How to Discover Gifts & Talents
Lesson 3: Your Spiritual Gifts
Lesson 3—Your Spiritual Gifts

Unit Summary
One of the most exciting things about being a Christian is that God gives His children special gifts in order to help them serve Him. While all of His creatures are born with talents that are a part of what make them unique, when we become a part of God’s family, the Bible tells us that we receive special abilities—spiritual gifts—that help us serve God and advance His kingdom. In this unit, children will be encouraged to learn about both their talents and spiritual gifts and will be guided through a process of exploring what their spiritual gifts might be. Note: Find an article explaining spiritual gifts in the Supplemental Resources download folder.

Lesson Summary
One of the ways we discover our spiritual gifts is by trying new things and being willing to trust God in areas where we know we will need His help. If we only do what is easy for us, then we rely only on our talents, and we won’t discover our spiritual gifts! But when we venture out into new territory of service for God, we give God a chance to show us that He can give us new skills and strength to succeed that we never knew we had!

Paul’s Power Principle: You can’t use your gifts until you know what they are!

In this lesson, your children will...

**KNOW**
- The spiritual gifts that God has likely given to them

**FEEL**
- Excited to discover which spiritual gifts they have received

**DO**
- Complete the “Spiritual Gifts for Kids” survey
SPARK INTEREST

Choose from the following activities and ideas to engage kids and grab their attention.

Welcome!—Gift Search

Note: There are two possible opening activities for this lesson, and you can actually do both if you’d like. The second opening, found in the Additional Ideas section, simply involves putting colored stickers on the children as they arrive.

Before the children arrive, write out on some slips of paper the spiritual gifts listed below. You may want to make them look like presents. Hide them around the room in some good hiding places. As the children arrive, let them know you have hidden some “gifts” around the room for them to find. Whoever finds them can turn them in to you later in the lesson for a yummy treat!


Let’s Meet-n-Greet!

Find someone who is close to the same height as you are. Ask them their name and if they know how many termites it takes to eat a log cabin in the Arctic in July. It is hard to share an answer when we don’t know the answer!

Leaders, be sure to stop whatever you are doing to move through the audience and greet the children, especially those you do not recognize. Announce any birthdays for the week. (See the How to Use DiscipleTown guide for quick and easy ways to acknowledge visitors and birthdays.)
Let's Worship!
Recommended Song: He Knows, from God's Kids Worship Classic Worship Summer/July, available at Kidology.org

Puppet Intro
Leader & puppet introduce today’s lesson. You will find a scripted version of this intro at the end of the lesson.

Puppet has a favor to ask of the leader. He wonders if evangelism—sharing your faith with others—is a spiritual gift. The leader says he thinks it is. While everyone should share their faith because God commands us all to be witnesses, some people have a gift of doing it extra well. Next, the puppet asks the leader if the leader has this gift. The leader asks why the puppet is asking. Puppet explains that he doesn’t have that gift, but he has a good friend who isn’t a Christian and he would really like his friend to know Jesus as his Savior. He’d like the leader to go witness to his friend, and if the leader has the gift of evangelism, then there is a better chance that his friend will become a Christian. Puppet starts pleading and begging the leader to do it. The leader calms the puppet down and says that even if he does have the gift, a friend always has a better chance of leading someone to Jesus than a stranger. Also, the best way to find out if you have a spiritual gift is to be willing to try it. The leader encourages the puppet to go to his friend and share his faith—whether he has the spiritual gift or not, he should simply share his faith the best he can. After all, God promises to help us if we will do our part. The leader says that puppet just might surprise himself!

DiscipleTown Visitor
Molly Makeup* Molly is a young makeup artist. She has an apron covered with all sorts of paint colors and smudges. She is also a bit disorganized, with makeup brushes, kits, and mirrors sticking from her handbag. She is in quite a rush!

Molly: Oh dear! Excuse me! I am so sorry to interrupt, but I seem to be lost! Do you know the way to the backstage area??

Leader: Um...no...I am sorry. I actually have no idea! What’s the rush??

Molly: Well, I have contestants going onstage in a couple hours, and I need to get their makeup done!

Leader: Whoa! I had no idea that they had a person to do that!

