

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Equipping Power of the Holy Spirit

Old Testament: Exodus 4:1-17 (NRSV)

Moses' Miraculous Power

¹Then Moses answered, 'But suppose they do not believe me or listen to me, but say, "The LORD did not appear to you." ' ²The LORD said to him, 'What is that in your hand?' He said, 'A staff.' ³And he said, 'Throw it on the ground.' So he threw the staff on the ground, and it became a snake; and Moses drew back from it. ⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Reach out your hand, and seize it by the tail'-so he reached out his hand and grasped it, and it became a staff in his hand- ⁵so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.'

⁶Again, the LORD said to him, 'Put your hand inside your cloak.' He put his hand into his cloak; and when he took it out, his hand was leprous, as white as snow. ⁷Then God said, 'Put your hand back into your cloak'-so he put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored like the rest of his body- ⁸If they will not believe you or heed the first sign, they may believe the second sign. ⁹If they will not believe even these two signs or heed you, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground; and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground.'

¹⁰But Moses said to the LORD, 'O my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.' ¹¹Then the LORD said to him, 'Who gives speech to mortals? Who makes them mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? ¹²Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak.' ¹³But he said, 'O my Lord, please send someone else.' ¹⁴Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses and he said, 'What of your brother Aaron the Levite? I know that he can speak fluently; even now he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you his heart will be glad. ¹⁵You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and will teach you what you shall do. ¹⁶He indeed shall speak for you to the people; he shall serve as a mouth for you, and you shall serve as God for him. ¹⁷Take in your hand this staff, with which you shall perform the signs.'

New Testament: Ephesians 4:11-12, 16 (NRSV)

¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

General Concept: The gift of the Holy Spirit equips the church to fulfill her tasks.

Key Concepts in the Different Age Levels in Sunday School

N/K/YE: The Holy Spirit gives gifts to equip young children in doing church work to build up the Body of Christ.

ME/OE: The Holy Spirit gives gifts to equip older children in doing church work to build up the Body of Christ.

Y: The Holy Spirit gives gifts to equip the youth in doing church work to build up the Body of Christ.

A: The Holy Spirit gives gifts to equip the adults in doing church work to build up the Body of Christ.

Exegesis of the Biblical References

The call of Moses may be considered as a classic story of how God calls a person to become a servant of God to fulfill the divine plan to redeem and liberate God's people from the bondage of slavery in Egypt. At the same time, the response of Moses to the call of God may be seen also as a typical response of people who are called to undertake a very critical history-making and even a revolutionary task. There is always that expression of hesitance, great reluctance, perhaps, also fear, and certainly that feeling of being so inadequate and ill equipped for the job being assigned to him. But the story also shows that when God calls, God does not consider if the person has the right qualifications, the needed skills and talent for the task ahead. It is God who will fill up whatever is lacking, whatever may be considered as a seemingly irreparable weakness in the person. The one who calls is the one who will provide the needed tools just to make the person adequate enough for the great mission ahead.

This also shows the high degree of God's commitment to save God's people. For the Hebrews to remain in a state of perpetual slavery, in utter depth of suffering and exploitation in the hands of the Pharaoh, and crying in so much pain for help and rescue, is something that God cannot tolerate. This is something that God has to definitely respond to with mighty hands and outstretched arms. But in doing so, God has to use human instruments to become agents in the realization of this saving plan for the enslaved people. God however chooses certain people like Moses not because they already have built-in gifts and talents, nor even some latent leadership skills. Moses practically is a complete newcomer to this kind of task. He does not even know how to speak in public which is so essential for one to become an effective leader. He has no special powers to boast of.

Perhaps God saw something in Moses that made God decide to choose this Egyptian-raised Hebrew for this historic task. God saw Moses' depth of compassion for people who are suffering from victimization. God saw how Moses protected his fellow Hebrew from the wrath of an Egyptian who was mauling him by killing this tormentor. He rescued his future wife Zipporah from the harassment of other desert natives. He always attends to the needs of the weak and the helpless. God takes notice of this kind of people as He looks at the heart of each one. God would not accept any excuses, any alibis not even the slightest expression of reluctance to accept God's call. Moses may have felt he is so ill-equipped. But God will be the one to fully equip him. It is enough that he has the heart and the compassion to feel with those who suffer, perhaps, even the impulsiveness that makes him forget his own safety, security and his own future as a royalty. He has transcended his own royal class and breeding and clearly took the side of his own suffering people. God saw that his heart is in the right place. For God, this is more than enough. The rest will be supplied by God who is the source of the greatest and most liberating gift that can be given by God's spirit, the gift of love and compassion.

