

# **EPIPHANY 2019, PART 1:**

## **GREATER GIFTS**

### **Week 1: January 13 You are Beloved**

#### **Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 Baptism of the Lord**

#### Note to the Teacher

For the next four weeks, each lesson will center on opening a gift or gifts (see **Needed Resources** at the end of this lesson.) Each week's lesson will build on the previous week's as we come to the final element of Love. We begin with the gift of baptism.

#### Time   Description of Activity

In the gift box this week, you'll need a bowl and pitcher of water along with a blank baptism certificate.

#### 10 min **1. Ice Breaker:**

Place gift box where everyone can see it.

- What is the best gift that you've ever received? Why was it the best?
- What is the worst gift?
- Share a time when you were really excited anticipating something that was going to happen. Why were you so excited?

#### 5 min **2. Read Scripture**

The Jews were excited that the Messiah was going to come. John told of his coming.

- This passage in Luke begins as John (known as the baptizer) is talking with a crowd that is waiting to be baptized.

**Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

#### 15 min **3. Activity and Discussion - Water Basin Questions**

Take this lesson to the next level by getting students' senses involved using the activity **Water Basin Questions** from the Youth Worker Collective (<https://youthworkercollective.com/water-basin-questions/>).

#### 20 Min **4. Discussion**

1. Did Jesus need to be baptized?
  - a. If yes, why?
  - b. If not, why do you think he had John baptize him?

2. Read Matthew 3:13-17. What do you think of John's words to Jesus?
3. What do you think that John meant in Luke 3:16 when he said that Jesus would "baptize with the Holy Spirit?"

To end class, take a few moments for students who have been baptized to remember their baptism by touching the water and placing the droplets on their forehead as a sign of remembrance.

Close in prayer

**50 min**

**NEEDED RESOURCES:**

One large giftwrapped box that can be re-opened each week. It should be large enough to hold the items for the activities within each lesson.

A basin or pitcher of water

A Certificate of Baptism (see church office for this)

## **Week 2: January 20 Gifted for Others**

### **1 Corinthians 12:1-11 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany**

#### Note to the Teacher

The activity this week is fairly lengthy, so make sure to plan ahead. Some students may be amazed at how accurate the inventory is and others, not so much – but be sure to celebrate them all!

#### Time   Description of Activity

#### 10 min **1. Ice Breaker:**

Ask students to think about random talents they have that they could demonstrate. Can anyone say the alphabet backwards? Is anyone double jointed? Can someone do a back handspring or rub their head while patting their stomach? After sharing the weird ones, ask students to share two other things they are good at. Then use these questions to debrief:

- How do you know what you're good at?
- Do you find it hard to talk about what you're good at – or is it fairly easy for you? Why do you think that is?
- Have you ever connected your talents to how God made you?

#### 10 min **3. Discussion**

1. What is a spiritual gift?
2. Do you think you have one? Two? Why or why not?

#### 5 min **2. Read Scripture** 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

#### 30 min **4. Activity and Discussion - Spiritual Gift Inventory**

Take this lesson to the next level by getting students involved using the activity

**Spiritual Gift Inventory** from the Youth Worker Collective

(<https://youthworkercollective.com/using-spiritual-gift-inventories-with-youth/>).

Close in Prayer

#### 50 min

## **Week 3: January 27 Being Needy**

### **1 Corinthians 12:12-31a 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany**

#### Note to the Teacher

#### Time Description of Activity

We are all like a puzzle, with each of our pieces fitting together as the Body of Christ to bring the Kingdom of God more fully here on earth as it is in heaven. This week we are exploring how all our greater gifts work together.

#### 10 min **1. Ice Breaker:**

Bring a set of board games from home or ask people to bring some of their favorites with them. If you aren't a board game person, consider making a quick trip to a thrift store and pick up whatever they have there. Ask students to stack the board games in order of preference from favorite on top to least favorite on bottom. Start with the person who is sure they know what their stack will look like, have them stack the board games, then ask them to answer the following questions. Once a student has finished, have him/her pass the stack to the next person, who will repeat the process.

1. Why is the top game your favorite?
2. Why is the bottom game your least favorite?
3. What game is missing that you like? Would it replace the top one?

#### 5 min **2. Read Scripture**

Read the passage 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

#### 15 min **3. Activity - Puzzles and the Body of Christ**

- Take this lesson to the next level by getting student's problem solving involved using the activity **Puzzles and the Body of Christ** from the Youth Worker Collective (<https://youthworkercollective.com/puzzles-and-the-body-of-christ/>).

#### 20 Min **4. Discussion**

1. Just like a puzzle, each piece is necessary in order to create a full picture. Why do you think that it's so easy to think that some pieces are more important than other pieces?
2. Reread verses 22-26. Why do you think Paul says these words? What might be happening among the people in Corinth?

3. What are some of the spiritual gifts that are listed in verse 28? Now read verses 29-31. Why does Paul ask these questions?
4. Think about the gift inventory that we created last week. How do the gifts represented in this group fit together like our puzzle?

\*\*Have students take their jigsaw puzzle piece home or put it in their Bible as a reminder that we are each a part of the body of Christ.

**50 min**

## **Week 4: February 3 Love**

### **1 Corinthians 13:1-13 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany**

#### Note to the Teacher

This week, we bring all the greater gifts together and look to the greatest gift of all – LOVE. In the box this week, you'll need the items needed to play the game described below (resources needed are described at the end of this lesson) and a heart-shaped item. You will also need the 'gift' items from the previous weeks' lessons to show at the end of this lesson. We'll use them for a short review of what we've learned so far.

#### Time Description of Activity

#### 25 min 1. **Ice Breaker and Game - Whisper Challenge**

Start this lesson with a bang by getting students laughing using the activity **Whisper Challenge** from the Youth Worker Collective (<https://youthworkercollective.com/whisper-challenge/>).

Transition: God gave us an entire chapter in the Bible that helps us define love. Paul wrote it in the book of 1 Corinthians.

#### 5 min 2. **Read Scripture**

- Read 1 Corinthians 13
- Note that this chapter follows the chapter on gifts that we've been looking into the past two weeks.

20 min 3. **Discussion** – pull a heart-shaped cookie, paper, or pillow...out of the box as you begin this discussion

1. Why would Paul write these words about LOVE after he just taught us about spiritual gifts?
2. How does the game that we played earlier help us to understand verses 1-3 in a different way?  
How can our lives be like clanging gongs and loud cymbals if we don't have love?
3. Using verses 4-7, make a list of the qualities that describe love. Compare this list to the one that we made earlier.
4. Paul says that love is the greatest gift in verse 13. What makes love greater than hope and faith?
5. How can you show God's love to those around you?

Finish by reviewing all the gifts from the box: the water, the gift inventory, the puzzle, and the heart

6. How do all of these things fit together to remind us of God's greater gifts?

**50 min**

**NEEDED RESOURCES:**

1-2 sets of headphones – noise cancelling are the best choice, but any will do

Playlist of LOUD songs on your phone or ipod

Phrase cards – print out and have ready

- For the game, print or write out simple phrases on individual cards. Below are some examples, but feel free to make up your own!

Valentine's Day Present

John the Baptist

Pumpkin Spiced Latte

First Corinthians Thirteen

Chocolate Covered Strawberries

Heart-shaped Cookies