

PICTURE THIS!

WEEK 3

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:17-20

Close your eyes and listen. Now, with your eyes closed, try really, really, really hard to see with your ears. Hmm, not possible, right?! How about this? Put your fingers in your ears so that you can't hear anything. Now stick out your tongue and try to taste sound. Now that's just silly!

Imagine how silly it must seem to God when we try to do things we're not created to do. That doesn't mean that all of us can't pitch in when a job needs to get done. (Tip: do not try to tell your mom that your gift isn't "room cleaning" the next time she tells you to pick things up!) It just means that you shouldn't try to be like someone else because you think their gift is better. The best thing you can do is plug in to the place where God has given you a gift. When we all work together doing what we're created to do, we can see, hear, and taste great things!

THANK God that He knew best to gift you the way that He did.

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READ 1 CORINTHIANS 3:4-6

Have you ever seen someone try to sing in front of a crowd, and their microphone suddenly stopped working? Or how about a team who suddenly has one of their players get hurt and they start to lose the game?

Sometimes people are gifted but we don't know it until suddenly things go wrong, then we realize just how important they are! We often forget how it takes more than one person for most things to happen, and if we stopped working together, things just wouldn't happen the way they're supposed to.

What is a talent or gift that God has given you? _____

Who can you think of that helps you with that talent? Maybe they encourage you, edit your writing, coach your team or go to your plays ... _____

Take some time today to thank that person face to face or on the phone for the part that they play in helping you use your talent to the best of your ability.

ASK God to help you see all the people who play a part in your life and to help you express your thankfulness to them.

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PICTURE THIS!

WEEK 3

READ ROMANS 12:6-8

Gifts are meant to be opened, enjoyed, and used. Imagine if you gave a gift to someone you care about, but then they gave it back to you without even opening it! Or what if they never used it—or worse, what if you saw them give it away to someone else or even throw it out? That would hurt! On the other hand, think of a time when you gave someone a gift and they LOVED it. Every time you saw them, they were using it, wearing it, or thanking you for it. It made you feel great, didn't it? God feels the same way when we use the gifts He's given us!

Ask your mom for help finding an empty box, some wrapping paper, a bow, some scissors, and tape. Wrap the box as though it were a treasured gift, and put it somewhere to remind you that the best gift you can give God is to use His gift to make a difference in the world.

LOOK for ways to use your God-given gifts as fully as you can.

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READ EPHESIANS 4:11-12

Working together doesn't always mean everyone doing the same thing. In fact, if it did, many times, nothing would get done! Imagine if all of the players on a baseball team tried to play first base. No one would ever make it to first base because there would be no pitcher to throw the ball to the opposing team! Or imagine if everyone at a restaurant tried to be the chef—who would seat you or take your order? There would be lots of yummy food, but no one to deliver it to the customers!

The unique way God has gifted you means that you can play an important role on a team. That's how God saw the church. Instead of trying to be like everyone else, figure out how God made YOU, and do that as well as you possibly can! List all of the players on your team and the role each of you plays in making a difference in the world (this could be your family, your Small Group, some friends in your neighborhood ... anyone who you work with to share God's love with others). If you don't feel like you are doing this yet, write out a short prayer to God asking Him to help you shine His light with the help of those around you!

KNOW that your gift is meant to be a part of a bigger story or effort.

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