Molly: Ha! Up until a few days ago, neither did I!

Leader: What do you mean? Isn’t that what you do?

Molly: Well, it is now. Funny thing is, I didn’t even know I could do this for a living! I used to paint dolls and masks. I love doing face paint, makeup, and all sorts of cool designs on people’s faces, but I never thought in a million years that it was actually a useful talent!

Leader: Well, how did you find out?

Molly: I was painting one of my dolls’ faces, and a friend of mine showed up at the door. She saw what I was doing and promptly left again really fast!

Leader: Was she upset??

Molly: I didn’t have a clue, but she returned a few minutes later with the producer of DiscipleTown’s Got Talent and announced, “See, there is your makeup artist” I had no idea what she was
talking about, but the producer hired me on the spot! If I had known that my talent was useful, I would have used it a long time ago for more than just painting my dolls’ faces!

**Leader:** Wow! I’m so glad you know about your talents now. I am sure you’ll do a great job!

**Molly:** I really gotta go. I need to find the backstage area or my peeps will look very plain! Ha ha! **[Runs off.]**

**Leader:** That is really interesting! You see, it is very important for us to work hard at discovering the gifts and talents we have—because we can’t use our gifts to help and bless others if we have no idea what those gifts are! But, just like Molly, if we do know, we can bless a lot of people and find ways to use our gifts and talents in fun and unique ways!

*CHARACTERS:* These are suggested characters and names. Please feel free to change or adjust according to the actors and props you have available.

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**Let’s Play!**—**DiscipleTown’s Got Talent**

**Intro Drama**

*Characters: Jennifer: young tap-dancer, Jake: young tap-dancer, Bella: young girl. Setting is backstage at the DiscipleTown’s Got Talent show. Jake and Jennifer come onstage together. Jake is limping and has a wrapped/bandaged ankle.*

**Jennifer:** Oh, no, Jake! What are we going to do? We have to do our spot in just a couple of hours, and with your ankle twisted up, our chance may be ruined!

**Jake:** I feel horrible, Jennifer. I wish there was a way you could compete without me! I would hate for you to miss this opportunity on account of me.

**Jennifer:** I know. This dance isn’t hard, but it takes two people to make it work. Ohhhh! **[Slumps to the ground, head in her hands.]**

**Bella enters stage and pretends to tap, then skip, and tap and twirl. She is just dancing around, waiting for her big sister to finish her dance; she is just acting silly.**

**Jake:** Hey, Jennifer, look at that girl. She looks to be about your age. Look at her dance! I’ll bet she is a tap-dancer—look at her!

**Jennifer:** You’re right. She is probably our competition!

**Bella continues to dance around, then she stops by Jake and Jennifer to ask about Jake’s foot.**

**Bella:** Oh, no! What happened?

**Jake:** Oh, I tripped and twisted my ankle during practice an hour or so ago. There was water on the floor that I didn’t see. It looks like I can’t dance in the show now.

**Bella:** That is awful! Do you tap-dance?

**Jake:** Yeah. **[Hangs his head sadly.]**

**Bella:** Ooooh, I love tap! I watch it on TV all the time. I love it! I love it! **[Takes off dancing again happily.]**

**Jake:** Hey, wait! Come back! Aren’t you dancing in the competition?

**Bella:** **[Returns, still dancing.]** No, no. My sister is dancing. I’m just waiting for her! I’m not the gifted one!

**[Jake and Jennifer look at each other.]**

**Jennifer:** Hey, do you wanna learn some tap moves while you wait?
Bella: Would I! [Jumps with delight.]

[Bella and Jennifer work on a few dance moves—like the Macarena dance, or the chicken dance with STOMPING—to be funny.]

Jake: Wow, Bella! You are a natural tap-dancer! Look how quickly you picked it up! Did you know you had this gift?

Bella: No, I just love to tap-dance to music. It always makes my grandma smile when I dance for her!

Jake: If it’s okay with your mom, I would love if you would take my place dancing in the show with Jennifer.

Bella: What? I had no idea. You really think I could? You think I could make more people smile?

Jake and Jennifer: Absolutely! Come on, let’s go!