It is this same gift of the spirit, the gift of love that now undergirds whatever gift may now be received by various members and leaders of the church today. As reiterated in the text of Ephesians 4:11-12, some have received varying gifts of the spirit. There are those who became equipped with the gift of apostleship, the ability and the commitment to witness in all faithfulness to the liberating and healing mission of Jesus the Christ. Some became gifted with prophecy, boldly declaring and announcing the word and will of God for our times. Some received the gift of zeal for evangelism, sharing the good news of hope

and a new future for the poor and the oppressed of our times, while some became pastors, shepherding well and nurturing our people while others have the gift of teaching, enabling them to communicate effectively the faith of the church and its witness throughout history.

All these gifts and others, always need to have this undergirding of compassionate love for the most ordinary and lowly people to make them truly effective in equipping the church towards the fulfillment of its historic tasks and mission. Disciples cannot just become plain, mechanical apostles, pastors, teachers, evangelists and others as if they are just fulfilling an ordinary job. The gift of love is the one main element that makes all the others possible without which no apostleship, pastoring or teaching, or evangelizing can be authentic. Without this gift, an apostle becomes fake, an evangelist is simply an impostor, a pastor is simply acting out the role and a teacher teaches only to mislead and manipulate. Only with this gift of love can all these others become real means by which the body of the church can be effectively equipped for its mission. It is this same gift of love and compassion manifested by Moses, that same degree of concern for those in pain and so marginalized and victimized that will empower the disciples to become zealous apostles and evangelists, deeply committed pastors and teachers, and others. It is this gift that will truly edify the whole body of the church making it truly equipped and empowered even for the most difficult and challenging tasks and mission it has to undertake especially in these critical times.

Companion Guide for the Teachers and other End-users

The UCCP Constitution states in Section 1, Article IV "The Ministry of the Church" that "the church, as the People of God, is called to a ministry of love and service and the search for peace based on justice and reconciliation, in obedience to, and as exemplified by Jesus Christ. Having been given a diversity of gifts, all church members are called upon to participate in this ministry...."

When Jesus announced his ministry at a synagogue in Nazareth, he said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...." The Spirit pours upon the church the gifts needed by the members to fulfill the various tasks of its ministry. This means that God does not require the church to carry out the ministry that Jesus has given it without providing it with the means of realizing it. As Martin Luther said, God does not command what we cannot obey. This shows that God is gracious not only in forgiving us of our sins unconditionally but also in equipping us through the church to make us obedient to Christ's ministry.

The church needs to recognize that the Spirit is also the Spirit of Christ whose ministry of love and service involves particular tasks "in obedience to, and as exemplified by Jesus." What did Jesus do and for whom did he do them? The Spirit's gifts are meant to enable Jesus' believers to follow his example. For this reason the Apostle Paul considered the gift of speaking in tongues and other such expressions of the Spirit's presence as non-essentials. It is these same expressions which Pentecostal and charismatic churches pride themselves in. These expressions do not make a church spirit-filled as much as works of love and service.

Each year, our churches make annual plans and budget for the incoming year based on the previous year's performance. The church may have accomplished a lot based on the plan. That's fine. But the critical question to raise is whether if what the church has accomplished bears a close resemblance to Jesus' ministry. It is also important to ask whether the church's obedience to Jesus' example has a transformational effect on the attitudes, values and behavior of the members. The Spirit not only equips the church to do its tasks but also teaches, inspires and enables its members to change.

Nursery/Kindergarten/Younger Elementary Levels**I. Objectives**

At the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

1. describe how the Holy Spirit equips young children to do the church program of building up the Body of Christ;
2. demonstrate how the human body is likened to the Body of Christ; and
3. resolve to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit as young children in doing church work in obedience to Christ.

