

Leadership, Administration, Mercy & Faith

Connect Group Guide - 8.30.26

Opening Prayer

Key Scripture

- 1 Peter 4:10
- Romans 12:8
- 1 Corinthians 12:9
- Romans 8:17
- Ephesians 2:6
- 1 Peter 2:9
- Hebrews 12:16–17

Message Recap

This message explores four spiritual gifts—leadership, administration, mercy, and faith—while grounding them in a larger truth: understanding who we are in Christ changes how we use what God has given us. The gifts of the Spirit are not reserved for Sunday mornings. They are tools for everyday living, and they only reach their full potential when we know our position as co-heirs with Christ.

Key Takeaways

- The four gifts covered in this session are leadership, administration, mercy, and faith. Each one has practical applications far beyond a church setting.
- The Holy Spirit does not stay behind when you leave the church building. He goes with you into your marriage, your workplace, your neighborhood, and your finances.
- Romans 8:17 tells us we are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ. This is not just a theological fact -- it is a position that should shape how we live.
- First Peter 2:9 describes believers as a chosen race, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation. That identity carries responsibility.
- Position always precedes power. You cannot effectively use what God has given you if you do not first understand who you are in Him.

- The story of Esau is a warning. He traded something sacred and irreplaceable for something temporary. We are called to treat the gifts and the calling God has given us as the holy things they are.

Discussion Questions

Opening Questions

1. Pastor Mike described how we often put on a "church face" on Sunday mornings, even when life has been hard during the week. Have you ever done that? What made it difficult to be honest about where you really were?
2. Before going through this series, how did you think about spiritual gifts? Did you mostly connect them to church and ministry settings, or did you see them as part of everyday life?

The Four Gifts

3. The four gifts discussed were leadership, administration, mercy, and faith. Which of these resonates most with you personally, and why?
4. Pastor Mike described the gift of mercy as heavy -- that people with this gift feel the weight of others' pain deeply. If you have experienced this, what has it been like? How do you care for yourself while also caring for others?
5. The gift of faith was described as a unique ability to believe God for things that look impossible. Can you think of a time when someone's faith -- either your own or someone else's -- held a situation together when circumstances said it was hopeless?
6. Leadership and administration were described as working well together -- the visionary and the one who breaks the vision into steps. Have you seen this dynamic in a team, a marriage, or a friendship? What did it look like in practice?

Identity and Position

7. Pastor Mike used the image of a king who either understands his responsibility and wields his authority well, or one who ignores it and allows the kingdom to fall. How does this image connect to what it means to live as a co-heir with Christ?

8. First Peter 2:9 describes believers as a chosen race, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation. Be honest -- does that description feel true in your daily life? What makes it hard to live from that identity?
9. Pastor Mike said, "Position always precedes power." What do you think happens when someone tries to use spiritual gifts without a firm understanding of who they are in Christ?

The Warning of Esau

10. Esau traded his birthright for a single meal in a moment of weakness. The pastor asked: when the sacred mattered most, are we treating it as ordinary? Where in your own life might you be doing that?
11. Pastor Mike challenged the group with three questions alongside "What is my spiritual gift?" -- What has God put in me? Where has God placed me? How can I use what God has put in me where He has placed me? Take a few minutes as a group to let each person answer these three questions out loud.

Practical Applications

This Week, Choose One:

- Identify one setting outside of church -- your workplace, your home, a friendship -- where you can intentionally use one of your spiritual gifts. Come back next week ready to share what happened.
- Write down your answers to the three questions from the sermon: What has God put in me? Where has God placed me? How can I use what He has put in me where He has placed me? Pray over your answers daily this week.
- If you are unsure of your spiritual gifts, ask two or three people who know you well what they observe in you. Their perspective may reveal something you have overlooked.
- If you have been postponing something God has been calling you to do -- serving, reaching out to someone, stepping into a role -- set a specific date this week to take the first step.
- Reflect on whether there is something sacred in your life that you have been treating as ordinary. Bring that before God in prayer and ask Him to restore the weight and value of it in your heart.

Prayer Requests & Closing

Leader Notes

- Be sensitive to different perspectives on Israel; focus on biblical teaching rather than politics
- Encourage participation from everyone, but don't force anyone to share
- If someone wants to give their life to Christ during discussion, be prepared to pray with them
- Keep the discussion focused on personal application, not just theological debate
- Consider inviting someone knowledgeable about Israel or Jewish culture to a future meeting