

WEEK 5
UNLEASHING HOPE

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | Play to Your Strengths - 1 Timothy 4:7-16

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27

ICE BREAKER/INTRODUCTION QUESTIONS

- ◆ Spend some time sharing with each group member the gifts and abilities you have seen in them. (Allow all members to share about each person.) Write down below the gifts and abilities your group members see in you.

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- ◆ What do you love to do? What are you good at? What are your strengths or hidden talents?

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- ◆ What do you hate doing? What do you find difficult to do? What do you consider to be your weaknesses?

DISCUSSION

The apostle Paul wrote 1 Timothy to Timothy, the young pastor at the church in Ephesus.

1. Read and [1 Timothy 4:7-8](#). What does Paul say Timothy should avoid? What is he to do instead? What are the rewards of a godly life?

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2. What are some practices involved in physical training? What practices develop someone spiritually?

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3. Read [1 Corinthians 12:27](#) (listed at the top of the page). What falsehoods do you tend to believe about what you have to offer in the body of Christ? What is the truth?

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4. What did you DISCOVER about the gift(s) God has entrusted to you when you took the [spiritual gifts test](#) on our Unleashing Hope page? What talents, abilities and gifts has God given you to share? How do these compare to the things you mentioned in the first ice breaker question above?

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5. As you think about “train[ing] yourself to be godly,” what are some things you could do to DEVELOP the gifts, passions and abilities that God has given you?
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6. Read [1 Timothy 4:9-10](#); [Ephesians 2:10](#). How is God described? How are we described? Talk about times when you have used your gifts with and without serving God as your motivation? How did the experiences differ?

7. Read [1 Timothy 4:11-16](#). What does Paul tell Timothy NOT to neglect (verse 14)? In what ways have you neglected or kept hidden the gifts God has entrusted to you? What keeps you from using your gifts in the body of Christ?

8. A gift is only a gift when you give it away. What steps could you take to bring out the gifts inside you? How can you begin to DEPLOY your gifts and unleash hope to those in your church? In your community? (If you turned in a Serving Opportunity card on Sunday, talk about what areas you indicated you wanted more information about, and how you might move forward to use your gifts in one of those areas.) For ideas to serve in the community, visit our [Individual Serving Opportunities page](#), or begin to develop your own unique way to use your gifts.

9. The Unleashing Hope series is designed to help us unleash hope in our hearts and in our world. We are encouraging all the groups to participate in a serve experience together. Take an inventory of the gifts of the people in your group. Begin to brainstorm ways that you could serve your community. Explore some of the options listed on our [Group Serving Opportunities page](#). Think outside the box, and come up with some ideas of your own.
NOTE: There will be a Community Service Fair on June 4 on the church patio. Representatives from our Outreach partners will be available to help you explore ways to engage.

10. What connection do you think there is between using your gifts for others and experiencing hope in your own life? How do you think others might experience more hope as a result of you deploying your gifts?

PRAYER

- ◆ Spend a few minutes sharing prayer requests. Pray as a group for God's discernment as you seek to use your gifts together to unleash hope in our community. Then pray over each person, asking God to help them identify their gifts and ways to use those gifts to serve others.