II. Concept: The Holy Spirit gives gifts to equip young children in doing church work to build up the Body of Christ.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably NRSV), offering plate, map of church work

III. Learning Experiences**A. Opening Worship**

1. Welcome time: As children arrive, joyfully greet each one.
2. Opening prayer: "Our loving and merciful God, we praise you for this day. We thank you for parents, siblings, and friends who lovingly brought us here to know more about your love for us and the wonderful things you are doing for us every day. Through your Holy Spirit, teach us to obey you and to remind us to do what you want us to do. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."
3. Opening song: "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes" or "Paa, Tuhod, Balikat, Ulo"
(As an exercise, refer to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4eueDYPTIg>)

B. Getting Ready

1. Prepare the class to play the game "What's my Talent?" Make a roulette and write the names of the children in each part. Tell the children to get ready to say what they think they can do best, i.e., sing, paint, help in the kitchen, tell stories, baby sit, read, act, play music, dance, lead, be an usher, listen, teach, etc. Spin the roulette and call on the child whose name appears and ask him or her, what's your talent? Expect the **N/K** class to give simple answers. Encourage the **YE** class to role play their answers.
2. Process the activity. Ask: How did you feel when asked about what you can do?

C. Learning Time

1. Tell the children to sing again the opening song with matching action. Ask the class to tell the parts mentioned in the song: head, shoulders, knees, toes. Let them give the other parts of the body not mentioned in the song.
2. Say: God gifted us with our body. It has different parts. Each part does something to keep the body healthy and alive. Each body is given natural abilities to do its work. Recall the first activity and let the children identify their natural ability to work for their bodies.
3. Ask the class to point to a part or parts of their bodies and tell what they can do.
 - a. Head (for thinking, telling the other parts on what to do for the body)
 - b. Legs and feet (for walking, running, and jumping)
 - c. Arms and hands (for writing, getting things, eating, arranging chairs, distributing books, washing hands)
 - d. Eyes, nose, ears, tongue (for seeing, smelling, hearing, and tasting) things.
4. Say: The church is like our body. The Bible says that the church is the Body of Christ. Its head is Jesus Christ. Through the Holy Spirit, each member of the church is given spiritual gifts to use to build up the church and to keep it alive for service.

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

Ask the children how they feel being a member of the church. Discuss the spiritual gifts given to the members of the church. Tell the children that each member does something so that other people will know about Jesus Christ and God's love for all of us.

1. Who gives authority to the church? (Jesus Christ: Head of the church) Why? (His authority is given to him by God, his Father)
2. Is it important to know one's spiritual gifts? Why? (So that we will become responsible member of the church)
3. Who helps the members of the church to discover their spiritual gifts? Choose your answer and explain why.
 - a. The pastor is the shepherd of the church. Together with the elders and bishops, they help members discover their spiritual gifts. They encourage the members to use these gifts for the church.
 - b. The teacher helps the members know more about God. They hold Sunday school classes and Vacation Church School. They train children to become leaders during children's camps and youth camps.
4. What spiritual gifts have you received from the Holy Spirit? (Answers may vary.)
5. Do you agree? Why or why not? The parts of the human body work together to make the person healthy and strong. The members of the church are equipped by the Holy Spirit to build up the church in love.

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: What gifts does the Holy Spirit give to young children to equip them in doing church work to build up the body of Christ?

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Present a picture of your local church. Emphasize that the church is not the building but the people who worship God there.
2. Ask the children which work in the church they can do to help build up the Body of Christ. Tell the children to match their physical talents and the spiritual gifts given to them to help in the church programs. Instruct them to match more than one talent for the work of the church.

Natural Talents	Where to use One's Spiritual Gifts
Drawing	Teaching about faith
Singing	Teaching about Jesus
Athletics	Helping others
Writing	Serving Others
Acting	Encouraging Others
Playing music	Sharing one's blessings
Storytelling	

G. Closing Worship

1. Offering
2. Closing song: "God Is So Good"
3. Closing prayer: "Dear God, please help us know the spiritual gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit. Guide us to use these gifts so that we will become responsible members of the church. Help our pastor and teachers who will teach us to discover these gifts. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Middle Elementary/Older Elementary Levels**I. Objectives**

At the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

1. demonstrate how the human body is likened to the body of Christ;
2. resolve that obeying God through the leading of the Holy Spirit is the right thing to do;
3. describe how the Holy Spirit equips older children to do the church program of building up the Body of Christ; and
4. use the gifts of the Holy Spirit as young children in doing church work by getting involved in the ministry of the church.

