

4 Attitudes: Use

Use well what God gives you, for His purpose



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: *"When we are given something, it is a nice compliment to the giver for us to use it."*
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, *"This is also true in a relationship with God."*

hear what God says

- ▶ Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.
Choices:
Ephesians 2:10
Ephesians 5:15–16
Matthew 25:14–30 (story)
Two of these passages may be enough to cover in one session.
Commentary:
Ephesians 2:10 — This verse tells us that God has planned and prepared beforehand for us to do good things.
Ephesians 5:15–16 — These verses clarify that it is our job to make the most of the opportunities God gives.
Matthew 25:14–30 — This is one of the classic parables illustrating how pleasing and important it is

- to God that we make good use of what He gives us. The "master" in the story is a picture of God.
- ▶ 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: "When we are given something, it is a nice compliment to the giver for us to use it"?

apply that to life

- ▶ State the main lesson: *"Use well what God gives you, for His purpose."* Have them write the **lesson learned** on their Mini-Journal card.
- ▶ Discuss:
Why don't we always use the gifts God has given us well?
What is one action you can take this week to start using your gifts better?
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Encourage them to start their own groups to discuss the "Essentials for Spiritual Growth and Multiplication."

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:

- Ephesians 2:10**
 1. *What can we learn from this verse about God's plans for each of us?*
 2. *What things might that encourage us to do better?*
- Ephesians 5:15–16**
What are we encouraged to do in this passage?
The key phrase here can be translated "make the most of your strategic and seasonal opportunities."

- Matthew 25:14–30**
 1. *What did the first two servants do?*
At once they put their money to work and gained 100% return.
 2. *What was the response of the property owner when he returned?*
 3. *What did the third servant do?*
 4. *What was the response of the property owner to this servant?*

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 [Use 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.