Talent Show—DiscipleTown’s Got Talent

God gives us all gifts. Sometimes we don’t know what they are, but others see them in us. We can’t use our gifts to help and bless others if we don’t know what our gifts are. We should always try hard to discover and use our gifts.

For this talent show, you want children who can demonstrate a spiritual gift. They can do an object lesson to teach a spiritual lesson. They can come up and encourage a leader. They can explain the Gospel or sing or play a Christian song. Whatever they do, it needs to be something that they feel demonstrates a spiritual gift. Leaders should not be too strict, but the children will need to perform and then explain why they believe what they have performed demonstrates a spiritual gift. After they perform and explain, the leader should encourage them and challenge the audience to explore their spiritual gifts as well. Affirm the children who came up for having the courage to do so.

Connect with Your Kids

How did you discover your spiritual gifts? Tell a story about how you discovered your gifts—or how you discovered you didn’t have them! I like to tell my students about how my senior pastor/bosses have tried several times to have me lead worship, thinking any pastor can lead worship—despite my trying to warn them that I do not have either talent or spiritual gifting in that area—and they have always regretted it! I ham the story up, and the children end up laughing at the hysterical things that have happened in the adult service when I led worship! Every pastor I have worked for has only made that mistake once! My parents let me have my first experience preaching when I was only ten by giving me the opportunity to preach at a rescue mission in downtown Chicago, and that led to an invitation to preach at a church! I tried something scary and discovered I had a spiritual gift of public preaching! Share your own story, and don’t be afraid to share stories of failure. Kids need to hear both your failures as well as your successes!
Let's Search!—Bible Dash

**Supplies:** Bibles

Ask all kids with Bibles to participate, or invite a few volunteers to come to the front. As children hold Bibles closed with hands on covers, state the Bible reference twice, then on the command “SEARCH!” have the students race to locate the verse. Once they have a finger on the verse, they can stand and call out, “FOUND IT!” Have the first child read the verse aloud while you project the verse on a screen via PowerPoint. See suggestions below for comments on each verse. Keep your comments brief and to the point of the lesson.

- **Matthew 25:15**  
  God gives us opportunities according to our ability.
- **1 Samuel 12:24**  
  Serve God faithfully with all your heart.
- **1 Timothy 5:9-10**  
  A wonderful description of spiritual gifts.
- **2 Chronicles 19:9**  
  Serve faithfully and wholeheartedly.
- **Psalm 90:17**  
  Ask God to bless the work of your hands.

Paul's Power Principle: You can't use your gifts until you know what they are!

Suggested Bible Narrative

**Peter Walks on Water—Matthew 14:22-33**

Read or tell the story of Peter walking on the water. Use whatever storytelling method you wish. A video of the story might be the best presentation. While walking on water isn’t a spiritual gift, the point to make is that Peter never would have known he could do it if he hadn’t stepped out of the boat! But he trusted Jesus and stepped out in faith. Also point out that when he took his eyes off Jesus, he started to fail. The same is true when it comes to our spiritual gifts. We need to be willing to “step out” and try new things that we’ve never done—even things that we may think are impossible for us. The secret is to focus on Jesus. If we take our eyes off Him we may start to fail, but if we look back to Him we can succeed again.

Let’s Learn!—Your Spiritual Gifts

Ask the children who found the “gifts” during the Welcome time to stand up and bring the “gifts” up to you. One at a time, have them read them to the group. Talk about each gift briefly; tell students that it is a spiritual gift from God to help further the kingdom and serve others. Trade the “gift” for a candy bar or other treat/prize. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.

The Gifts of the Puzzle

Beforehand, obtain a child’s picture puzzle that has ten to sixteen pieces and is easy to put together. Ideally, it should be one that has a cardboard backing with the border as part of the backing; the pieces come out, but the border and backing are one solid piece. Take each piece and the border/back and wrap them separately as though they were presents. The nicer you wrap them the better. Complete with ribbons and bows!
Have the stack of presents on display on the stage throughout the service. When it comes time for this object lesson, ask for volunteers. Let them know that you would like to give these presents to some kids from the audience. (As many as you have gifts!) When the volunteers come on stage, pass out the gifts and allow kids to open them. Having some party music playing will make for a fun atmosphere! As they open the presents, they will look puzzled (pun intended)! Guide them in realizing that they need to put the puzzle together and show it to the audience. Take a picture of the group with their completed puzzle, and then let them take their pieces back to keep. However, talk about how each piece, by itself, won’t be much use or fun. It was here at church, as a part of the completed puzzle, that it experienced fully its purpose and design. If the pieces were to get together again, they could be the complete puzzle again! But as separate pieces they will never live up to what they were made to be.

