



“The Transformational Teacher” - Discussion Guide

This message focuses on the spiritual gift of teaching from Romans 12, emphasizing that teaching in the church goes beyond mere information sharing to transformation. Pastor Todd explains that while not everyone has the spiritual gift of teaching, all believers should desire to teach and be taught. The message highlights three key points: the spiritual gift of teaching goes beyond talent and ability, it's not meant for everyone due to high expectations and accountability, and it's vital for life transformation. The sermon features testimonies from church members Greg Squires, Peaches Peterson, and Naomi Czarnecki, who share their experiences teaching in various ministries including small groups, Bible Study Fellowship, and children's ministry. The overarching theme is that God uses ordinary people with the gift of teaching to equip the saints for ministry and build up the body of Christ in unity and love.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You this morning grateful for Your Word and the gift of teaching You have given to Your church. As we gather together to discuss this message, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want us to learn today. Help us to be receptive to Your Holy Spirit's leading and to discover how You have gifted each of us to serve Your body. May our time together be fruitful and transformational, not just informational. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one thing you learned from a teacher (in school, church, or life) that has stuck with you over the years?

Key Verses: Romans 12:6-7; Timothy 1:6; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:27-31; James 3:1; 2 Timothy 3:16

Questions

What's the difference between teaching for information versus teaching for transformation?

Can you think of examples from your own experience?

Pastor Todd mentioned that the spiritual gift of teaching comes with 'greater strictness' in judgment according to James 3:1. Why do you think God holds teachers to a higher standard?

Greg Squires emphasized starting with God's Word rather than other books about the Bible. How can we ensure we're building our understanding on Scripture first?



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Peaches Peterson shared how teaching BSF made her 'a nicer person' according to her children. How does teaching or sharing God's Word change the teacher themselves?

Naomi mentioned that 'a talent is something we use for God, but a gift is something God uses us for.' What's the significance of this distinction?

The sermon emphasized that not everyone has the gift of teaching, but all believers should desire to teach. How can someone without the spiritual gift of teaching still participate in teaching others?

What role does humility play in the gift of teaching, and how can teachers guard against pride or becoming 'know-it-alls'?

How can the church better support and encourage those who have the gift of teaching but may feel intimidated to use it?

Life Application

This week, take the SHAPE assessment mentioned in the sermon to discover your spiritual gifts. If you discover you have the gift of teaching, pray about how God might want you to use it in your church or community. If teaching isn't your gift, commit to being a better student by reading God's Word daily and being open to learning from those who do have this gift. Consider joining a small group or Bible study where you can both learn and potentially share insights with others.

Key Takeaways

The spiritual gift of teaching goes beyond talent and ability - it's about seeing lives transformed by God's Word, not just informed

Not everyone has the spiritual gift of teaching because it comes with high expectations, accountability, and requires significant time studying Scripture

Teaching is vital for life transformation and equipping the saints for ministry and building up the body of Christ

Teachers must start with God's Word first, allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal truth rather than imposing their own biases

All believers should desire to teach and be taught, creating a culture of learning and growth in the church

Ending Prayer

Father God, thank You for the gift of teaching and for those You have called to this important ministry in Your church. Help us to be hungry for Your Word and eager to both learn and share what You teach us. For those who have the gift of teaching, give them courage to step forward and use their gift without intimidation. For all of us, create in us a desire to be transformed by Your truth, not just informed by it. May Your church be strengthened, unified, and equipped through the faithful teaching of Your Word. Use us all to build up Your body in love. In Jesus' name, Amen.