



IMAGINE IF...

Gifted for Greatness

#NPIImagine

Week 2
2 of 4
August 14, 2016

Bottom Line: It is important to understand and learn to accept and embody your gifts, so that you can better serve God.

Icebreaker: What is something about you that you consider to be unique?

Key Verse: *Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you.* 1 Timothy 4:13-14

When Paul wrote to Timothy, he was writing to a young pastor whom he had mentored and with whom he had gone on mission. He was a spiritual father to Timothy and, as such, took the liberty to encourage Timothy in his ministry as any proud father would encourage his children as they excelled at their work.

Notice what Paul said to Timothy in verse 13. Timothy was a pastor because God had gifted Timothy to preach and teach His Word. Paul recognized this ability in Timothy and encouraged him to pursue it. He knew what this young man was good at and what God had called him to. Paul trusted Timothy to use that gift for the glory of God.

For Timothy to have retreated and refused to use his gift, he would have been living outside of God's best for his life – which is why, in the next verse, Paul encouraged Timothy not to neglect the gift he had been given. When we don't use our spiritual gifts, we not only shortchange the Spirit's work in our lives, but we also deprive the church of a gift that is needed to succeed.

When God starts a local church, He has all the gifts He needs there to accomplish the mission He has in that area. But when people ignore or neglect their gifts, the church suffers. Fight this urge by seeing what God is doing in someone else's life, and encourage them to continue using what God has given them in the ways He allows.

THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on Dwight's message, what stood out to you?

Dwight said there are seven basic motivational gifts:

1. Prophesying: Proclaimer
2. Serving: Helper
3. Teaching: Researcher
4. Encouraging: Exhorter
5. Giving: Resource Provider
6. Leadership: Visionary
7. Mercy: Caregiver

In order to use your gifts, you have to know what they are. What are yours? How could you use them?

What are some excuses people give for not using their gifts? Why do all excuses really miss the point of why we have been given gifts in the first place?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

What unique contribution does your gift offer to the body of Christ? How have you grown and been blessed through sharing your gift with others?

In what ways do the specific gifts you have build the church of Jesus Christ?

Every believer has gifts that have been given to him or her to build the church. No believer is left out. Whom can you encourage to use their gifts the way Paul encouraged Timothy?

Paul noticed Timothy's gifting because he lived in community with Timothy. How does living in community help us recognize and affirm one another's gifts?

NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together, as a group:

1. What are places or ministries at NewPointe where we can lock in and use our gifts? Talk with one another and brainstorm what those places may be and how God could use your gifts there.
2. Pray that you would not neglect or miss out on the blessing of God that comes with using your gifts in a way that honors Him. Praise the Holy Spirit for the gifts He gives, and ask that He use your gift to impact the world.

EVALUATION/ACTION Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: It is important to understand, accept, and embody your gifts, so that you can better serve God.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Day 1: 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Day 2: Romans 12:6-8

Day 3: 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Day 4: 1 Peter 4:7-9

Day 5: 1 Peter 4:10-11

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting.)