

GIFTS & TALENTS

A Guiding Word

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SHARE



In what ways are young people involved in expressing their gifts and talents in your congregation?

Does your congregation have a resource that helps people discover their personal gifts and talents?

Can a young person really lead? How?

READ



Romans 12:4-5

A body is made up of many parts, and each of them has its own use. That's how it is with us. There are many of us, but we each are part of the body of Christ, as well as part of one another.

TALK



Romans 12 begins by saying that no matter how young or old we are, each one of us has had our need for a renewed heart, truth and life met by the same good news of Jesus our saviour. This is what propels the generations into joyful service.

Compare that to the person coming to you saying, 'I've got a few gaps I have to fill on the roster; everyone is saying no - can you please help me out and I'll owe you one?' It's the difference between an encounter with Jesus that causes your heart to leap and sends you out with a desire to share and an encounter with a person at your church trying to get a favour out of you to help themselves. One breathes life and the other makes people want to run the other way. How do we move forward?

Just like your body uses all its parts to function every day, so all the gifts given to children, young people and adults work together for the good of the church and the wider community. It's not about role status, it's about matching people's gifts with the right opportunities to lead and serve. That takes a gospel-humility and letting go in all of us. It also keeps the eyes of every generation upon the cross which has not only saved us, but also those we might struggle with in the community.

- How has God equipped you? And where is He calling you to share your gifts to bring His love and blessing to others?
- What role does the community play in helping you figure out where your passions meet the needs of others? Where might there need to be a letting go of the reigns?
- What gifts do we see in our young people? Are there roles in our context where adults could be mentoring young leaders?

PRAY



Pray for each other, your congregation and the world.

BLESS



Bless each other with these words: (Name), child of God, God has gifted and called you in this place. Amen.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

#8

Children and young people are given opportunities to discover and express their gifts and talents, including being involved in leadership.

FAITH 5



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