

Small Group Guide: *Worship in a Worthy Way* - 1 Corinthians 12-14
***The Gospel Centered Life* - Part 10, 16/09/26**

Key Takeaways:

- Spiritual gifts all come from God and are given for one purpose: the common good of the church, not personal status or satisfaction.
- Love is not optional—it's the governing principle for how every spiritual gift must be used. Without love, even the most impressive gifts accomplish nothing of lasting spiritual value.
- The church is a body. Every member has an essential role. Divisions and unresolved conflicts don't just affect individuals—they damage the functioning of the whole church.
- Maturity is measured not by the impressiveness of your spiritual gifts but by the depth of your love.
- Gospel-centered people use their gifts with an awareness of the mission—asking not "what does this do for me?" but "will this help others and honor God?"

Icebreaker Question: When you hear the phrase 'spiritual gifts', what is the first word or image that comes to mind? Why?

Discussion Questions:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-3. The believers in Corinth had come from a background of idol worship, where spiritual-seeming experiences were common and often deceptive. Not every spiritual experience originates with God. Emotional responses can often be mistaken for spiritual responses. Have you ever been drawn to a spiritual experience primarily because of how it made you feel, rather than whether it genuinely honored Jesus? a) What do you think is the difference between an emotional response and a spiritual response, and how can we distinguish between them? (see verse 3)
2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11. The Christians in Corinth were putting certain spiritual gifts and people on a pedestal. In what ways do you see that same tendency in churches today — or even in yourself?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:7. What role has God called and gifted you to play at Eastpark? Are you fully embracing it, or have you been withholding your contribution?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 and Ephesians 4:4-16. Paul uses the human body as an illustration for how the church is meant to function. Which part of that illustration resonates most with you personally, and why?
5. Both overconfidence and insecurity are problems in the church body. Which tendency do you lean toward, and how does that affect your participation in the church?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 12:26. When you have an unresolved conflict with someone in the church, you are not just damaging one relationship — you are sabotaging the whole church. How does understanding the church as a body change the way you think about pursuing reconciliation?
7. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and Galatians 5:22-23. The verses in chapter 13 are often read at weddings, but Paul wrote it specifically in the context of church conflict over spiritual gifts. How does knowing that context change the way you read or hear that passage? a) Why is growing in love the ultimate measurement of the character of God in you? b) How would you answer the question: 'Am I more loving now than I was last year?'
8. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Love is defined not by how we feel but by how we act. Where in your life right now is it hardest to make love a verb rather than a feeling? a) Love is inherently sacrificial. What is one thing you might need to sacrifice—a preference, a habit, a position, or an expectation—in order to love someone in your church family more genuinely?

9. Read 1 Corinthians 14:12-16 and 22-25. Paul's concern is that the church's gatherings be understandable, orderly, and edifying—especially for unbelievers who might be present. How does this compare to the focus of a typical church today? a) Are there ways you have prioritized your own spiritual satisfaction in corporate worship over the needs of those worshipping alongside you? b) In what ways might Eastpark's gatherings look confusing or unwelcoming to someone walking in for the first time?
10. Read 1 Corinthians 14:12. The goal is to excel in gifts that build up the church. How does that standard change the way you think about how and when to use your gifts?
11. Read 1 Corinthians 14:24-25. When the church gathers in an orderly, loving, Spirit-led way, unbelievers will witness the presence of God among us. What would it look like practically for your Life Group or Eastpark to pursue that kind of gathering?

Prayer:

- pray specifically that God would make you more genuinely loving—not more impressive, not more gifted, but more loving—toward the people in your church.
- ask God to help each person in your group discover, embrace, and use their gifts in a way that is motivated by love and oriented toward the good of the whole church.
- pray for Eastpark's gatherings, specifically asking God to make them both spiritually alive and ordered in a way that draws those who do not yet know Him into His presence.