



Discussion Guide

"The Others Mirror"

Week of 1/22/2012

The Point: When You See Deficiency, God Sees Design!

Romans 12:4-8

Discussion Questions

- What are two things that stood out to you from this week's Point? (they can be silly, serious, stupid, or spiritual)
- Who did you look up to or want to be when you were a child? Why?
- Based on Psalm 139:13-16, when we are not satisfied with how we are made or gifted, what does that say about God? Why?
- Jeremiah's ministry was considered to be one of the hardest found in the Bible. In fact, it was so difficult that he is known as the "Weeping Prophet". Read Jeremiah 1:4-8. How does this affect your understanding of God's plan and design?
- Have you ever broken a bone or lost function in a part of your body? What happened? How did you learn to adjust?
- What leads us to act like some gifts are "superior" to others? Why?
- How does 1 Cor. 12:12-26 affect our view of our gifts compared to others? Why?
- According to these passages, who suffers when we don't use our gifts?
- What do you feel your spiritual gift(s) are? Are you using them for God's glory? Or for yourself (think "funhouse mirror")? Or not at all?
- What one thing can you do to change that?

Thinking Outside the Box

It's time for a creative exercise:

There is a crowded room of people and each person has one of the spiritual gifts found in Romans 12:6-8. Suddenly, someone in the room trips and spills their 15-layer cheese dip on the floor! Aside from some wasted dip, how does each person respond? Explain or, better yet, *act out* how each person's gift would react in that situation. Have fun!!

Bible References

Romans 12:4-8(NIV) ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,⁵so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith;⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach;⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Romans 12:6b-7a(MSG) So since we find ourselves fashioned into all these excellently formed and marvelously functioning parts in Christ's body, ⁶ let's just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't.

Psalm 139:13-16(NIV) ¹³ For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Jeremiah 1:4-8(NIV) ⁴ The word of the Lord came to me[Jeremiah], saying, ⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." ⁶ "Alas, Sovereign Lord," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young." ⁷ But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you."⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord.

1 Corinthians 12:12-26 [Too long to print; read it yourself 😊]