

## SESSION 4 | GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### GET STARTED

We are not just a part of the Church, we are also a part of families and friend groups. Plus, we are all different with unique family/friend cultures and traditions! This week, share unique family/friend photos (traditions, silly faces, etc.) and a story that goes along with it.

What is your favorite family tradition that is very different from other families? If your family looks more like a group of friends, what is your favorite tradition with them?

### TAKE IT IN

Watch Session 4: WE are DIFFERENT at [mynorthside.com/WE](http://mynorthside.com/WE). What encouraged or challenged you from the video and daily study guide this week?

### TALK IT OVER

#### Read 1 Peter 2:4-12

- There is a lot of beautiful, descriptive language being used in these verses about God's family. What does it mean to you to be called a "chosen people" and a "royal priesthood"? How does this identity shape your daily life and interactions with others?
- Verse 9 talks about light and darkness, God being the light and sin being the darkness. How can we be a reflection of God's light in our neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces? What practical steps can we take to shine light in a world that often feels dark?
- Verse 5 says that believers are "living stones" being built into a spiritual house. How does this metaphor illustrate our role as a church community? What does it mean to you to be part of this "spiritual house"?
- Our sinful desires can wage war against our soul (v.11). We often don't think enough about how deeply our sinful nature can affect us. Where are you experiencing weariness from a war being waged against your soul? How can our group support each other as we follow Jesus? If needed, take time to pray right now for each other.

#### Read Matthew 5:13-16

- Being set apart means we should be standing out. Just like how salt makes things taste better, we should be helping things to be better. What do you think it means to be "the salt of the earth"? How can we apply this concept in our daily lives?

- Salt is so distinct that it can only be described by itself, salty. Thinking about how followers of Jesus are called to be salt of the earth, what would happen if we lost that distinct flavor of our faith? How might it affect those around us? What practical steps can we take to avoid losing this saltiness?

### Read Acts 5:12-16

- These verses are pointing out how different the Apostles were because they followed Jesus. Verse 13 mentions that “*no one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded.*” What do you think this says about the early church’s reputation?
- These verses highlight that it is good to have a life that looks different. This distinction actually helped others believe in Jesus and their numbers to grow (v.14). What are some ways you think God is calling you to help grow His Kingdom by living differently?
- Being different in the Name of Jesus can appear in many ways throughout our lives. Share a story about a time you chose to be different in the Name of Jesus or a moment where you should have been different but fell short. What did God teach you through this moment?

## LIVE IT OUT

This week, take a look at your life. How are you living right now? If you’re a follower of Jesus, where do you need to grow in how you live? If you’re not a follower of Jesus, what do you admire about the way those who do believe live their lives? This week, ask God to change one thing about your life that could help point others to Jesus.

Daily Study Guide: Take 30 minutes each day to complete the daily study guide. Don’t think of it as homework, but relational time growing alongside your Heavenly Father. Come ready to discuss what you are learning at the next group session.

Memorize: “*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*” 1 Peter 2:9

## WE ARE CONNECTED | SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Below is a list of spiritual gifts and their definitions. Reading through and discussing these with a group, spouse, or close friend may help reveal some of your spiritual gifts. Another way to figure out your spiritual gifts is by taking the Spiritual Gifts Assessment. You can access this assessment by going to and creating your profile at [mynorthside.com](http://mynorthside.com) (top right corner). After accessing your profile, you can find the Spiritual Gifts Assessment on the right under assessments.

### SPIRITUAL GIFTS DEFINITIONS

The Bible does not lock us into restrictions as to the number of spiritual gifts or even their definitions. The four major lists of gifts are found in Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 and 12:27-31, Ephesians 4:11-12, and 1 Peter 4:9-11, but there are other Scriptures that mention or illustrate gifts not included in these lists. All gifts are given to help believers fulfill the purpose of the Church.

