable posters.

THE STORY OF KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S DREAM

- Are you a great soccer player? Or a talented artist? Maybe you are good at solving puzzles. Everyone is good at something. That’s the way God made us. God also gave us “spiritual gifts” — special ways to show God’s love to others. Teaching, helping, and giving are all spiritual gifts, and there are many more. God wants us to learn about our spiritual gifts and use them to serve others, just like Daniel did!
- Daniel was an Israelite who lived in Babylon. He worked for King Nebuchadnezzar as a wise man. One night, King Nebuchadnezzar had a strange dream. In it, he saw a giant statue. He wanted to know what the dream meant. He asked his wise men about it, but no one knew what the dream meant. This made the king very angry.
- Daniel believed in God and knew that God would help him. He went home that night and prayed for help. God gave Daniel a vision that explained the dream. Daniel could not understand the dream himself, but God gave him the gift of understanding. “Praise be to God,” Daniel said, “You have given me wisdom. You have made me understand the king’s dream.”

- Daniel went back to King Nebuchadnezzar. He explained the meaning of the king's dream. It was amazing! "I am not smarter than everyone else," Daniel told him. "I asked God for help and he gave me a vision." King Nebuchadnezzar saw that there is no one greater than God! God had given Daniel a gift, and Daniel used it to help others.

THE STORY OF PETER

- Jesus taught his followers about spiritual gifts. He told them to learn about their gifts and use them to help others. After Jesus returned to heaven, his followers began to use some amazing gifts. They wanted to share God's love with others.
- One day, Peter and John walked to the temple to pray. On the way, they saw a man begging. The man could not walk. He asked, "Please, can you give me some money?"
- Peter did not have any money to give him. But he had a better gift. "In the name of Jesus Christ, rise up and walk!" Peter spoke and the man was healed! He could walk and jump! He went to the temple and everyone saw how God had healed him. Peter spoke the words, but the gift of healing was from God.
- God has given you special gifts, too. As you grow and learn about God, you will learn to use your spiritual gifts. Just like Peter, you will be able to help others and bring glory to God.

REVIEW KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR

- ASK, What did King Nebuchadnezzar want? (He wanted someone to explain the meaning of his dream)
- ASK, Were the king's wise men able to explain the dream? (No)
- ASK, Who ended up explaining the dream? (Daniel)
- ASK, Why was Daniel able to do this? (Because God had given him the spiritual gift of understanding dreams)

REVIEW PETER

- ASK, What spiritual gift did Peter have? (He could heal people who were sick or hurt)
- ASK, How did Peter use his gift? (He healed the crippled man)
- PRAY, God, please help us to use our spiritual gifts to help others and to bring you glory. Amen.

STEP 3 | Explore More

Choose from these activity options, depending on your available time frame, to help the children explore the lesson further.

Option 1: The Leaping Man Craft (10 min)

Supplies: Card stock, the Leaping Man template (one per child), glue stick, crayons, scissors

Teacher Prep: Print and photocopy the Leaping Man template (one per child). If possible, make copies directly onto the card stock. Otherwise, you will need to glue each Leaping Man onto card stock. Cut out the Leaping Man's outline as well as the holes for the child's fingers. Make an example for the children to model their craft after.

- SAY, Today we learned that God healed a crippled man through Peter's work. *Crippled* means that the man's legs did not work properly. We are going to make our own paper man. This man's legs do not work either, but I will teach you how God can "heal" him, just like God used Peter's gifts of healing and mercy in the story.
- GIVE each child a Leaping Man and some crayons.
- INSTRUCT the children to use the crayons to color and decorate their Leaping Man.
- SHOW the children how to put their index and middle fingers through the holes to make the man's legs. Demonstrate, using your own model, how to make the man leap with joy.
- MODEL with the children the man moving his legs and praising God for healing him through Peter's spiritual gifts of healing and mercy.

Option 2: Silver and Gold Have I None (10 min)

- HAVE the children begin this song in a standing position.
- **NOTE:** If you are unfamiliar with the tune of this song, you can find many sample videos on the Internet.

Peter and John went to pray.	<i>(fold hands in prayer)</i>
They met a lame man on the way.	<i>(sit on floor, legs straight out)</i>
He asked for alms and held out his palms,	<i>(hold out hands, begging)</i>
and this is what Peter did say:	
"Silver and gold have I none	<i>(move hands to show they are empty)</i>
but what I have I give to you.	

In the name of Jesus Christ of *(point to heaven)*

Nazareth,

rise up and walk!”

He went walking and leaping and *(stand up quickly and jump*

praising God, *and leap)*

walking and leaping and praising God.