Application: The same is true with our spiritual gifts. By themselves, our spiritual gifts just don’t seem right. They were designed and meant to be combined with other people’s gifts and used together to form amazing things in the kingdom of God—at church, but around the world too! When left alone, a gift is incomplete and missing something—others. God’s Spirit distributed these gifts to each of us to be used together to do amazing things as we serve God and each other. It will be exciting to watch how we fit together and do amazing things for God. Someday the whole picture will come together!

Optional: Be sure to check out “Off-Season Santa Visit” in the Additional Ideas.

Finding Your Gifts
Note: The Spiritual Gifts Survey (found in this lesson folder) can be done during small group time. If you do not break into small groups, then it is recommended to do the survey now. Also, if you do a fifth review lesson, you could wait and do it during that lesson.

If you are going to do the Spiritual Gifts Survey, you will need to allow time in your service to do so. Optionally you could send it home with the children and ask them to bring it back completed. If so, offer an incentive to encourage them to bring it back.

How do you find out what your spiritual gifts are? Today we have something very neat we would like to invite you to do. It is called a Spiritual Gifts Survey. It looks like a test—and I know we’re not in school—but it’s a series of questions about the kind of things you like to do. This survey will help you find out what your spiritual gifts might be. We are going to pass out the surveys and give you some time to fill them out. Then your leaders are going to figure out the results, and we’ll share with you the results (or send them home with you) and you’ll get an idea of what your spiritual gift might be! This is just a fun way to see what they might be. Don’t try to think too hard or make it turn out a certain way—and there are no right or wrong answers. Just fill it out honestly, and you’ll enjoy seeing what comes back. The survey might say you are a natural leader or that you would make a good teacher or that you have a real servant’s heart. Perhaps you are good at encouraging people or have great faith. It will be between you and God and your leaders. Of course, you can show your parents too, but you don’t have to show anyone else if you don’t want to. But we do look forward to seeing how your spiritual gifts develop as you step out and start using the gifts God has given you!
Dee’s Disciple Tip: Each week you will briefly cover two or three spiritual gifts that the children might have. On the screen a present will open and a gift will appear. Read the name of the gift. Ask the kids what they think the gift is, if they know anyone they think has this gift, and if they can describe a time they’ve seen it in action. Don’t put kids on the spot by asking, “Do you have this gift?” Asking them about others will still get them thinking about whether they have this gift. End by saying after each gift, “I just know some of you have this gift!” After all three gifts are presented and discussed, pray briefly for God to reveal these gifts in the kids God has given them to.

Spiritual Gifts You Might Have:

- LEADING: Showing others the way
- MANAGING: Organizing people around jobs
- SERVING: Befriending and helping others

KeyVerse

Topic: Use Your Gifts
Reference: 1 Peter 4:10

Memorization Activity: Review the verse using the PowerPoint. Consider removing some more of the slides if you think the kids know it well.

On the final slide where the verse reappears, the words faithful stewards are bold. Ask if any of the children know what a steward is. A steward is someone who is put in charge of something. Next, ask if anyone can describe what they think it means to be faithful. To be faithful means to be true or to keep one’s commitment or promise. So “faithful stewards” are people who keep their promises or who stick with the job of using their gifts or talents to serve God. God has given us gifts and talents, and we need to be faithful stewards in how we use them. We should not give up or quit using them.
Object Talks—The Gift of Giving: Bling-Bling

*Supplies:* video projection

The video clip for this lesson features Karl, the Kidologist, doing a short object lesson featuring a gift and a money necklace talking about the spiritual gift of giving. Use this short teaching video to show the kids or to train a leader to do the talk “live.”

