



THE GIFTS THAT BUILD “THE WAY”

Kimberly and her family attend the Seventh-day Adventist church and they accept Jesus as their Savior. Kimberly’s desire is to pursue medical studies after high school and college graduation. When her church pastor learns of her future plans, he asks her to organize and facilitate a series of health presentations in their church. Kimberly accepts the challenge and after some study and research she holds a very instructive series of health presentations. Kimberly is content that she is able to use her gifts of teaching and promoting physical health.

Bryan thinks that because he doesn’t have the gift of public speaking or singing, he doesn’t possess special gifts that he could share with the church. Yet he loves Jesus, and he readily shares Him with others. He is friendly with everyone, and a good number of people accept his invitation to attend Bible studies in his home. Bryan’s winsome, warm, and friendly personality allow him to share Jesus effectively.

Meghan is a young teenager who attends a small village church. In her community there is no one who can play the piano to accompany the congregational singing. Meghan has a strong desire to learn to play the piano, so she could accompany the church congregation. One day a woman from a foreign country comes to Meghan’s church. After learning of Meghan’s dream, the visitor offers to pay for Meghan’s piano lessons. The young girl dedicates herself to practicing, and pretty soon she learns to accompany the hymns for the congregational singing.

Michael is a quiet young person. He enjoys helping set up the electronic devices needed for the church services. Because of his knowledge and skill with technology, he is entrusted with more responsibility. Because Michael loves to work behind the scenes, he often volunteers to help in other ways wherever needed. He is an example of how God can use even quiet individuals. Every young person who is willing to use her or his God-given talents can make a difference for Jesus.

Daisy is a pleasant young woman who came to know Jesus as a teenager. One day she decides to use her summer vacation to go on a mission trip with the Share Him ministry. For three weeks she holds evangelistic meetings in a small village church. Many people respond to her calls and decide to commit their lives to Jesus through baptism. At the end of the mission trip Daisy is a changed person. She returns home with a strong desire to live for Jesus, and her life takes on a whole new meaning. After she completes her college training, she decides to go overseas for one year and teach in an elementary school. Yet as the year draws to an end, Daisy decides to remain for another year. Her heart beats for Jesus and for His children, and that gives purpose to her life.

The New Testament church, before the members were called Christians, was called “the Way” (Acts 9:2; 19:23; 24:14; 24:22). God gave spiritual gifts to the Way so that the Christians could spread the knowledge of Jesus and contribute to the growth of God’s kingdom. What are the gifts that God has given you? How are you using your spiritual gifts to build up God’s church and share His love with others?

Sabbath
FOR STUDY

- » **Memory Text:** “Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues” (1 Corinthians 12:27, 28).
- » **Our Beliefs, no. 17, Spiritual Gifts and Ministries:** “God bestows upon all members of His church in every age spiritual gifts that each member is to employ in loving ministry for the common good of the church and of humanity.”
- » Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 81-83

Sunday
RESPONDING

- » Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-9.
- » Devin feels that he isn’t very good at any one thing. Some of his friends can sing, or speak in public. Some are likable and friendly; everyone seems to contribute in some way. He just doesn’t feel as if he is needed or useful. As a result, he tends to be cynical about any service project or activity that meets the needs of people. How could you help him recognize his gifts? How would you and your friends find a way to integrate him into a service project?

Monday
BIBLE ANSWERS ON SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND MINISTRIES

- » Read Romans 12:4-8; Ephesians 4:11-18.
- » God created each person with unique gifts and talents. He has given us spiritual gifts that He wants us to use as we help others learn about Him and prepare for His soon return. When we use our talents and work together, we bring honor and glory to God.
- » What are the talents God has given you?

- » How can you use the talents God has given you to help others learn about Him?

Tuesday
REFLECTING

- » Read 1 Peter 4:10, 11.
- » Some of the violinists in a German orchestra actually tried to sue the orchestra for a pay raise, claiming that they played more notes than the other members of the orchestra. The director of the orchestra argued that while it was an interesting legal discussion, from a musical point of view it was pretty clear to everyone that they had no case.
- » Have you had a conversation with God about the gift/gifts He has given you?
- » It's not a question of whether you received a gift God has empowered you with. Unlike the violinists mentioned earlier, everyone who becomes a part of the Way has the same value.
- » "The spiritual, mental, and physical ability, the influence, station, possessions, affections, sympathies, all are precious talents to be used in the cause of the Master for the salvation of souls for whom Christ died" (Ellen G. White, *In Heavenly Places*, p. 224).

Wednesday
BIBLE INSIGHTS

- » Match the reference to the correct phrase.

2 Timothy 1:6, 7	1 Corinthians 12:4-11	Acts 6:1-7
1 Timothy 3:1-13	1 Corinthians 12:27, 28	Romans 1:11, 12
1 Timothy 4:11-14	Ephesians 4:11-16	
- "God has appointed these in the church." _____
- "He must have a good testimony." _____
- "For God has not given us a spirit of fear." _____
- "Joined and knit together . . ."
- "Distributing to each one individually . . ."
- "When they had prayed, they laid hands on them." _____
- "Do not neglect the gift that is in you." _____
- "Impart to you some spiritual gift . . ."

Thursday
CONNECTING

- » Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.
- » Review the memory text.
- » After the Exodus, God told Moses to build a sanctuary so that God could dwell with His people. Thousands of years later Christ promised the Holy Spirit as the Comforter who would be God's representative among His people. The Holy Spirit equips us with various qualities that can help someone else experience God's grace.
- » God does need you.

Friday
APPLYING

- » Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31.
- » God has given you unique gifts and talents, and the best way you can thank Him is to use those gifts to His glory in service to others. Reflect on the list of service projects that you started on Monday. Continue adding to the list and be prepared to share and discuss your ideas for possible service projects for Global Youth Day.

Be creative!

1. Service project ideas for Global Youth Day:

2. Specific ways I can contribute:

3. People in the community I would like to help on Global Youth Day:

- » Tomorrow, talk about a community service project with your Sabbath School class and plan together how you will carry out the project on Global Youth Day.