“In the name of Jesus Christ of *(point to heaven)*

Nazareth,

rise up and walk.”

Option 3: Key Verse Game (15 min)

Supplies: Small box, wrapped in gift wrap; CD player or MP3 player and children’s worship music

- GATHER the children and ask them to sit in a circle.
- HOLD UP the small, wrapped gift box.
- ASK, What does this look like? (A gift)
- SAY, This looks like a gift. Today we learned that we all have spiritual gifts. We are going to play a game using this pretend gift to remind us of the spiritual gifts that God has given each of us.
- REVIEW the Key Verse together several times.
 - Romans 12:6 “We all have gifts. They differ according to the grace God has given to each of us.”
- SAY, We are going to play a game similar to the hot potato game, but with this gift. We will pass the gift around the circle while the music is playing.
- SAY, When the music stops, the child holding the box will recite the Key Verse.
- START the music and allow the children to help one another to remember the verse, if needed.
- CONTINUE the game until each child has had a turn to recite the verse.

Option 4: Let’s Color! (10 min)

Supplies: Crayons or markers, Let’s Color! sheet (one per child)

Teacher Prep: Print and photocopy the Let’s Color! sheet (one per child).

- GIVE each child a Let’s Color! sheet.
- PROVIDE a selection of crayons and/or markers for the children to share.
- DISCUSS this week’s Key Idea as the children color.

Option 5: Praise and Worship (15 min)

“Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam” by Edwin Othello
© 1999 by Judith E. Partin, (admin. by Judith E. Partin)
CCLI #3774586

“This Little Light of Mine” by Yancy
© 2007 by Dried Rose Music
CCLI #5001202

Option 6: Act It Out (10 min)

A Real Gift

Use two puppets to act out the following short skit.

Characters

Olivia
Finn

Props: Two puppets

Olivia: What did you get Grandma for her birthday?

Finn: Oh, no! I don't have a gift!

Olivia: That's too bad. Why?

Finn: I know, I feel bad. I forgot today was her birthday.

Olivia: Well, you can still give her something.

Finn: I don't have any money or any time to make anything.

Olivia: Well, Grandma gets awfully lonely living by herself. You could just go over and talk to her. (*excitedly*) Or you could play her that new song you learned on the piano!

Finn: A song isn't a gift.

Olivia: A song *can* be a gift. God gave you the gift of playing the piano and singing beautifully. When you share it with others, you are giving them a gift too.

Finn: Really? I never thought of playing the piano as a gift.

Olivia: Sure! Anything God gives you the power to do that you use to serve others can be a gift. God gives us abilities that we can use to share his love with others.

Finn: I have been working hard on my new song, and I haven't really had anyone to play it for.

Olivia: I bet it will be the best birthday present Grandma gets this year.

Finn: Great, I'm going to practice some more before we head over to her house.

Olivia: Can I come listen to you practice? I love to hear you play the piano. You really do have a gift.

Finn: Sure, and thanks for explaining to me how not all gifts come wrapped in paper!

Olivia: Of course. Some of the best gifts cannot be wrapped.

STEP 4 | Going Home (5 min)

Supplies: Family Page (one per child)

Teacher Prep: Print and photocopy the Family Page (one per child).

