

Spiritual Gifts and Areas of Interest

Many tools for discerning spiritual gifts are currently in use in churches. Find out right away if your church offers workshops or adult classes on spiritual gifts. Prospective volunteers who have taken the classes may already know that youth ministry suits their interests and abilities. You can use the following questions to help volunteers identify their areas of interest and discern the most appropriate arena in which they might serve.

Area of service

Find out what triggers a person to dream and plan and take action. That arena is where they'll find most satisfaction and where you'll get their best work.

- What keeps you awake at night (besides too much coffee)?
- What do you find yourself pounding the table over?
- What would your friends say is a reoccurring theme in your conversations?
- What topics do you find yourself drawn to read about?
- What Web trail do you find yourself following—music, movies, youth culture, counseling?

Spiritual gifts and natural abilities

Sometimes these overlap; sometimes not.

- When you look back on your life, what activities brought you joy, energy, and/or success in early childhood? In grade school? Middle school? High school? College? As a young adult?
- What are the reoccurring themes of your memories?
- What verbs do you find yourself using—organizing, creating, discussing, building, performing, writing?
- What patterns do you discern?
- What insight have you gained in any spiritual gifts workshops (like Network or Life Keys) or from sermons or Christian teaching?
- From the following list, choose those spiritual gifts you feel you already use. (Some of these gifts are alluded to rather than named in the Bible.)

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|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administration | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creative communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling | <input type="checkbox"/> Listening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discernment | <input type="checkbox"/> Meditation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Encouragement | <input type="checkbox"/> Mercy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism | <input type="checkbox"/> Shepherding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helps | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching |

- In what ways have those close to you (who are honest with you) affirmed those gifts?