



## **Week 1: August 22-28**

### **Welcome/ Introduce Guests/ Share Life (10 minutes) Recall the Guidelines/ Open in Prayer**

**Vision Casting (2 minutes):** Discipleship is a team sport. Let's encourage each other to become more like Jesus today.

**Hook Question (5 minutes):** How have you seen the gifts of the Holy Spirit displayed through people in this group? (Examples of spiritual giftings are hospitality, exhortation, teaching, administration, prophecy, service, administration, etc.)

### **Ask someone to read the background for the story (2 minutes):**

James tells us in his writings that "every good and perfect gift comes from above..." Because this is true, spiritual giftings also come from our heavenly Father. They are not ours for our own good. Rather, He has given each member of His body specific gifts to edify and build up the body of Christ for His glory.

When Paul writes about the spiritual gifts in Romans 9, he tells us that we should not think of ourselves more highly than we ought to. There is no one gifting or person who is more significant than the other. All are vital to the functioning of the body of Christ. If one has been given the gift of prophecy, they should prophecy for God's glory. If one has been given the gift of service or teaching, they should do those things for God's glory. They are gifts that He has given. Therefore, we should use them as He intended and for His glory.

In today's story, the early church is thriving. The people have devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and many signs and wonders were being performed. The body of Christ was edifying itself and being built through the Holy Spirit. Peter and John, who were gifted by the Holy Spirit with apostleship, were leading the charge. Understanding the gifts given to them by the Holy Spirit and their purpose, they were able to lead many to Christ. One day they were walking to the temple in Jerusalem and had an opportunity to share what had been given to them. This is where our story begins...

**Tell the story from Acts 3:1-10 (12 Minutes):** Change the storyteller often.

**Rebuild the story:** Retell the story as well as possible.

**Read Acts 3:1-10:** Ask the group to read these verses.

### **Discussion Questions:** Learn to talk about God's word with others. **(Take as much time as needed)**

- What stands out to you in this story?
- What does this story tell you about people or yourself?
- What does this story teach you about God?
- How do you need to apply this story to your discipleship relationships today?

**Ask for a volunteer storyteller for next week. Close in Prayer.**