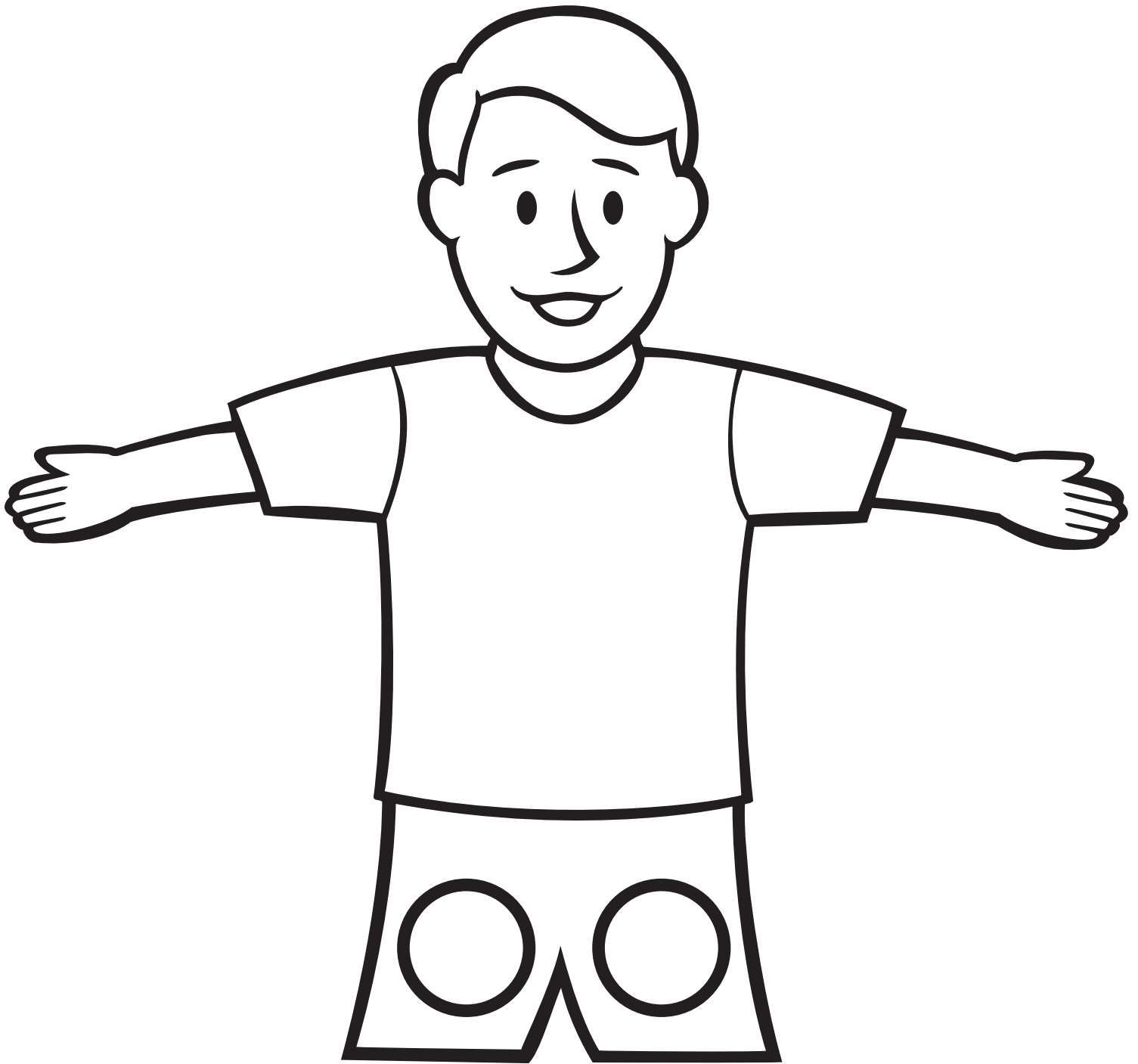
- GIVE each child a copy of this week's Family Page.
- SAY, Give this page to your family when they pick you up. It will remind you to tell your family what you learned today about spiritual gifts.
- HAVE the children practice telling you the story of Peter healing the crippled man.
- REVIEW this week's Key Verse as well as today's story and Key Idea from the *Believe Storybook Bible* as you wait for the children to get picked up.
- MAKE sure each child remembers to take home any activity sheets or craft projects and the Family Page.



