

EKKLESIA

"I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH"

Discussion Guide

April 29-30, 2023

"EKKLESIA" Week 3: "For One Another"

GATHER

- Do you like group projects? Why or why not? Do you have an example where one went really well or really poorly? What made it good or bad? (This question connects to the larger themes of doing things together towards a common goal.)
- If you were at a weekend service, share your takeaways from the message you heard. What was something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?

GROW

This weekend's message was anchored in **Romans 12:6-8** and interacted with some other key texts (see below) as we kicked off our "ALL-IN" Building Campaign.

Talk through the sermon more thoroughly as a group using the outline below. *Feel free to select a suggested question or two in each section to guide your conversation.*

1. Understand Their Story

Start by reading Romans 12:6-8, 1 Peter 4:7-11, Ephesians 4:1-13, and 1 Corinthians 12:1-30. These are four of the primary texts on spiritual gifts and God's vision for how they're used in the church.

- What are the key takeaways for us to understand about the *source* and *purpose* of spiritual gifts? Look for the similarities between the passages. (There's a section below to reflect on what gifts you may personally have later in the guide below.) *All these speak into building into one another or the glory of God.*

Notice two things:

1. The source of the gifts: God supplies them (1 Pet. 4:11 - "with the strength God provides"; 1 Cor. 12:4-6 - the Spirit distributes, and God works; 1 Cor. 12:11 - he distributes and he determines; Eph. 4:11 - "so Christ himself gave..."; Rom. 12:6 - "...according to the grace given to each of us").

And, 2. The purposes of the gifts. Gifts benefit people, but unto the "glory" of God (1 Pet. 4:11 - "to him be glory"; 1 Cor. 12:7 - they're given for the "common good"; 1 Cor. 12:21 - each one is important; Eph. 4:13 - they're meant to bring about Christian maturity for all; Rom. 12:8-6 - they're meant to be used and used in a good way. For example, if "what" your gift is is *giving*, then "how" you're supposed to use it is *generously*.)

2. Connect To His Story

If all of our life is to be lived unto the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31), using our gifts from God can be seen as worship to God. Worship in every form is a response to who God is and what he's done. In light of this, reflect deeper on the idea of "giving".

- Read Exodus 35:4-29. This story illustrates an important principle about giving to God. The people are told to make a "contribution".
 - Where were the people of Israel when they received this request to give a contribution?
[In the desert, wandering in the wilderness!](#)
 - What kind of things were they being asked to contribute? [Precious metals, fabric, goat skin & hairs, wood, oil & spices, stones.](#)
 - Where would they get these items from? (Read Exodus 13:33-36, and also think about what might have been available in their current location) - [Exodus 13 - precious metals & fabric - maybe plunder from the Egyptians. Goat skin & Hairs - probaby from their flocks. Wood and oil - perhaps from the countryside etc.](#)
 - What words were used to describe their attitude towards giving? - [everyone whose heart was stirred \(21\) / whose spirit moved him \(21, 29\) / all who were willing \(v 22\) / all whose hearts stirred them to use their skill \(v 26\)](#)
- When considering financial giving, is there a difference between viewing ourselves as "owners" vs viewing ourselves as "stewards"?

GO

3. Apply To Our Story

Northview aspires to make more and better disciples, leaders, and churches. Unto what end? Primarily: that God be glorified (as we saw week 1), but also for the good of our city (as we saw week 2), and for the good of one another (as we saw this week). The "ALL IN" building campaign fits within this framework. *Feel free to select a section or two to use in your group time.*

We're better together as a team. And each person has something from God to steward in order to contribute to the mission.

- What keeps you from "serving" and "stewarding" (1 Pet. 4:10), generally?
- What are the barriers to financial giving, specifically? [\(Be sensitive to the transparency level you have in your group on this question.\)](#)
- What do you have from God that you can use for his glory and the good of the church? You could consider the *S.H.A.P.E.* framework below for this conversation. Each category can prompt discussion as people share from these categories. (You could also take time to encourage one another with what you see in each person from these categories!)
- Rick Warren, author of both "The Purpose Driven Church" and "The Purpose Driven Life" developed the concept of *S.H.A.P.E.* He says, "Whenever God gives us an assignment, he always equips us with what we need in order to accomplish it. This custom combination of capabilities is called your S.H.A.P.E."
- The acronym points to 5 specific characteristics:
 - Spiritual Gifts: A set of special abilities that God has given you to share his love and serve others. [\(A question you could use to probe deeper or to point out something in others: What does it seem God has supernaturally gifted me/you to do?\)](#)
 - Heart: The special passions God has given you so that you can glorify him on earth. [\(A question you could use to probe deeper or to point out something in others: What does it seem I/you have a passion for and love to do?\)](#)
 - Abilities: The set of talents that God gave you when you were born, which he also wants you to use to make an impact for him. [\(A question you could use to probe deeper or to point out something in others: What natural talents and skills does it seem I/you have?\)](#)

- Personality: The special way God wired you to navigate life and fulfill your unique Kingdom purpose. (A question you could use to probe deeper or to point out something in others: Where does my/your personality seem to best suit you to serve?)
- Experiences: Those parts of your past, both positive and painful, which God intends to use in great ways. (Questions you could use to probe deeper or to point out something in others: what spiritual or painful or educational or ministry experiences have I/you had?)
- Remember, you have something valuable to contribute. Perhaps it would be good to reflect on your “SHAPE” and prayerfully consider what you have to contribute that you aren’t currently.

Reflect further on financial giving and the “ALL IN” Building Campaign. While our ways of serving may look different from person to person, financial giving is an area we can all lean in.

- Why is money a challenging topic to discuss in the church? Or even in a Community Group?
- What factors do you consider when deciding how to engage with a special project like a building campaign? What is your process of discerning what joyful giving looks like?

Pray!

- Spend time praying for the building campaign. Regardless of where you’re personally at with engaging in it, how can you pray?
- All of our activity is unto God’s glory and for our mission to help every person become a “deeply rooted follower of Jesus”. Who are those who don’t currently follow Jesus that you could pray for by name?