

Using Gifts and Talents for His Kingdom

Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God's words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:10-11

Each person is given unique abilities by God, not for personal fulfillment but to contribute to the body of Christ and serve others. Encouraging teens to dedicate their talents to God's service can help them find deeper meaning and purpose in their activities and aspirations. This conversation is an opportunity to inspire them to see beyond themselves and to envision how their contributions can make a difference in the church, community, and beyond, all while bringing glory to God.

➤ conversation starter

Did you know that the Bible tells us that God has uniquely gifted each one of us for a special purpose in His kingdom? Have you ever thought about how your talents and abilities can be used to further God's work here on earth?

What problems do you think could result from only using our gifts and talents to serve ourselves?

➤ navigating the conversation:

- **Discuss God's Design:** Start by discussing God's intentional design in creating each person with unique gifts and talents. Emphasize that God equips us for a specific purpose.
- **Explore Various Gifts:** Talk about a variety of gifts and talents, such as leadership, teaching, serving, encouragement, and more. Discuss how each gift can be used to glorify God and build His kingdom.
- **Share Biblical Examples:** Share stories of biblical figures like Moses, Deborah, and Paul, who used their specific gifts to lead, teach, and spread the gospel.
- **Identify Their Gifts:** Help teens identify their own gifts and abilities. Encourage self-reflection and self-awareness in recognizing how God has uniquely equipped them.
- **Connect with Passion:** Discuss how their passions align with their gifts, as God often calls us to use what we're passionate about for His purposes.
- **Talk About Service:** Emphasize that using our gifts for the kingdom involves serving others, showing love, and meeting needs.
- **Highlight God's Glory:** Discuss how using our gifts for God's kingdom brings glory to Him and points others to the love of Christ.
- **Seek God's Guidance:** Encourage them to pray and seek God's guidance in discerning how they can best use their gifts for His purposes.
- **Encourage Exploration:** Support them in exploring opportunities within the church or community to use their gifts in service.
- **Embrace Growth:** Remind them that using their gifts for the kingdom is a journey of growth and learning. It's okay to step out of their comfort zones to try new ways to serve.

