

## **ZPC Spiritual Gift Descriptions** (Winter 2026)

### **Administration**

Description: The God-given ability to understand what makes an organization function and the special ability to plan and carry out processes that accomplish the goals of a ministry.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:28; Acts 6:1-7; Exodus 18:13-26

Practical uses and growth:

- Volunteer for a nonprofit.
- Organize a short-term mission trip.
- Volunteer in the ZPC Office.
- Ask your Home Group leader about planning a meeting or an outing for your group.
- Serve as administrator for your Home Group, keeping the calendar and communicating with members.
- Volunteer to serve in practical ways in ZPC's ministries (i.e., volunteer in the nursery or children's classroom, help with ZPC's Landscaping Team, or bring a meal to a new mom).

### **Apostleship**

Description: The God-given ability to start and oversee the development of new churches or ministry structures.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:28-29; Ephesians 4:11-12; Romans 1:5; Acts 13:2-3

Practical uses and growth:

- Pray for the church either individually or join ZPC's Intercessory Prayer Team.
- Go on a short-term mission trip.
- Research about some of ZPC's missionaries who serve overseas and then see about supporting them in prayer or by visiting them in their countries.

### **Discernment**

Description: The God-given ability to distinguish between truth and error. It is the ability to differentiate between good and evil, right and wrong.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:10; Acts 5:1-4; Matthew 16:21-23

Practical uses and growth:

- Join the ZPC Intercessory Prayer Team.
- Pray for our missionaries.
- Compare your opinions on right and wrong carefully with scripture. Also, research trusted Christian leader's responses to difficult topics.

### **Evangelism**

Description: The God-given ability to effectively communicate the gospel to unbelievers so they respond in faith and move toward discipleship.

Scripture: Ephesians 4:11; Acts 8:26-40; Luke 19:1-10

Practical uses and growth:

- Connect with ZPC Heart to Heart Women's Discipleship and learn how to disciple someone one-to-one.
- Practice sharing your story with those in your Home Group or others.
- Invite neighbors and friends into your home.
- Do small acts of kindness for people. If they ask why you are doing these things, tell them it is because of Jesus.
- Attend the Great Banquet so that you can be part of a team for Banquet or Kairos Prison Ministry which brings good news to others.

### **Exhortation**

Description: The God-given ability to uplift and motivate others as well as challenge them in order to foster spiritual growth and action.

Scripture: Romans 12:8, Acts 11:23-24; 14:21-22; 15:32

Practical uses and growth:

- Sing or play an instrument with the ZPC Worship Band or Choir.
- Be encouraging to others – neighbors, restaurant staff, store employees – especially watch for ways to encourage those who often hear complaints or don't receive encouragement.
- Volunteer with the ZPC Children's Ministry – especially on Sunday mornings when teaching and encouragement happens.

### **Faith**

Description: The God-given ability to act on God's promises with unwavering belief in God's ability to fulfill his promises.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:9; Hebrews 11:1; Romans 4:18-21

Practical uses and growth:

- Use your faith to encourage those who may tend to be anxious or worry. Be patient and let your faith encourage, not discourage, those who are not as spiritually mature.
- Be a person of prayer – pray for God to fulfill his promises in people and in the church.
- Volunteer to pray in the west alcove after Sunday worship or join the Monday morning prayer group in the ZPC Chapel.

### **Giving**

Description: The God-given ability to contribute money and resources to the work of the Lord with cheerfulness and liberality (freedom). People with this gift do not ask "how much do I need to give to God?" Instead, they ask, "How much do I need to live on?"

Scripture: Romans 12: 8; 2 Corinthians 6: 8; Luke 21:1-4

Practical uses and growth:

- Tip well!
- Giving can include time, talent and treasures. Enjoy and celebrate the fact that you like to give of yourself and your money.
- Find places to give to things you are passionate about. Look to ministries at ZPC or local missions that stir your heart. Talk to others who have passion for giving and challenge them to give as you give.
- Give to the operations budget of ZPC. God's work in the local church requires facility, staff, and resources like technology, food, and electricity, too.

### **Knowledge**

Description: The God-given ability to bring truth through a revelation or biblical insight.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:8; Mark 2:6-8; John 1:45-50

Practical uses and growth:

- Learn more about the Bible and God speaking through it.
- Read the Bible in a year or research ways to dive deeper into God's Word.
- Join a Sunday school class or men's or women's group that studies the Bible.

- Consider becoming a Home Group leader and ask Scott Shelton or Sally Bias about co-leading a group to get started.
- Talk with Scott Shelton to learn how you might assist in Adult Discipleship Ministry.
- Begin writing down truths that God shows to you as you read scripture. Read books or listen to sermons that increase your knowledge of God's truth.

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### Leadership

Description: The God-given ability to aid people in the church body by leading and directing members to accomplish goals, tasks, and God's purposes.

