

# Discovering and Recognizing Gifts and Talents

**Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. 1 Peter 4:10**

Encouraging teens to discover and recognize their God-given talents and gifts is an important aspect of their spiritual and personal growth. God has blessed each individual with unique abilities and potential that, when discovered and nurtured, can lead to fulfilling God's purpose in their lives. This journey not only strengthens their self-esteem but also deepens their relationship with God as they learn to use their talents for His glory.

## ➤ conversation starter

The Bible tells us that God has uniquely gifted each believer with spiritual gifts. Have you ever thought about what you're good at and what brings you joy? Let's explore together how we can discover and recognize the gifts that God has given you.

In the Bible, we see many stories of individuals using their God-given gifts to serve others and bring glory to God. Have you considered how your talents could make a positive impact in our family, community, or even the world? Let's talk about ways your gifts can be a blessing to others.

## ➤ navigating the conversation:

- **Encourage Self-Reflection:** Ask them to think about activities that bring them joy and fulfillment. Discuss areas where they naturally excel and find themselves most passionate.
- **Explore Various Talents:** Talk about a variety of talents and gifts, such as artistic abilities, leadership qualities, compassion, problem-solving skills, or a heart for service.
- **Share Biblical Examples:** Discuss stories of biblical figures like Joseph, who had the gift of interpretation, or Esther, who displayed courage and leadership. Explore how they used their gifts for God's purposes.
- **Look Beyond the Obvious:** Sometimes, talents might not be immediately apparent. Encourage them to explore different activities and opportunities to discover hidden abilities.
- **Consider Spiritual Gifts:** Introduce the concept of spiritual gifts found in passages like 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12:6-8. Discuss how spiritual gifts can be used in conjunction with natural talents.
- **Discuss the Purpose of Gifts:** Study how gifts and talents are meant to serve others and bring glory to God. Emphasize the importance of using talents with a heart of humility and service.
- **Support Their Passions:** Show support for their interests and passions, even if they differ from your own.
- **Provide Opportunities:** Offer opportunities for them to explore and develop their talents, whether through classes, workshops, or community involvement.
- **Affirm and Encourage:** Offer positive reinforcement and encouragement as they discover and develop their gifts. Remind them that they are fearfully and wonderfully made by God (Ps. 139:14).
- **Pray for Guidance:** Encourage teens to pray and seek God's guidance in understanding their gifts and how to use them.

