

DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH SERVICE
Life Connecting Teams ~ February 2026
New Covenant Church of Philadelphia

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. 10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

(Galatians 6:9-10 ESV)

Objective: To gain a deeper understanding of how your spiritual gifts are put into action as you serve in your church and community.

Introduction: This lesson is based on Chapter 5 of “Unlock the Power of Discipleship” by Rev. Dr. Leslie Parker Barnes. Page 99 opens with this question, “Have You ever considered how your unique talents and passions could be a beacon of God’s love in your community? Each of us, equipped with His distinct spiritual gifts hold a key piece of the puzzle in God’s grand service design. When we discover and deploy these gifts within and beyond the walls of our church, we participate in a divine strategy that strengthens our community and transforms us, aligning our lives with God’s purposes.”

Lesson:

When you collaborate with others whose gifts complement yours, it enhances the effectiveness of your service. By following these steps, you can effectively use your spiritual gifts to serve others and support the mission of Christ. Remember, each gift is meant to be used for the building up of the local congregation and to glorify God. Below, you will find a short list of God’s intended purposes for the distribution of the Gifts of the Spirit.

The Bible provides numerous scriptures that address the gifts of the Spirit and their use within the Christian community. Here are some key verses and their interpretations: Please take some time to discuss each.

- **1 Corinthians 12:4 NIV:** "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them." This verse emphasizes the unity of the Spirit's gifts, which are diverse but come from one source.
- **1 Corinthians 12:7 NIV:** "Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." This verse highlights the purpose of spiritual gifts, which are meant to benefit the community of believers.
- **Romans 12:6 NIV:** "We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us." This verse reminds believers that their gifts are unique and given by God's grace.
- **Ephesians 4:7 NIV:** "But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it." This verse states that each believer has a specific gift that God has assigned to them.

These scriptures encourage Christians to recognize their gifts, use them for the common good, and serve others with love and humility. When you know your gifts, and use them in the act of serving others, and developing relationships that positively effects personal spiritual growth and the lives of those who do not know Jesus. As stated in the book, “the true measure of your gifts becomes apparent through their fruits, and the joy and fulfillment it brings to you.”

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Outreach Programs as a Platform for Using Spiritual Gifts and Discipleship

Proverbs 18:16 NKJV: A man's gift makes room for him and brings him before great men.

- There are many areas to engage in service in our communities. Here are a few examples of areas for volunteering: food distribution, transportation, visiting the sick, etc. When we apply our gifts in these settings, opportunities for building relationships and sharing the gospel open to us. This is the transforming effect of your gifts into action.
- The integration of our gifts, service and faith is a conduit of hope and healing to the world.
- Growth in the effective use of spiritual gifts through volunteerism in the church and community supports a natural progression into leadership roles in ministry, program development and oversight, equipping us for new challenges.
- Using spiritual gifts in service is an effective way to foster spiritual growth producing disciples who make disciples.

Relational Discipleship built through service

- Jesus modeled discipleship through the relationships He built with His followers. He spent time with them as He poured life transforming truth into them and gave them an example in how to minister to people.
- Disciples need to learn the skills, abilities and values of the disciple-maker. During the time spent together, the disciple sees the gifts of the spirit in action.
- Serving in various capacities will give you a broader understanding of how the different ministries function and the role your gifts play in promoting the mission and impact of the ministry.

Below, you will find a link to a site that will give you an opportunity to take a Spiritual Gifts Assessment. The gifts test is designed to be taken quickly during a single sitting and typically takes 5 minutes to complete. We encourage you to be open and honest. When you open the link, at the top right, you will see a dropdown menu. When you click on that, you will see an option to open a list with descriptions of the gifts. You will want to save that list to your device.

<https://giftstest.com/test> When you complete the assessment, you will receive a list of your five top gifts. Please save your answers in your device for future reference.

Remember in Prayer:

- Bishop Grannum; Pastor Oliver & Lady Denise; Pastor Wangui; Pastor Omar & Jeneen; Pastor Andrew & Chivas and their families
- NCC ministry leaders; Minister, Deacons, Staff, and Volunteers
- Sick and shut-in/ families who are grieving
- Generous giving to support the Restoration Campaign
- Protection for our children in every aspect of their lives