

# 1 Corinthians 12 - 14

## Gifted to Love



### Getting Started

1. Does your experience of church give you hope that God is at work in the world?

### The Text – 1 Corinthians 12–14

2. Allocate different sections of the text to different people to read and then, together, make a list of the things that God is doing in the church.

3. Here’s a list of gifts in 1 Corinthians and other passages in the New Testament (taken from Wikipedia)

Romans 12:6–8	1 Corinthians 12:8–10	1 Corinthians 12:28–30	Ephesians 4:11	1 Peter 4:11
1. Prophecy	1. Word of wisdom	1. Apostle	1. Apostle	1. Whoever speaks
2. Serving	2. Word of knowledge	2. Prophet	2. Prophet	2. Whoever renders service <sup>[10]</sup>
3. Teaching	3. Faith	3. Teacher	3. Evangelist	
4. Exhortation	4. Gifts of healings	4. Miracles	4. Pastor	
5. Giving	5. Miracles	5. Kinds of healings	5. Teacher	
6. Leadership	6. Prophecy	6. Helps		
7. Mercy	7. Distinguishing between spirits	7. Administration		
	8. Tongues	8. Tongues		
	9. Interpretation of tongues			

Focus on the gifts in 1 Corinthians. Why do you think God gives these gifts?

4. Have a look at the aspects of love in the NIV and The Message. How do these lists help us understand the nature of love? How does love relate to the image of the body and its parts? Why does Paul teach about love at this point in 1 Corinthians?

	NIV 2011	The Message
<i>Aspects of Love</i>	patient	Love never gives up.
	kind	Love cares more for others than for self.
	does not envy	Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have.
	does not boast	Love doesn’t strut,
	not proud	Doesn’t have a swelled head,
	does not dishonour others	Isn’t always “me first,”

**NIV 2011****The Message**

not self-seeking Doesn't force itself on others,

not easily angered

keeps no record of wrongs

does not delight in evil

rejoices with the truth

always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres

Doesn't fly off the handle,

Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,

Doesn't revel when others grovel,

Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,

Puts up with anything, Trusts God always, Always looks for the best, Never looks back, But keeps going to the end.

## The Scriptures – 1 Corinthians 12–14 as a portion of the Scriptures

5. Consider how God equipped his people in Exodus 35:4–36:7

6. How might the gifts of God and the kingship of God be connected? Consider Psalm 68:18 and Ephesians 4:7–13.

## Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to 1 Corinthians 12–14 as a portion of the Scriptures

7. Do you ever find yourself behaving at church like you believe that (a) you are not important? (b) that you are the most important? (c) that some people are not important? How does this show itself? How can you address it?

8. Have you seen gifted people operating without love? What happened?

9. What ways do you see the others in your group building up the church?

10. What aspects of love do you see in the lives of others in your group?