

Cell Material – discovering and using our gifts

Resources needed:

Slips of paper (approx 30cm x 10cm – A4 cut into two pieces lengthways) and pencils or pens; bag of liquorice allsorts or other bag of assorted sweets or biscuit assortment), list of giftings preferably one copy for each person.

Welcome

When anyone starts to ask us about what we think we are good at we are usually very modest and start to run ourselves down! To help us get over this, begin by sharing something that you are absolutely hopeless at! Maybe something you have tried once and decided never to do again or something you would love to be better at.

Word

Share out the sweets or biscuits you have brought. Just like these sweets/biscuits are all different, we are each individually made by God with unique gifts and abilities. Sometimes because of our own lack of self worth or because of baggage we carry from the past, it can be hard to recognize the gifts that God has given us.

Do you find it easy to recognize and talk about what you are good at? If not, why do you think that is?

The Bible teaches us that we all have a part to play in the body of Christ. Read **1 Corinthians 12 vs 12 – 27**.

Sometimes we can think that people who are upfront and seen by others have the most important giftings but this passage shows us that everyone has a part to play.

Which part of the body of Christ do you think you are?

Read **Ephesians 4 vs 11 – 16**. *What does Paul say will happen once God's people are prepared for works of service? (verse 12,13).*

What does he say will happen once all the believers play their part and does its work? (verse 14, 15).

It is very important that all the members of the body play their part so that we can all grow up into Christ. If we find it hard to recognize our own gifts then we

need our fellow Christians to help us recognize the talents and abilities God has given us.

Activity – (Be sensitive about any visitors or newcomers in your group.) Give out slips of paper and pencils. Write your name on the bottom of the slip. Pass the slips round clockwise and when you get a slip for someone write something you think is good about them or that they are good at, at the top of the paper and fold it over. Pass it round until the slips get back to their original owner. When you unfold your slip you should get an idea of what your cell mates think you are good at.

Once you've done this activity discuss how you feel about the findings. You may have some surprises or it may confirm what you already knew deep down. Does it confirm anything that you feel God has been calling you to do or something that he may be preparing you for?

Witness

How can you use what you are good at to serve others:

a) in the church b) outside the church? Use the attached list of gifts (which is not exhaustive so add to it freely!) to note down things you think you could do to help build up the body of Christ or serve him in the world. Cell leaders please collect these sheets back in if possible or make a list of things that people feel they could do within the life of the church to help us with building up a directory of talents – people that we could call on if necessary to exercise their gifts.

Worship

What can you offer to Jesus today? You may like to sing or listen to the song 'I will offer up my life' SF 851 or 'Take my life and let it be' SF 519 as you offer your gifts and abilities to Jesus. Close with prayer.

Think about some of the gifts and talents God has given you or some of the things you are able to do – please add to this list, which is by no means exhaustive!

Name:

singing	musical instrument(s)
drawing	painting (pictures)
poetry	writing
decorating	sewing
knitting	driving – giving lifts
growing things	DIY
gardening	administration
accounting - good with money	writing letters
cooking	campaigning
sport	organisation
reading	computer skills
teaching	dance
crafts	drama
leading	puppets
telling others about Jesus	inviting people to events
listening	delivering leaflets door to door
encouraging	PA system
making people laugh	writing scripts for drama
sensitivity	hosting meetings at your home
being welcoming	asking questions to make people think
noticing newcomers	thinking outside the box
being friendly	understanding
showing hospitality	visiting housebound/elderly
generosity	hospital visiting
ability to relate to children	prison visiting
ability to relate to the elderly	seeing the big picture
patience	seeing detail
time for prayer	preaching
flower arranging	intercessory prayer
making tea	speaking out prophetically
money to share	visionary – seeing what is possible
writing cell material	organising events behind the scenes
story to share of how God has helped you or answered prayer	