*Featured verses:* 2 Corinthians 9:6; 1 Timothy 6:18

Let’s Talk!—Small Group Discussion

*Small Group Activity:* Have each child write his or her name neatly on a blank certificate (found in this lesson download folder). Have everyone write the top three gifts from the results of the Spiritual Gifts Survey. Allow students to decorate border.

Discussion Questions:
1) Why is it important for us to find clues to the gifts that we have?
2) Can we share and use the gifts God has given to us if we don’t know what they are and how to use them?
3) What are your top three gifts?
4) How does this survey change the way that you look at yourself, or feel about yourself?
5) Are you important in God’s plan to save the world? Why?

DiscipleTown Super Citizen

Choose a child who demonstrates the spiritual gift of helping during the service.

Let’s Pray!

*Dear Jesus, thank You again for being so generous in giving us spiritual gifts. Sometimes it is hard to know what our spiritual gifts are. Perhaps we haven’t been brave enough to try new things, or maybe we just haven’t realized that You gave us spiritual gifts. Or maybe it’s just a matter of the timing for You to reveal it to us. But we want You to know that we are willing and wanting to be used by You, so please show us what You want us to do and help us discover our gifts. We want to serve You to the best of our ability according to the gifts You have given to us. We are excited to make a difference in this world because of the gifts and talents You have given to us! In Your holy name we pray, amen.*

Cy’s Challenge: Try a gift you never thought you had.
Let’s Review!

If you have extra time, use these review questions to keep the kids focused on the lesson until time to dismiss. A handful of candy will help you keep their attention. After each question, take a minute to reiterate the lesson point related to the question.

1) What did the puppet want the teacher to do for him?
2) Molly the makeup girl got her start doing what?
3) According to the KeyVerse, what are we stewards of?
4) T/F Finding your spiritual gifts is easy.
5) T/F Our gifts work best when combined with the gifts of other people.
6) Name one of the three spiritual gifts you might have.
7) When Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus (Matthew 14:22-33) why did he start to sink?
8) T/F If we’ve never been good at something in the past, we should never try it again.

For the Home

DiscipleTown Table Talker: Give each child a copy of this week’s DiscipleTown Table Talker. Be sure to show the kids how to put it together and encourage them to ask their parents to lead family devotions three times this week.

Parent Email: Copy and send the email below to help your parents connect with their kids during the week. Send them early in the week, but not on Sunday. As a courtesy, be sure parents have opted to receive these emails. Review and edit as necessary to reflect the lesson elements you have used. You can also find this email as a Microsoft Word document in your download bundle.

Dear Mom and Dad,

This week was a very exciting week in children’s church. We learned a lot about ourselves, and we learned clues to the gifts that God has packed in each of us.

We took the time to complete the Spiritual Gifts Survey. Be sure to ask your child to see the survey so that you can be aware of and evaluate for yourself the gifts evident in your child.

Perhaps you have never had the opportunity to discover your God-given gifts. I would encourage you to complete this survey for yourself to see what the results are.

As you use the DiscipleTown Table Talkers this week, be sure to ask your children how they feel about this new information they have about themselves. Encourage them to look for ways to share their gifts.

Next week is our final week in this journey of discovery. We will be learning how to be active with our gifts at church and in our neighborhood to bless and help others. You can look forward to your children’s ideas and willingness to contribute more to the lives of those around them.

If you would like additional copies of the Spiritual Gifts Survey, please let us know.

Building young disciples,

[Your Name]
**Chip's Snack Time!**

**Supplies:** pudding or fruit cups, duct tape

Choose a variety of flavors and cover the outside of the containers with duct tape so that the flavors cannot be identified.

Ask the children which flavor of pudding they would like. They will respond that they can’t tell which flavors are which. Ask them why it matters that they be able to see what flavors there are. **We know what flavors we like, and we know that some flavors don’t taste as good as others. In order for us to be able to enjoy the pudding, we have to know what it is before we eat it. The same goes for all the talents and gifts in our lives. If we are going to be able to enjoy sharing our gifts and talents to bless others, we first have to know what they are.**

**Additional Ideas**

**Color Game (for Welcome activity)**—You will need three or more different color stickers. (If you use more than three colors, think up superpowers for the additional colors.) Each color represents a special “talent,” but don’t tell this information to the children.