#### ADMINISTRATION

As an administrator, you are a take-charge person who jumps in and starts giving orders when no one is in charge. You will put a plan on paper and start delegating responsibility. You may lean toward organizing things, events, or programs OR toward organizing people, emphasizing personal relationships, and leadership responsibilities. In the first case, you usually organize details and have people carry them out. In the second case, you tend to organize people and rely on others to take care of the little things (1 Corinthians 12:28, Acts 6:1-7, Exodus 18:13-26).

#### EVANGELISM

This does not necessarily mean you are supposed to travel the world, preaching the Gospel. It denotes a proclaimer of the Gospel. The evangelist can either be a preacher who stands before a crowd, imploring them to be saved, or, perhaps, an individual sitting in a living room or on a plane, trying to persuade someone to accept Christ. As an evangelist, you have the Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by leading people who are beyond your natural sphere of influence to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. You are sometimes classified as the aggressive soul-winner who seeks the lost (Ephesians 4:11, Acts 8:26-40, Luke 19:1-10).

### EXHORTATION

You are a “how to” person. You have the Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by motivating others to action by urging them to pursue a course of conduct. As an exhorter, you are a very practical person, a good counselor, tolerant of others, serious-minded, orderly, and usually impulsive. You are expressive in a group setting; the group listens when you speak. You are comfortable working one-on-one or in groups. You are enthusiastic and talkative and enjoy encouraging others (Romans 12:8, Acts 11:23-24, 14:21-22, 15:32).

### GIVING

As a giver, you have the Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by giving of your material resources, far beyond the tithe, to further the work of God. You have a strong desire to meet the financial needs of your fellow Christians and church members. As a giver, you probably feel that the best way you can give of yourself is to give of your material gain for the work of God. You give without public recognition and usually do not want people to know who you are nor how much is given. You disapprove of anyone who gives for the wrong motive. Your motive is to further the work of God and meet real needs, not to show off or get something in return (Romans 12:8, 2 Corinthians 6:8, Luke 21:1-4).

### MERCY-SHOWING

As a mercy-shower, you have the Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by identifying with and comforting those who are in distress. You understand and comfort your fellow Christian. You enter into the grief or happiness of others and have the ability to show empathy which is to feel WITH others, not just for others (Romans 12:8, Matthew 5:7, Mark 10:46-52, Luke 10:25-37).

### PROPHECY

That does not mean you are supposed to have visions of the future. It means you are a “forthteller,” telling or “speaking forth” the mind of God; boldly preaching, speaking, and teaching God’s Word. You are very discerning, one who points out sin with the goal of making people aware of sin in their lives so they will repent. You have the Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by proclaiming His truth (Romans 12:6, 1 Corinthians 12:10, 1 Corinthians 14:1-5, Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Peter 4:10-11).

## SERVING

The Greek word “Diakonia” means to do service. In Acts 6:1, the word is interpreted as “ministration.” Actually, the gift of serving combines helps and ministering. The word “helps” is used in 1 Corinthians 12:28 and “ministering” in Romans 12:7. As a server, you have the Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by rendering practical help in both physical and spiritual matters. You enjoy meeting the practical needs of your fellow Christians and the church (1 Corinthians 12:28, Romans 12:7).

## SHEPHERDING

As a gifted shepherd, you have the Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by overseeing, training, and caring for the needs of a group of Christians. You are usually very patient, people-centered, and willing to spend time in prayer for others. You tend to be a “Jack-of-All-and-Master-of-ONE”, meaning you are usually dominant in one of the speaking gifts (evangelist, prophet, teacher, exhorter), as well. You are often authoritative, more a leader than a follower, and expressive, composed, and sensitive. Your pleasing personality draws people to you. We are actually discussing the GIFT of shepherding, not the POSITION of pastor. Though a good pastor must have the gift of shepherding, everyone who has the gift of shepherding is not called to be pastor. The gift can be used in many positions in a church (Ephesians 4:11, Jeremiah 3:15, Acts 20:28, John 10:11-18).

## TEACHING

As a teacher, you are one who communicates knowledge, guides, makes known or relays facts. You have the Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by making clear the truth of God’s Word with accuracy (Romans 12:7, 1 Corinthians 12:28, Acts 18:24-28, 2 Timothy 2:2).