

## COMMUNITY



### 5. Ministry in the Community

What makes the Christian community unique is that God's Spirit lives within those who belong to him. And his Spirit makes us one. The Holy Spirit also helps us to minister to one another so this community becomes stronger. Before we learn about the gifts of the Holy Spirit let's have our 'opener'.



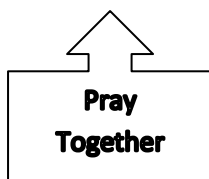
Tell us about a gift you have recently received from someone. It may have been from a family member or a friend. What did it mean to you?

Everyone enjoys receiving a gift, and many of us enjoy being able to give gifts too! God is no different! When we made Jesus our Lord and Saviour, he gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit, and then the Holy Spirit gives us gifts so that we can minister to others in need. In this study we will learn about the gifts of the Spirit.



**1 Corinthians 12:4-11**

- ❶ What are the gifts of the Spirit given for? 1 Corinthians 12:7
- ❷ Why should we never be boastful about the gifts God has given us? 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, 11
- ❸ Make a list of some of the gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 and Romans 12:6-8.
- ❹ What gifts do you think the Holy Spirit has given you? Share with one another.
- ❺ Have you been ministered to by another believer who was exercising their spiritual gift? It may have been the gift of serving, or perhaps prophecy or wisdom. Share one or two incidents.



Spend some time worshipping and praying together. Allow time for members to exercise the gifts of the Spirit.

You may be unsure what gifts the Holy Spirit has given to you. How would you like God to use you? Ask for those gifts. In 1 Corinthians 12:31 and 14:1 we are encouraged to desire spiritual gifts, but remember they are given to us so we can minister to others and our motivation has to be one of love.

The Christian community is also described as a body, with Christ as the head and each one of us as the different members of his body. Just think of all the parts of our bodies that are required to do simple things like swimming or climbing a ladder! As members of the Body of Christ we need to work together so that each one of us will grow and be strengthened, and be fruitful for the Kingdom of God. As it says in Ephesians 4:16 the whole body grows and is built up when 'each part does its work'.

You belong to a unique and wonderful community. Yes there may be differences and upsets, but each of us belongs to the Lord Jesus and his Spirit lives in us, binding us together as one body. Value that!