Scripture: Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 3:1-13, 5:17; Hebrews 13:17

Practical uses and growth:

- Run for political office.
- Check out opportunities to serve on [zpc.org/serve/missions-opportunities](http://zpc.org/serve/missions-opportunities) or in the bulletin.
- As you get involved in a ministry, ask about ways you might co-lead or lead a ministry team.
- Talk to the NextGen staff about assisting or leading in our covenant children's classes.
- Ask a ministry leader, a deacon or an elder if you can shadow them in their role. As you do, ask them questions about why they lead the way they do.
- Give your name to the Nominating Committee for discussion about becoming an elder or a deacon.

### Mercy

Description: The God-given ability to practice acts of compassion, empathize with those in need, or make others aware of people in need. This also includes hospitality where people cheerfully welcome others into their homes and lives. Mercy can also include intercession – praying for specific needs and asking God to bring care and mercy to those situations.

Scripture: Romans 12:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:14

Practical uses and growth:

- Go to a local mission partner that helps those in need. ZPC's Crooked Creek Ministry has good opportunities for serving others.
- Pray for God to show you someone in your neighborhood or network of friends that needs help – with childcare, food in times of crisis, or rides to doctor's appointments.
- Sign up to pray in the west alcove Sundays after worship.
- Join the Monday morning prayer team in the ZPC Chapel to pray for the needs of the church.
- Ask about assisting with the Community Assistance Ministry through ZPC deacons.
- Research ministries who help the hurting or those in need and learn how they show mercy.

### Pastoring

Description: The God-given ability to preach and teach God's Word and to help members of the body to grow in their faith.

Scripture: John 10:1-18; Ephesians 4:11-14; Romans 12:7; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Peter 5:1-3

Practical uses and growth:

- If you sense a call from God to preach and teach, check with one of the pastors or ZPC elders about discerning that call.
- If you have a gift to teach and preach, see if our Children's Ministry needs teachers to practice

this gift.

- Our local presbytery might also have a need for guest preachers at smaller churches.
- Pastoring also involves shepherding. Talk to our ZPC deacons about how and where they use shepherding skills to serve our church family.
- Whether a pastor or not, use your abilities to shepherd and care for others in your family or in your neighborhood.
- Explore with a ZPC pastor what you should be reading, studying or praying to see if God is calling you to be a pastor.

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#### **Prophecy**

Description: The God-given ability to reveal truth and proclaim it in a timely manner to correct or build up the church body.

Scripture: Romans 12:6, 1 Corinthians 12:10, 12:28, 13:2; 2 Peter 1:19-21

Practical uses and growth:

- Come to ZPC early on Sundays and pray around the church building asking that God would move in the lives of our people.
- Consider being a leader in Heart to Heart discipleship.
- Check out the possibility of leading a Home Group.
- Watch for God at work at home, at work, or in your town and carefully watch for ways to say where you are seeing God at work.

#### **Serving**

Description: The God-given ability to recognize practical needs and accomplish practical and necessary tasks the help to support or meet those needs. Those with the gift of serving do not mind working behind the scenes.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:28; Romans 12:7

Practical uses and growth:

- Check with the ZPC Facilities Team about serving at big events or even with painting or light construction.
- Sign up to help cook, serve, and clean up at all ZPC brunches or at Deacons of Fun all church events.
- Look around your neighborhood for someone who is older or someone in need who needs help working in their yard, shoveling snow, or jobs around their homes.
- Sign up to serve at a ministry that needs physical help like Habitat for Humanity or Fuller Center for Housing.

#### **Teaching**

Description: The God-given ability to understand, clearly explain, and apply God's Word so that it will help build up and mature members of Christ's body.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:28, Romans 12:7, Ephesians 4:11

Practical uses and growth:

- Get plugged into a ZPC adult class on Sunday mornings or women's or men's Bible study.
- Ask ZPC staff about becoming a Home Group leader.

- Check with NextGen staff about the need for teachers.
- Contact your local public school or private Christian school and sign up to be a substitute teacher. Schools are in need of quality substitute teachers.

### **Wisdom**

Description: The God-given ability to apply truth to meet a specific need for a person or for a need for the church body.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:28; James 3:13-18

Practical uses and growth:

- Watch for people in your life or at church who are wise. Observe how they go about things and seek to learn from them.
- When you have friends who are struggling, first seek to listen and understand, then speak up with God's truth into their situation.
- Make yourself available for teams or committees that make decisions.
- Volunteer in the NextGen Ministry at ZPC, carefully mentoring children or youth under the leadership of ZPC staff.

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### **Counseling**

Description: The God-given ability to listen to and care for those who are struggling in various life situations, and to offer insights and understanding that lead others to personal healing.

Scripture: Proverbs 12:18 -- Solomon's observation

Practical uses and growth:

- Volunteer to pray in the west alcove on Sunday mornings.
- See about joining the ZPC Hospital Visitation Team through the deacons.
- Listen to your friends and family with the intention of supporting them with your words and actions.
- Pay attention to neighbors who may be hurting and engage them in conversation.

### **Craftsmanship**

Description: The God-given ability to use the hands, mind, and imagination for the construction of tools for ministry, and for the maintenance, care, and upkeep on God's Kingdom on earth.