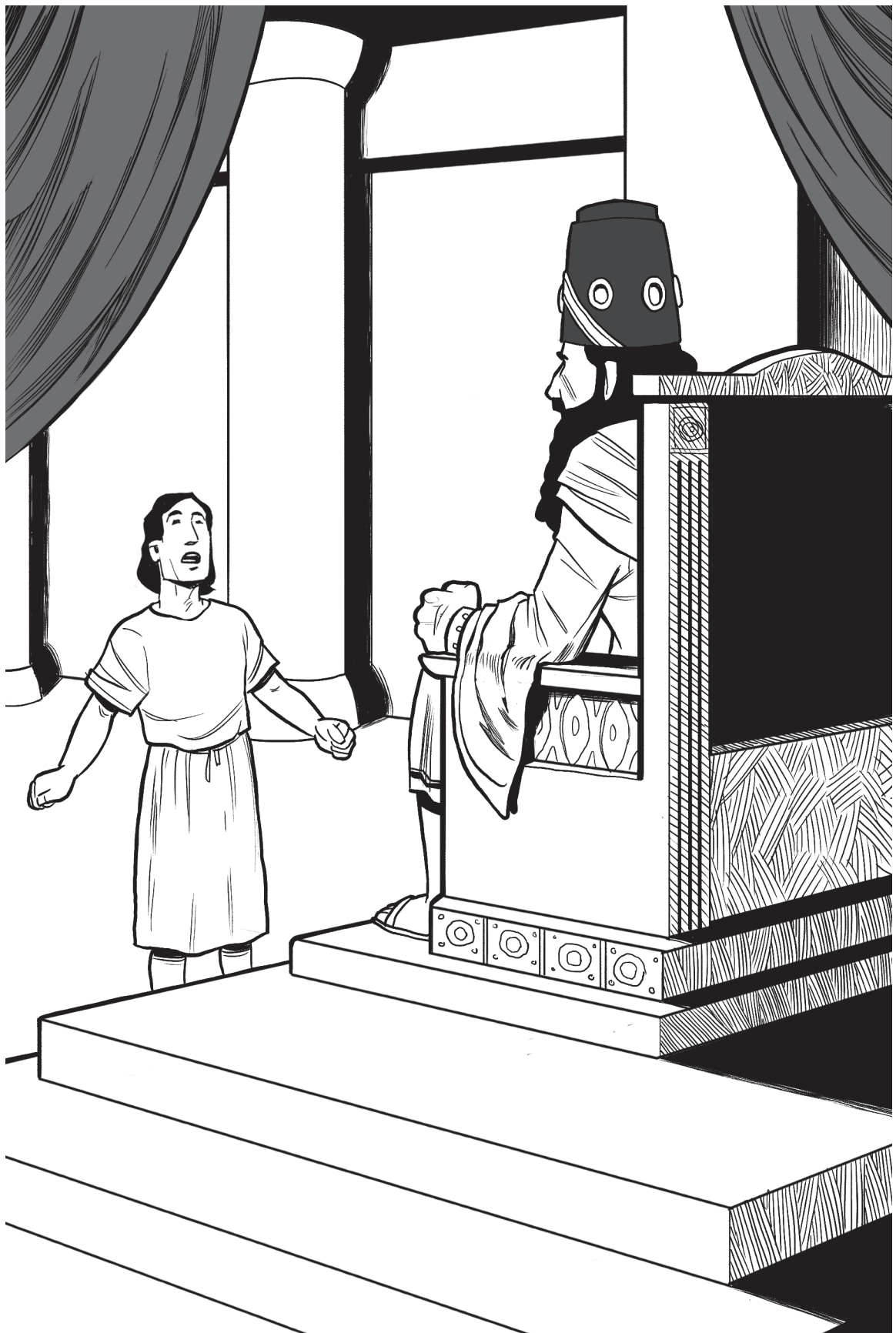








Let's Color! Name: _____



FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 17:

Spiritual Gifts

Bible Basis: Daniel 2:1–47; Acts 3:1–10

Key Verse: Romans 12:6: “We all have gifts. They differ according to the grace God has given to each of us.”

Key Question: What gifts and skills has God given me to serve others?

Key Idea: I know my spiritual gifts and use them to bring about God’s plan.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 17, “Spiritual Gifts”

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. What is a spiritual gift? (Spiritual gifts are things God’s Spirit gives us the power to do; things we wouldn’t be able to do without God’s help; spiritual gifts are used by God to serve people and to show his love to the world)
2. How is a spiritual gift different from the type of gift you get for your birthday or Christmas?
3. Do you have a spiritual gift that can be a blessing at home? (Serving, giving, encouragement, etc.)
4. How can we practice serving one another at home using our spiritual gifts?

Living Faith

Option 1

Reenacting Bible stories helps your child to retain what they learned in the lesson. From this lesson, you can reenact Peter healing the crippled man. Review the story and then take turns with your child being Peter or the crippled man. This is also a good time to discuss with your child the importance of showing compassion to those who may have a disability. Discuss ways we can use our spiritual gifts to be a blessing to others, including people with disabilities.

Option 2

To help your child develop a sense of mercy for others, ask your child to do a simple task that would be much harder to do if they did not have the use of either their arms, legs, or eyes. Discuss with your child why it is so important that we use our spiritual gifts to help others who need physical assistance, like the crippled man in the story.

Extra Mile

- Some children, especially young ones, have a hard time identifying their own spiritual gifts. It is important to point out skills or abilities that your child could use to help others and to please God. Help your child make a list of things he or she is good at or enjoys doing, and then write out specific ways these abilities and spiritual gifts can be used for God and others. See Romans 12:3–8 and 1 Corinthians 12:4–12 for more on spiritual gifts.
- Make an effort as a family to choose a volunteer project in which your child can use some of his or her abilities or spiritual gifts to be a blessing to others, such as visiting a nursing home to read or sing, or visiting a children's hospital to play games with the patients. There are many opportunities that can help teach your child the value of spiritual gifts.
- During family prayer time, make sure to mention the importance of using our spiritual gifts to help others and to please God.