

Spiritual gifts are _____ empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in the ministry of the church and _____ Christian has at least one.

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Wisdom

The gift of wisdom is the ability to not only see but to _____ the principles of the Bible to everyday life.

- When studying God's word, do I find that I discover the application and implications before others do?
- Am I able to apply biblical truth in a practical way to help counsel others to make good life choices?

Knowledge

The gift of knowledge is the ability to research, remember, and make effective use of _____ and truth.

- Do I love to study?
- Do I have a good memory that retains and compiles lots of information?

Discernment

The spiritual gift of discernment is the ability to quickly perceive whether people, events, or beliefs are from _____.

- Do I have a solid understanding of Scripture and a sensitivity to the leading of God?
- Do I feel a special responsibility to protect the truth of God's Word?

Small Group Questions for the week of 10/15/17

1. We've probably all taken advice at some point and it didn't turn out how we had hoped. To avoid it happening again we sometimes put safeguards in place. Share an instance where this happened to you.

2. Is there a difference between "advice" and "wisdom", "knowledge", and "discernment"?

3. There are two extremes when it comes to God's Word. On one end, we neglect the word of God by not reading it and so it fails to teach us & convict us of our sin. On the other end, we are so deep into it that we focus more on the "footnotes" than we do the actual text. How do we avoid these two extremes of becoming "desensitized to the truth"? How do the gifts of wisdom, knowledge and discernment protect against this?

4. How would you define wisdom? Read James 3:13-18. How can you tell the difference in wisdom from above and wisdom that is earthly, unspiritual, and demonic? Share a time you used or benefited from this gift.

(continued)

5. Read the following passages. As you read each, discuss what it says about biblical discernment.

1 John 4:1-6; Ephesians 5:3-10; Hebrews 5:11-14; Philippians 1:9-10; and Psalm 119:66. According to these verses, what does discernment allow us to do? What is its purpose? If you want to develop your abilities of discernment, what are ways to do this?

6. For each spiritual gift two questions were listed to help you determine if you may have this gift. Look back at these (Hint: they are on the left side of this page!). Take turns as a group answering these questions.

7. Wisdom, knowledge and discernment act as safeguards within the church by keeping the Word central to the church. What other safeguards has God given to the church?