

Friendship Companion Training

Spiritual Gifts; Finding the Right Fit

**What will be my role in our Friendship group
with people with intellectual disabilities?**

*“But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them,
just as he wanted them to be.”* *1 Corinthians 12:18*

*“The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head
cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” On the contrary, those
parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable.”*

verses 21-22

Primary Companion Roles

Every volunteer interacting with friends with disability is considered a companion. The Companion is the most important volunteer role. Companions are;

- view friends with disabilities as brothers and sisters in Christ,
- welcoming and friendly,
- patient listeners and quick to pray,
- eager to spend time with friends and get involved in their lives, even beyond Friendship activities

Primary Companion Roles

Specific responsibilities keeps companions engaged

- Large group lesson teachers (at least two teachers)
- Small group companions and discussion leaders
- Music/worship leader
- Lead Prayer
- Administration; track registration, rosters, attendance
- Hospitality – Greeting cards, notes of encouragement, snacks and food for classes and special events

Secondary Companion Roles

- Family and caregiver liaison
- Liaison to other small groups; youth, seniors, life groups, Bible studies
- Craft/game/lesson activity planner
- Coordinates service projects and special events
- Technology; setup up and operation
- Prayer warriors.
- Make costumes

Secondary Companion Roles

Awareness and Promotion

- Write and coordinate church's promotional content
 - Announcements, Sunday bulletin, newsletters, social media,
 - Photography
 - Social media
- Event planner – pageant, fellowship, dinners, parties
- Budget and funding

Finding the Right Fit

Spiritual Gift Questionnaire

<http://www.spiritualgiftstest.com/test/adult>

This spiritual gift questionnaire is a reflective tool that can help you discern how God is working in your life, but by no means is it a guaranteed way to discover your spiritual gifts. This tool is based on introspection. It helps us look into our hearts, at our experiences and the feedback we receive from others to uncover insight on how God created us and gifted us for His purpose.

Spiritual Gift

Administration; the gift to organize, direct, and implement plans to lead others in the various ministries of the Church.

Apostleship; ability to reach across cultures and challenging environments to plant new ministries and call out new pastors and shepherds.

Discernment; distinguish between the influence of God, Satan, the world, and the flesh in a given situation.

Spiritual Gift

Evangelism; all Christians are called to reach out to the lost with the Gospel, but some are given an extra measure of faith and effectiveness in this area. Evangelists are given the ability and heart to effectively communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ to others.

Exhortation; exhortation is often called the "gift of encouragement" to be used to strengthen and encourage those who are wavering in their faith.

Spiritual Gift

Faith; (not to be confused with saving faith) the gift is given to build up the church in her confidence in God. Those with this gift trust that God is sovereign and good. They expect God to move and are not surprised when He answers a prayer or performs miracles.

Giving; is given to meet the needs of the church and its ministries, missionaries, or of people who do not have the means to provide fully for themselves. These are excellent stewards and will adjust their lifestyles in order to give.

Spiritual Gift

Healing; a person with the gift of healing is compassionate toward the sick and prays over them regularly. They have faith and trust that God can and will heal some and are not deterred when He chooses not to.

Knowledge; believers with this spiritual gift bring about understanding and inform the church. They can retain Biblical truth and communicate it effectively at the appropriate times.

Spiritual Gift

Leadership; The gift of leadership is closely related to the gift of administration. They are able to accomplish many objectives, but they lead relationally. They are “visionary” and less concerned with details than those with the spiritual gift of administration.

Mercy; Those with this gift have great empathy for others in their trials and sufferings. They are able to assist those who are suffering, and walk with them until The Lord allows their burden to be lifted. They are literally the hands and feet of God to the afflicted.

Spiritual Gift

Pastor/Shepherd; is closely related to the gifts of leadership and teaching. The spiritual gift of pastor is given to some in the church to humbly teach, guide, protect and lead believers in the mission that God has for His church, namely the Great Commission.

Teaching; The spiritual gift of teaching is one that loves the truth and will speak the truth in love. They will never hide or withhold it. They demonstrate God's love while revealing His truth to the world without fear.

Spiritual Gift

Service; Those with this gift serve in ways that benefit others with different gifts and ministries that are more public. Those with this gift do not seek recognition. They are content with serving in the background knowing that their contribution will bless the church.

Wisdom; This gift helps people apply knowledge, beliefs, and experience to every day situations. They discern root causes of disagreements, conflict, and barriers to spiritual growth, and help others understand and clarify options to make good decisions.