II. Concept: The Holy Spirit gives gifts to equip older children in doing church work to build up the body of Christ.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably NRSV), worksheets

III. Learning Experiences**A. Opening Worship**

1. Welcome time: Smile and greet the children as they come. Check the attendance.
2. Opening prayer: "Our loving and merciful God, we praise you for this day. We thank you for parents, siblings, and friends who lovingly brought us here to know more about your love for us and the wonderful things you are doing for us every day. Through your Holy Spirit, teach us to obey you and to remind us to do what you want us to do. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."
3. Opening song: "My Task" (Hymnal of a Faith Journey # 311) first two stanzas

B. Getting Ready

1. Tell the class to read in unison Ephesians 4:11-12, 16.
2. Discuss the meaning of the different spiritual gifts.
 - a. An apostle means one who is sent out. Apostles are given the authority to found a church and build it up. Some have been given ability to perform miracles.
 - b. Prophets receive direct revelation from God. They denounce what is evil and announce the good.
 - c. An evangelist proclaims the Gospel of God or the Good News as it relates to salvation of God's people. It is essential for evangelists to be well grounded in sound doctrine.
 - d. A pastor means a shepherd. Pastors, elders, bishops must be mature people of God. All pastors are teachers. Not all teachers are pastors. Teachers could function in a seminary or in the local church without having the duty of shepherding the flock. But teachers should aim at godly living.

C. Learning Time

1. Divide the class into four groups. Give each group a specific task to do:
 - a. Group A: *Missing part*. Prepare a human body jigsaw puzzle and leave out some missing parts. Let the class supply the missing parts. Ask them if the body can work without these parts and let them explain their answers.
 - b. Group B: *One body, many parts*. Prepare name tags. At the back of each tag, write the names of different body parts. Let the children group themselves according to the body parts (Heads, Noses, Mouths, Hands, Feet, etc.) Then let each group draw a flower on the board. Expect that the group will not be able to do this (because there is no "Hand"). Ask what the class can do (Form a body with many parts.) Allow the groups to regroup themselves so that each group would have complete parts of the body. Let them now draw a flower on the board.

- c. Group C: *Each part unique, yet still needed by the whole body.* Prepare an outline of a human body. Call a pair of children. Blindfold one and ask him or her to color the hand in the outline. Let the other child instruct the blindfolded child where to color. Do this with other parts of the outline using other pairs of children. Ask: If there is no one telling the blindfolded child, will he or she be able to do the work correctly?
- d. Group D: *Honoring and respecting each part.* Ask the class what to do when a part (head, stomach, foot) of the body hurts. Ask if the whole body is also affected by that hurting part of the body. Emphasize that when a part of the body hurts, the whole body is affected. Tell them when a part suffers, there should be concern for this part and that hurting part should be attended to immediately.

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

Relate these activities with the church. Say: The Body of Christ which is the church is similar to the human body that has many parts. The members of the church compose the Body of Christ. Ask these questions.

1. Who is the head of the church? Why? (Jesus Christ is the head of the church because his authority comes from God.)
2. Who helps the church members discover their spiritual gifts? (Pastors, elders, bishops, teachers) Why? (So that all of us can use our gifts for the good of others.)
3. What will happen if some members do not get involved in church work? (The church will not mature and so its function of proclaiming God's word of salvation will not benefit people.)
4. What do you think is the purpose for each member of the church? (Each person is created by God to serve God and God's people and build up the whole church in love.)

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Say: Why does the Holy Spirit give gifts to equip older children in doing church work? (The Holy Spirit gives gifts to enable older children to participate in building up the body of Christ in love.)

