

4 Helps: Words

Sometimes we don't know what to say to minister to people, but the Holy Spirit can give us the words



B

Group Discussion Flow

connect with needs

- ▶ Find out how they are doing. Ask also how their **action to take** and **person to tell** went last week.
- ▶ Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- ▶ Start by stating: *"Sometimes we want to help people in a tough situation, but we can't seem to figure out what to say."*
Then, surface experiences:
"Let me tell you how I have experienced this."
"Tell us how you have experienced this."
- ▶ Transition to the Bible by saying, *"The Holy Spirit can give us the right words to say in various situations."*

hear what God says

- ▶ Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.
Choices:
Luke 12:11–12
1 Corinthians 2:1–8,13
1 Samuel 3 (story)
Two of these passages may be enough to cover in one session.
Commentary:
Luke 12:11–12 — This passage encourages us that when we are in a position where we must defend our faith we can rely on the Holy Spirit to give us the words to say.
1 Corinthians 2:1–8,13 — This passage is Paul's testimony to the power of the Holy Spirit speaking through him. Paul told about his own lack of eloquence and words, his fears and his lack of knowledge. The Corinthians grasped his message of the gospel because

the power of the Holy Spirit spoke through him. Through the Spirit, we can express spiritual truths.

1 Samuel 3 — God calls young Samuel to be his spokesperson. While this was a unique event it points to Christ who is God's final word to humankind. When we don't know what to say we can always talk about Jesus.

- ▶ Discuss each passage using the following questions, or the alternate questions below:
What do you think this passage teaches us?
What can we learn about God or our response to God?
How do you think this passage relates to the statement we discussed earlier: "Sometimes we want to help people in a tough situation, but we can't seem to figure out what to say?"

apply that to life

- ▶ State the main lesson: *"Sometimes we don't know what to say to minister to people, but the Holy Spirit can give us the words."* Have them write the **lesson learned** on their Mini-Journal card.
- ▶ Discuss:
What prevents us from receiving from the Holy Spirit the right words to say to minister to others?
What is one action you can take this week to find the right words to minister?
- ▶ Have them write down their specific **action to take**. Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

tell someone they know

- ▶ Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- ▶ Have them write the name after **person to tell**. Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- ▶ Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.
- ▶ Tell them how they will be helped by the next four sessions. See the [Dashboard, "4 Attitudes"](#).

notes and preparation checklist

pray

- ☐ Pray for wisdom.
- ☐ Pray for group members.

connect

- ☐ Think of a good personal example to share.
- ☐ Decide when and how to transition from **connect** to **hear**.

notes and preparation checklist

hear

Alternate questions to ask:

- ☐ **Luke 12:11–12**
 1. *What is yet another role the Holy Spirit can play in our lives?*
 2. *We may not be brought before hostile authorities to defend our faith but, day-to-day, what are some situations where we could benefit from the Holy Spirit showing us what to say?*
- ☐ **1 Corinthians 2:1–8, 13**
 1. *What can we learn from the way Paul approached the worldly-wise Corinthians?*

- 2. *What contrast do you see in this passage?*
In the discussion be sure to focus on human or worldly wisdom versus spiritual wisdom.
- ☐ **1 Samuel 3**
 1. *From where did Samuel get God's message? Where do we find God's message today?*
 2. *How did Samuel feel about telling God's message? How do you feel? What encouragement do you draw from Samuel's story?*

notes and preparation checklist

apply

- ☐ Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply**.
- ☐ Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
- ☐ Print [Words Mini Journal](#).

notes and preparation checklist

tell

- ☐ Encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- ☐ Look for group members who **tell** easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.