- **Blue:** Mind control over parents
- **Red:** Super sports skills
- **Yellow:** Make money appear magically

As each child arrives, place a sticker on each child’s shirt and tell the kids they will need the sticker later. Divide the stickers evenly among the children.

When everyone is assembled, ask all the children with mind control over parents to please stand up. No one will know how to respond, and various children will stand up just for fun. Next ask all the children with super sports skills to please stand up. Lastly, ask everyone who can make money appear magically to please stand up.

Find a child standing for mind control over parents who is not wearing a blue sticker. Ask, “How do you know you have this talent?” Let the child answer, but then advise the child that he or she does not have this talent. Then identify the talent the child does have, as indicated by the color of the sticker.

Quickly identify others with this talent. Then tell everyone the meaning of the colors and have them practice their special talents when you call out the color name. You can use this throughout the program to give away points or to help kids get their wiggles out.

**It is so much fun when we know the special skills we have and we can use them whenever someone needs them. But if we don’t know what our talents and skills are, do you think we can use them as easily?**
Off-Season Santa Visit—if you have a gentleman in your church who is heavyset and has a beard, consider having him visit during this week with a giant bag filled with candy. No need for a Santa costume, because he is enjoying his vacation! In fact, a Hawaiian shirt would be even better during the off-season. Have him come with gifts for the kids right after the reading of 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 during the Let’s Learn segment. Make it obvious he is pretend so that whether children believe in Santa or not, you are not interfering with how families deal with the issue of Santa in their homes. Have him pass out the candy, one piece per child, saying that he has a special gift for each child based on what he knows about each one. After he leaves, ask the children if “Santa” was correct in his guesses about what candy each of the kids liked. Some will say he wasn’t. Then allow them to trade with others if they would like.

Application: Our “Santa” probably didn’t know which candy each of you likes, but God does know just which spiritual gift to give each of us. And He gives them to us according to which gift will best allow us to serve Him and others.
DIRECTOR’S NOTES
The words in italics are notes for you and your puppeteers; they are not to be read aloud.

Puppet*: Hey, [leader name], is evangelism—sharing your faith with others—a spiritual gift?

Leader: I believe it is. While everyone should share their faith because God commands us all to be witnesses, some people have a gift of doing it extra well.

Puppet: Do you think that you have this gift?

Leader: Why are you asking?

Puppet: Well, I don’t have that gift, but I have a good friend who isn’t a Christian and I would really like my friend to know Jesus as his Savior.

Leader: That’s a great thing to want for your friend, but—

Puppet: [Interrupts.] So if you have the gift of evangelism, then there is a better chance that my friend will become a Christian.

Leader: I don’t think...

Puppet: Pleeeeeeeeease! Pretty please! I’ll get down on my knees, if I have to!

Leader: Calm down! Calm down. Even if I do have the spiritual gift of evangelism, a friend has a better chance of helping someone learn about Christ than a stranger.

Puppet: Yeah, but—

Leader: Also, the best way to find out if you have a spiritual gift is to be willing to try it.

Puppet: Um, explain.

Leader: [Laughs.] Go to your friend and share your faith—whether you have the spiritual gift or not, you should simply share your faith as best you can.

Puppet: God does promise to help us if we do our part.

Leader: That’s right! Besides, you might be surprised to learn that God has gifted you with a special ability to lead others to Jesus!

Puppet: Oh, great! I’m going to find out!

*PUPPET: Develop a puppet character to use regularly. The children will get to know the personality and enjoy these regular visits. Dee, Cy, and Paul puppets are available at DiscipleLand.com
How to Grow Spiritual Fruit
How to Make Good Friends
How to Walk in the Spirit
How to Be Jesus' Disciple
How to Build Character
How to Navigate the New Testament
How to Explain My Faith
How to Earn Eternal Rewards

How to Follow God’s Plan
How to Make Good Choices
How to Navigate the Old Testament
How to Study My Bible
How to Know the Truth
How to Discover Gifts and Talents
How to Walk Victoriously
How to Meet with God

Each DiscipleTown Unit will teach your kids an essential "how to" skill to become victorious disciples of Jesus!

*DiscipleTown Units are still in production. Please visit DiscipleTown.com for availability.