



# **Wiii Service**

*Wiiik Three*

## **Small Group Lesson**

**West Side Christian Church**





## Setting the Stage

*Leader Note: Paraphrase this information so that all your group members know where you're heading this session.*

Every church can be a great church when the potential of Christ's body is unlocked and unleashed. God has designed the church to function best when the many become one. The Holy Spirit mysteriously and providentially distributes abilities to individuals in the church based on God's will. This is a holy reality that, if discovered, can unlock a church's great potential. In most churches, it is the unopened gift that would make a great future possible. WSCC cannot afford to neglect this reality. We are committed to fully unlocking what God has prepared in advance for us to do.

So whether you feel like you are serving in the perfect place, or if you've never stepped foot into a volunteer role at WSCC before, this session will encourage you to take your best next step.

## Breaking the Ice

*Leader Note: Do not pick and choose only one ice breaker. Go through each, in order.*

**Describe a scenario when you did something completely out of your comfort zone. This could be something like ice skating for the first time, or something a little more embarrassing, such as trying to dance and realizing you weren't that good. Have fun with this!**

**Now, describe a scenario in which you did something or accomplished something that made you feel great. Perhaps you served during a WSCC outreach project like Feed 500, or perhaps you had a great conversation with someone who was hurting, resulting in a positive outcome.**

**Consider the example you just shared. Try to pinpoint what it was about that act of service that left you feeling so energized and fulfilled. Did you enjoy the actual work involved, the people you served with, the location of the event, etc.? Really dig in and try to find out what it was about that example that you so enjoyed.**

## Leading the Way

**As we think about Eddie's message this week, what is one key idea that stood out to you or challenged you?**

Together, Read I Corinthians 12:1-31 (MSG)

*Leader Note: It is not commonplace in our culture to read something aloud with one another, particularly nothing of great length. However, that's exactly how this session will open. Give each member of your group the I Corinthians passage, outlined on the provided sheet. The passage is divided into several sections. If your group is comfortable doing so, go around in a circle, each reading a portion of this passage out loud. Or, simply ask for volunteers – but engage as many people as possible.*

Considering God's message in this passage, what do you think the church would look and feel like if everyone was in the right place and able to fulfill their purpose?



**God views you as a minister and therefore as having a ministry. Do you believe Him? How will you need to change so that you and others can see yourself the way God does?**

*Leader Note: Now transition your group from thinking about the church as one body, to their individual part within it.*

**If you are currently serving in a volunteer ministry role at West Side, do you feel like it's a good fit for you? Why or why not?**

**Is there something you would like to do in the church, but no one ever asked you to? If so, what is it?**

As you consider your place in the body of Christ (remember the latter passages of 1 Corinthians 12), think about your spiritual gifts, your personality, and your passions. God uses each of those three areas of your life to help you understand how He has wired and called you.

*Take 5 – 10 minutes of your group time to have your group members reflect on their gifts, passions, and personality. Use the provided sheet for help. If people in your group are already serving, encourage them to use this time to determine if they are in the right serving role (this is a good time to share the Mulvany story from the insert). If group members are not yet serving, offer this time as a chance for them to consider how God has wired them.*

## A Staff Story, “Kirk & the Nursery”

by Kira Mulvany, Director of Involvement

*Leader Notes: While we discourage the leader reading aloud to the group without interaction, take time to read this story to your group and talk about its implications.*

My husband, Kirk, and I have always wanted to engage our personality, passions, and gifts in Kingdom service, yet we didn't always realize where our best fit was. It took several months (even years) for us to really find our niche. Several years ago, during this discovery process, my husband stumbled upon what he thought was a perfect match (and yes, I have his permission to tell this story).

Kirk has the spiritual gift of administration, meaning he can see all that it takes to make an organization or ministry work and function. Because of this, and because of his work in the secular world, he knew he wanted to take on a volunteer role with a large amount of responsibility. Kirk also LOVES babies. Seriously. If there is a baby nearby, you can bet that Kirk is first in line to hold it.

So, Kirk took his gift of administration and his passion for babies and matched them to a current need in our previous church – Nursery Coordinator. He was thrilled! He finally found an area that he could merge his gifts and passions.

Life was good...until he started serving in that role. He hated it. Kirk was actually quite surprised by his reaction. How could he have gone wrong? Well, after some soul searching, he realized that his love for babies was contained to his own babies, and babies of friends and family – not all babies. And yes, he loved to coordinate big projects and ministries, but he failed to take his personality into account. Kirk would not describe himself as easy going, flexible, and fun-loving – characteristics much needed in this role. Now, don't be mad at me for telling you my husband doesn't have a fun-loving personality. He does...just not when piles of diapers and a bunch of crying babies are involved.



Well, the story ends well for my amazing husband, Kirk. He took some more time searching for what God has called him to. He took into account his gifts, passions, and personality, used his trial and error experiences, and has found his fit in God's Kingdom.

Friends, finding your fit is not always easy, quick, or even fun. But it's worth it. Commit to the journey, and I know God will bless you for doing so.

## Wrapping It Up

End your group time with a challenge.

Challenge group members *not currently* serving with one of these potential next steps:

1. Meet with the group leader or another trusted friend to uncover your design in Christ.
2. Follow that meeting up by contacting Kira Mulvany, Director of Involvement ([kiram@wschurch.org](mailto:kiram@wschurch.org)). She can help you find where your gifts, personality, and passions intersect God's Kingdom needs.
3. Take a full, more complete, Spiritual Gifts Assessment (contact Kira for a copy), and continue to digest how God has wired you.

Challenge group members *currently* serving with one of these potential next steps:

1. Spend time considering whether or not you are in the right serving role.
2. Find someone not serving, and invite them to join your team.
3. Think about ways, within your current ministry or team, that you can more fully use your gifts, passions, and personality. Is God calling you to deeper participation in your current ministry?