



## **REACH THE WORLD: IN THE COMMUNITY AND THROUGH DISASTER/FAMINE RELIEF**

**May 7, 2016**

**Sabbath School Program  
Gifts**

**Minnie McNeal**

A variety of wrapped packages can be displayed on a table or on the floor. On some gifts, write a few Spiritual Gifts, like “Hospitality,” “Helps,” “Evangelist,” “Teachers,” and “Languages.”

Gifts have been an expression of endearment from the beginning of time. Our imagination takes us to the dinner party at Simon’s house where Jesus is an invited guest. We see a woman crash the party as she kneels at the feet of Jesus in gratefulness for all He has done for her and bathes his feet with special ointments and wipes his feet with her hair (Matthew 26:6-13).

Gifts do not often come in expensive wrappings but more so from a heart of love and labor, as with the coat of many colors that Jacob presents to his son or the gift of presence as “Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women’s house, to know how Esther did...” (Esther 2:11 KJV). We are reminded of time, effort, and amazing love as we see an excited father making a special dinner as he welcomes his long lost son (Luke 15:11-24).

We all remember the paralytic who was brought to Jesus. The cot was borne by four, although, (Mark 2:3) not any of them could have healed the man. Most likely, none of them could even teach, or sing, or preach. But they could carry the corner of a cot and lay the suffering man at the feet of Jesus. What a gift!

Have you ever considered that the gifts that mean the most cannot be purchased?

Break into groups and share with the group gifts you may have received that were not purchased from a store, shop, or famous market. Tell what that gift meant to you and why.

### **Gifts of the Heavenly Kind**

Ask Volunteers to read the following scriptures. After reading both scriptures, ask the Sabbath School if anyone would like to tell what discovering their spiritual gift has meant to them and the difference it has made in their lives.

#### **James 1:17**

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

1 Corinthians 12:4-14 KJV

- “4. Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.
5. And there are differences of administrations, but the same LORD.
6. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.
7. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.
8. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;
9. To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same spirit;
10. To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:
11. But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will.
12. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.
13. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.
14. For the body is not one member, but many.”

**We Respond**

Leader: We find God’s purpose for the gifts He has so generously given in the following scripture.

Ask volunteers to read the following scriptures:

Ephesians 4:11, 12 KJV

- “11. And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
12. For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:”

Leader: What does it mean to walk “worthy” in the following scripture?

Ephesians 4:1, 2 KJV

- “1. I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,
2. With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;”

“In the story of the good Samaritan, Christ illustrates the nature of true religion. He shows that it consists not in systems, creeds, or rites, but in the performance of loving deeds, in bringing the greatest good to others, in genuine goodness,” (*Desire Of Ages*, p. 497).

Group Activity:

Group 1 - What are some of the ways we can use the gifts that God has given to be a blessing to members of the community? Reference a few of the wrapped gifts on the table.

Group 2 – Discuss the disasters that happen daily in your community. In what specific ways can the church intervene to bring hope where there is despair?

Group 3 – What information or training is needed to help community members with the challenges of daily disasters that are prevalent in the community? Where can church members get this information or training?

Group 4 - What kind of disaster is prevalent in your region? How can you prepare for such disasters? Discuss ways the church can help during times of widespread disaster.

Ask the groups to report back to the congregation; encourage 1-2 minute comments/suggestions from the Sabbath School.

Closing Thought: We are not alone.

“The angels of heaven look upon the distress of God’s family upon the earth, and they are prepared to co-operate with men in relieving oppression and suffering,” (*Desire of Ages*, p. 500).

Isaiah 6:1, 8 KJV

- “1. In the year that King Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple.
8. Also, I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.”

**“What shall I render unto the Lord” ... He gave The Greatest Gift of All; For All People and For All Times. (This statement correlates with the Adult Study Guide Lesson for the day)**

John 3:16 KJV

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (Emphasize “whosoever” which means “Who ever at all” or “anyone that”) believes ...

Next Sabbath – Come prepared to share how you used a gift that God has given you to help or encourage someone during the week.

Close with a song and prayer.

### **Musical Selections**

Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal  
(Choose)

- 76 – O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go
- 83 – O Worship The King
- 251 – He Lives

311 – I Would Be Like Jesus

572 – Give of Your Best to the Master

\*All Bible texts are New King James Version (NKJV), unless otherwise noted.