



Lifegroup Curriculum: The Gift of Tongues

Did last week's sermon on the Gift of Tongues stir up any questions in you? Do you want to learn a little bit more about the Gift of Tongues or see how to apply it in your own life? **We have a special Q&A time before service (August 21st) at 9 am in the Marshall Pergola (behind the gym) with Pastor John!** You'll be able to ask questions and hear more details beyond what Pastor Josh shared in service.

Looking Back (15 mins)

Family Time

1. Vision:
 - Vision Statement: Invite someone in your lifegroup to share what your Lifegroup's vision means to them.
 - Connect Question:
 - i. What is your favorite restaurant and what do you like to get there?
2. Check-Ins:
 - Life updates from the previous week(s), prayer requests, praise reports.

Looking Up

Worship (~15 mins)

- [You Keep on Getting Better \(Maverick City Music\)](#)
- [Never Lost \(Rita Springer\)](#)

Bible Study (30 mins)

1 Corinthians 14:1-5, NIV

1 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy. **2** For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. **3** But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. **4** Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church. **5** I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. The one who



prophecies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified.

Important Notes on Tongues:

1. **"Edify" is translated from the Greek word: "oikodomeō" (oy-kod-om-eh'-o).**
Oikodomeō is a compound (*which means a word made from two other words*) of "oikos" (*home or dwelling place*) and the other compound word is "dōma" (*to build*). So when we are edifying ourselves through speaking in tongues we are literally building up our own dwelling place. We are strengthening and growing our dwelling place. My body is a temple of the Holy Spirit and we get to bond with God in building this temple. We get to strengthen and grow our dwelling place.
 - a. ***How do I know that the Holy Spirit is within me?***
 - i. Peter tells us in Acts 2:17 that the Holy Spirit is poured out on all people. Being filled with Holy Spirit isn't reserved for the spiritual elite, but God pours out His Spirit on all sons & daughters.
2. In 1 Corinthians Paul knew that at this time the church in Corinth were using spiritual gifts as a ranking system. Obviously, this shouldn't be the case. Which is why Paul focused so much on love.
 - a. *We're invited to "follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit."*
 - i. Each spiritual gift translates God's love for us, and it translates God's love THROUGH us.
 - ii. *For the spiritual gift of tongues, God wants to show His love for you, through you, to you, and that He has a special language that only you and Him will understand. A special way to communicate that is specifically for you and God.*
3. ***Speaking in tongues is A GIFT of the Spirit, but we shouldn't look at it as THE GIFT.***
 - a. This gift does NOT place people above or below anyone. The gift of speaking in tongues, or any gift for that matter, is not THE primary indication of being filled with Holy Spirit or having higher citizenship than another believer. Speaking in tongues is A GIFT from a good Father, who gives good gifts, so this is a good gift...
 - b. This gift, like many others, is just that: a gift from the Father to love us, NOT to rank us.

Discussion Questions

- What strikes you from this passage?
- Why/how is tongues considered a gift?
- What is/are the end goal(s) of this gift?



- What role does the Spirit play in the gifts we receive?

Extended Worship while Practicing the Gift of Tongues (20 min)

We believe that God is still a good giver of these gifts. Our heart for eagerly desiring this gift is to simply grow in our intimacy with our heavenly Father. If your group is up for it, we encourage taking time for extended worship, and making space for people to ask God for this gift. Feel free to play some worship songs and make space for God to work. People are also welcome to just pray in their own way, or give words of encouragement to others in the group. [Epicentre Worship Service set \(20 min\)](#)

Here are some practical steps:

1. Ask God for the gift.

- a. The first step is to always ask God. We can ask knowing that because He's a good father, we can come to him openly and honestly. We can let God know our hopes and even our reservations. Ask God for this gift! Ask Him for a fresh pouring of this gift, and you can even ask everyday in your own prayer life!

2. Practice by moving your mouth.

- a. John Piper defines tongues as: "an ecstatic utterance where your heart is full of the Holy Spirit and He loses your tongue to utter syllables that are of spiritual value to you. And if someone has an interpretation, they become valuable to others."
- b. Just start moving your mouth while trusting God in the process. You can repeat things like "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus" over and over again. Or other phrases like, "Glory, Glory, Glory, Glory" or "Thank you God, Thank you God, Thank you God."

3. Keep practicing in your own prayer life. Practice this for at least 5 minutes every time you pray.

4. Keep asking God to confirm the gift within you. This may take time, so don't lose heart. You can keep practicing freely knowing that God knows your heart.

Looking Forward (15 mins)

Gather in groups of 3-4, and pray for one another:

- What was that experience like for you?
- What are some adjectives to describe what you were feeling or thinking?
- How can you see yourself exercising these gifts throughout the week?
- How can your community support you in this?
- Pray for one another, and ask God to continually lead your brothers and sisters to know Him more through this gift.