Scripture: Exodus 31:2-5 -- God's word to Moses concerning someone especially skilled to help build the first tabernacle

Practical uses and growth:

- Volunteer to help the ZPC Facilities Team with projects around the church.
- Sign up to serve at Habitat for Humanity or Fuller Center for Housing.
- Look in your neighborhood for those in need of work on their homes and property and discern if they would be open to your providing help for them.

### **Creative Communication**

Description: The God-given ability to use the hands, mind, and imagination to communicate God's truth through a variety of artistic and handcrafted means.

Scripture: Acts 9:36,39 -- One woman's power to help through her handiwork

Practical uses and growth:

- See Sally Berry about helping to write a blog for zpc.org.
- Check with Sally Berry about help to provide text for ministries on the ZPC website or bulletin.
- Look for places online through blogs, social media, or publications to practice and hone your communication or creative gifts.
- Check with ZPC NextGen about helping with crafts, kids' drama groups, or VBS.

## **Encouragement**

Description: The God-given ability to comfort, challenge, and affirm those who are disheartened or wavering in their walk with Christ.

Scripture: I Thessalonians 5:14 -- Paul's advice to young Christians

Practical uses and growth:

- Attend the Great Banquet so that you can encourage and serve others who attend after you.
- Ask the deacons about their team that encourages middle school and high school students.
- Write handwritten notes, send texts, or get on social media – not to promote anything about yourself, but to affirm and encourage someone else with authentic compliments.
- In your workplace, look for people who need to be uplifted.

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## **Helping**

The God-given ability to invest one's time and energy in the accomplishment of physical tasks within the Church, and to see spiritual value in doing work that will free others to use their gifts

Scripture: Romans 16:2 -- Paul's comments about Phoebe, the first "deaconess"

Practical uses and growth:

- Check with the ZPC Facilities Team about serving at big events or even with painting or light construction.
- Sign up to help cook, serve, and clean up at ZPC brunches or at Deacons of Fun and NextGen all church events.
- Look around your neighborhood for someone who is older or someone in need who needs help around their home, inside or out.

## **Hospitality**

Description: The God-given ability to care joyfully for guests, strangers, or needy people, by providing an open house, food, and warm welcome

Scripture: Hebrews 13:1,2 -- An interesting opportunity for those who open their homes

Practical uses and growth:

- Open up your house to visitors. Invite one new person or new family a month to your home for fun, to get to know them, and to care about them.
- Spend time in your front yard so that you can get to know your neighbors and ways you might be hospitable to them.
- Volunteer in the Coffee and Donut Ministry or for all church brunches at ZPC.

## **Instrumental Music**

Description: The God-given ability to play a musical instrument to offer praise and thanks to God, and to enhance the worship experience of others.

Scripture: II Chronicles 5:13 – Dedication of Solomon's Temple

Practical uses and growth:

- Call or email Worship Director Jason Chapel about joining the praise band.
- Check with the NextGen Ministry who often need help leading worship.
- Practice your skill at home looking for opportunities to play.
- Join a local symphony.

### **Intercession**

Description: The God-given ability and motivation to pray consistently and for extended periods of time, and to see answers to prayer at a frequency beyond that of most other Christians.

Scripture: James 5:16 – First century recognition of the power of prayer

Practical uses and growth:

- Join ZPC's Monday morning prayer group in the Chapel to pray for ZPC needs.
- Volunteer at the Zionsville Food Pantry, praying for clients in need.
- Sign up to pray at the cross after Sunday worship.
- Pray for your friends in need, your family, and your neighbors who are in need.

### **Shepherding**

Description: The God-given ability to offer leadership, encouragement, nurture, and care to individuals and groups within Christ's Body as they seek to grow spiritually.

Scripture: (I Peter 5:2,3 – Bible's description of servant leadership)

Practical uses and growth:

- See about leading or co-leading a ZPC Home Group.
- Check with the ZPC youth directors about leading a youth small group.
- See about volunteering in a local school or Boys and Girls Club or places which might need help in caring for children and youth.

### **Vocal Music**

The God-given ability to use one's voice to offer praise and thanks to God, and to enhance the worship experience of others.

Scripture: Ephesians 5:19,20 -- Paul's challenge to Christians to keep singing

Practical uses and growth:

- Call or email the worship director about joining the choir.
- Check with the children's and student ministries who often need help leading worship and singing.
- Practice your skill at home looking for opportunities to sing publicly.

### **Writing**

Description: The God-given ability to put knowledge, teaching, and insights into written forms, such that children and/or adults are better able to see and apply God's truth to their lives.

Scripture: Philippians 3:1 -- Paul's assurance that his writing made a difference

Practical uses and growth:

- Check with Sally Berry about needs there may be for writing copy on the ZPC website.
- See about posting your thoughts on appropriate social media sites that are affirming and encouraging to others.
- Read articles, books, editorials and blogs that feature good writing – working on your own writing skills as you learn from others.
- Write for *The Current* or other local newspapers.