

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures

from the Message:

John 1:35-42

John 18:15-27

John 21:15-22

Start **reading**.

Philippians 3:12-14

" Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

Start **talking**. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Share a time when you've been caught in a white lie or a lie by omission.
- Have you ever faced a very public and embarrassing situation or messed up on something important? Did you lie to get yourself out of it?

Start **thinking and sharing**. Ask a question to get your group thinking, to create openness.

- Read John 1:25-42. What was the setting for Peter when he started following Jesus. If you have begun a personal relationship with Jesus, what was the setting when you began to follow Him? Who was responsible for initially bringing you to "meet" Jesus? What kind of impact has that had in your life?
- Simon immediately received a name change from the Lord. What did you feel and/or experience immediately after you began to follow Jesus? What changes can you see in your life now?
- Peter publicly denied Jesus 3 times. How do you think Peter felt when, despite his best intentions, he lied and denied Jesus?
- What happens when let our emotions, rather than our faith, control our actions?
- Read John 21:15-22. Does the knowledge that Jesus knows all things, impact the way you make decisions? Why or why not?
- We have been looking at a situation where Peter has been humbled by the Lord. Have you ever experienced a similar situation? Please share.
- Peter experienced forgiveness and grace, following his denial of Jesus. How does this give you hope? Share experiences with the group.
- Is there something in your life that is keeping you from a closer relationship with God? Are you in denial about its existence?

Start **doing**. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- What guardrails do you need to set up so that you remain loyal to Christ even when you're dealing with fear, denial, lying, pride, and other character defects that create a barrier between you and God?
- Jesus commissions Peter to "feed His sheep". What is God calling you to do? Read Romans 12:3-8. What spiritual gift(s) has God given you for this calling?
- If you currently volunteer at Generations, share encouraging stories of how God has used you. How has serving drawn you closer to Him? If you don't currently serve, have you ever considered filling out an application to serve at Generations Church?

Start **praying**. Be bold and pray with power.

- Read Philippians 3:12:14. God equips us to be like Peter and others who fail but get back up and go forward to seek to bring YOU glory in all we do and say. Thank you for loving us and allowing us to serve you.

Pray **Start digging**. For further study.

- For further study, read and discuss the article on the back titled "How do I identify my spiritual gift?"



Question: "How do I identify my spiritual gift?"

Answer: There is no magic formula or definitive test that can tell us exactly what our spiritual gifts are. The Holy Spirit distributes the gifts as He determines (1 Corinthians 12:7-11). A common problem for Christians is the temptation to get so caught up in our spiritual gift that we only seek to serve God in the area in which we feel we have been gifted. That is not how the spiritual gifts work. God calls us to obediently serve Him in all things. He will equip us with whatever gift or gifts we need to accomplish the task He has called us to.

Identifying our spiritual giftedness can be accomplished in various ways. Spiritual gift tests or inventories, while not to be fully relied upon, can definitely help us understand where our gifting might be. Confirmation from others also gives light to our spiritual giftedness. Other people who see us serving the Lord can often identify a spiritual gift in use that we might take for granted or not recognize. Prayer is also important. The one person who knows exactly how we are spiritually gifted is the gift-giver Himself—the Holy Spirit. We can ask God to show us how we are gifted in order to better use our spiritual gifts for His glory.

Yes, God calls some to be teachers and gives them the gift of teaching. God calls some to be servants and blesses them with the gift of helps. However, specifically knowing our spiritual gift does not excuse us from serving God in areas outside our gifting. Is it beneficial to know what spiritual gift(s) God has given us? Of course it is. Is it wrong to focus so much on spiritual gifts that we miss other opportunities to serve God? Yes. If we are dedicated to being used by God, He will equip us with the spiritual gifts we need.

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Go to this website to find help with discovering your spiritual gift(s):

www.lifeway.com/en/articles/pastors-spiritual-gifts-help-your-people-discovertheir-spiritual-gifts