

Breathe

Module: PLAYING THE GAME

Lesson 1: EQUIPMENT

Objectives:

- Students will be able to define what are spiritual gifts and God-given abilities.
- Students will see that spiritual gifts can be used to cultivate relationships with God and other people.

Materials Needed

- ☐ At least 2 baseball bats. (Potentially several depending on group size)
- ☐ 1 football
- ☐ 2 hockey nets
- ☐ A pad of post-it notes
- ☐ Pens
- ☐ Optional: Bible dictionaries

Minds On

Divide the group into two teams and select two items of sports equipment (e.g. a baseball bat and a foot ball). Try playing a game of baseball using the football instead of a baseball. After a few minutes, switch it up and try playing a game of soccer using the football and the hockey nets. After a few more minutes switch it up again and try playing hockey with all three items (you might need more baseball bats, but you could sub in a broom, or a dust pan, or whatever you can find around the church).

Action

Prompt: It's difficult to play a sport or accomplish a task when we don't have the right equipment. It gets even harder when we are using the right piece of equipment, but in a completely wrong way! This week we will be looking at how God has equipped us to serve him and each other, and how we develop our relationship with God and each other by putting to use what he has given us in the way he intends.

Think/Pair/Share: Have students think for 1 min. about the following questions: What are "Spiritual Gifts"? How would you define them? Have students pair up with someone and share their answer. They should be prepared to share their partner's answer. After 2 min., ask for 3-4 people to share their partner's answer.

Read Philippians 1:6.

Back in their pairs, with this verse in mind, have students come up with a shared definition of spiritual gifts. Once they have their answer, they can write it on a post-it note and post it to the wall. Then see which answers overlap each other.

Leader's note: The suggested answer is, "Spiritual gifts are tools God gives us to finish what he's started."

Have a volunteer read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.

Leader's Note: If you don't feel comfortable addressing spiritual gifts with this passage, you can also use Romans 12:3-8.

Have each pair of students combine with another pair (i.e. groups of 4). Have them list all the spiritual gifts in the passage (wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, distinguishing spirits, speaking in tongues, interpreting tongues) and a specific example of how it might be used today. (Give them 15 min. to do this.)

Leader's Note: You may want either Bible dictionaries or allow students to use online tools to find definitions for some of these.

Gather everyone to the large group. Have one group state which spiritual gift they found and what would their example be. See if any of the other groups have a kind of scenario. Then have the second group state the next spiritual gift; again, check with the other groups about any distinct scenarios they have. Continue until all the spiritual gifts are listed.

Consolidate/Debrief

Prompt: When God created humans, his Spirit breathed life into us. That's the same Spirit that gives us our gifts and walks with us each day. God calls all of us to serve him right where we are, no matter the circumstances. It's important to remember that he has equipped us to handle anything the world throws at us.

Breathe In: Have the students reflect introspectively on the spiritual gifts, what theirs is/are/might be, and why God might have given it to them.

Leader's Note: If some students are keen to discover what their spiritual gifts are, use the file "sga.xls" (from the "The Light In You" module in the "Shine" curriculum series available at www.cboqyouth.ca/curriculum) with this module to help assess that.

Breathe Out: Have students write out encouragement notes to each other (you may want to assign encouragement partners beforehand so that no one is left out). Challenge students to also encourage five people who they think could really use it either by phone, in person, by text or social media.

Close in Prayer.