

Membership Covenant



A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Text for the Week: 1 Peter 4:7-11

Message for the Week: Gifts Given, Gifts Used

Sunday, December 24

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

Have you ever “regifted” a gift to someone knowing that they would use it wisely? If you were able to see them using that gift how did that make you feel?

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [1 Peter 4:7-11](#) out loud.

[Clicking the link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

How do you feel about the way you are using the gifts He has given to you? How might God feel about the way you are using the gifts He has given to you?

Peter says that when we speak, we should do so as speaking the words of God. What does speaking the words of God look like?

What do you notice about the verbs (action words) in this passage?

How has love (both given and received) covered a multitude of sins? Share some stories.

God gave us the greatest gift at Christmas. How are you giving back to God by using the gift He has given you?

Try It:

“Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.” Find a way to put hospitality into action this Christmas break.

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Pray this prayer together:

Father, we praise you for your awesome gift to us of Jesus Christ and the incredible gift of faith we have received. May we graciously and lovingly share the gift of Jesus with our world as you did with us. AMEN

Missional/Spiritual Practice: Giving

I commit to giving generously of my time for the building of Christ’s Church and Kingdom.

I commit to giving generously of my talents for the building of Christ’s Church and Kingdom.

I commit to giving generously of my treasures (financial resources) for the building of Christ’s Church and Kingdom.

I commit to giving generously of my testimony for the building of Christ’s Church and Kingdom.

How are you giving generously in these areas? If not, why not? What needs to change?

1 Peter 4:7-11

New International Version

4 ⁷The end of all things is near. Therefore, be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. ⁸Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

The Message

4 ⁷⁻¹¹Everything in the world is about to be wrapped up, so take nothing for granted. Stay wide-awake in prayer. Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything. Be quick to give a meal to the hungry, a bed to the homeless—cheerfully. Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing them around so all get in on it: if words, let it be God's words; if help, let it be God's hearty help. That way, God's bright presence will be evident in everything through Jesus, and *he'll* get all the credit as the One mighty in everything—encores to the end of time. Oh, yes!