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Teach the memory verse: "The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-12)
2. Tell the class to choose which family activities can they use their spiritual gifts to help build up the church in love.
 - a. Hosting a fellowship night at home
 - b. Planning a prayer walk in the neighborhood
 - c. Setting up playtime activities in the church
 - d. Organizing a barangay medical-dental mission, home safety

G. Closing Worship

1. Offering
2. Reflective action: "I will do my best to use my spiritual gifts to help build up the church.
3. Closing song: "My Task" (Hymnal of a Faith Journey # 311) third stanza
4. Closing prayer: "Dear God, please help us know the spiritual gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit. Guide us to use these gifts so that we will become responsible members of the church. Help our pastor and teachers who will teach us to discover these gifts. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Youth Level**I. Objectives**

At the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

1. describe the ministry of the church as a ministry of love and service;
2. encourage the church to search for peace based on justice and reconciliation;
3. identify the gifts given by the Holy Spirit to be used in plans that resemble Jesus' ministry; and
4. resolve to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit to equip the youth in doing church work in building up the Body of Christ.

II. Concept: The Holy Spirit gives gifts to equip the youth in doing church work to build up the body of Christ.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably NRSV), worksheets

III. Learning Experiences**A. Opening Worship**

1. Welcome time
2. Opening prayer: "God of life, thank you for your life-giving Word. Empower us through the Holy Spirit and create in us a heart that loves your Gospel. Help us to live by your Word. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."
3. Opening song: "My Task" (Hymnal of a Faith Journey # 311) first two stanzas

B. Getting Ready

Ask the students to identify which ministry they are involved in. Expected answers are: music ministry, youth ministry, campus ministry, shepherding ministry, disaster response ministry. Let them recall how teamwork, degree of involvement and participation are factors that can determine success in the work. Encourage the students to share first hand information.

C. Learning Time

Tell the class to read the biblical texts.

1. *Exodus 4:1-17*. Moses is equipped by God to lead the Israelites in their exodus out of Egypt.
2. *Ephesians 4:11-12, 16*. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to every member of the Body of Christ, the church, for works of service and to build up the church in love.

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

Discuss the lesson.

1. Why do you think Moses, when called by God, was hesitant and reluctant to do the job? (Maybe Moses felt inadequate in terms of knowledge and leadership skills necessary for the job. Refer to Exodus 4:1.)
2. When God calls a person, God sees more than that person's qualifications and weaknesses because God, through the Holy Spirit, fills whatever is necessary to equip the person in terms of knowledge, skills, and appropriate tools to use. How did God equip Moses to do the job? (Exodus 4:3-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-16)
3. God is a faithful God whose commitment of love for God's people is so high. How does God see and call people even in seemingly mundane or ordinary circumstances? (Answers may vary.)

4. React to these statements. The church, as equipped and enabled by the Holy Spirit, is committed to serve with the following considerations:
 - a. The church, like the human body with different parts acting focused on making the body healthy and strong, is composed of members who have a specific job to do in the life works of the church. What can happen to the church if every member hesitate to do his or her job? (The church will suffer.)
 - b. God provides for necessary knowledge, wisdom, skills, and attitudes needed for the job through the spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit. Hand in hand with natural abilities of the human body, these spiritual gifts will help every member do his or her job. What is expected of every member of the church? (Works of service and build up of the Body of Christ by the grace and mercy of God)
 - c. Jesus is the Head of the church because his authority in heaven and on earth is given to him by God. Jesus' mission is the mission of the church. All ministries and programs resemble Jesus' mission, nothing less. Do you think this time is our time as believers and members of the Body of Christ, equipped and empowered by the Holy Spirit? (Answers may vary. Expect high commitment to serve but expect hesitation, procrastination, and reluctance as well.)

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: How does the Holy Spirit equip the youth in doing church work to build up the Body of Christ? (The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to use for works of service and to build up the Body of Christ in love.)

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

Tell the class to help prepare the ministry plan of the church by offering the following strategies having in mind the mission of Jesus (Luke 4:18-19):

1. For the Worship and Christian Education ministries
 - a. Intensive and functional study of God's word to impact the next generation.
 - b. Joyful worship practices with optimal participation of families, children, youth, adults, and church organizations
 - c. Alternative and indigenous worship practices
2. For the Shepherding and Outreach ministry
 - a. Address the needs of the hurting.
 - b. Start a food ministry to the hungry and needy.
 - c. Get involved in the church or conference disaster response management. deeper engagement from God's people and a generous embrace of new worshippers.
3. For all the ministries
 - a. Have frequent fellowship for all the members to do things together.
 - b. Have equipping programs regularly.

G. Closing Worship

1. Offering
2. Closing song: "My Task" (Hymnal of a Faith Journey # 311) last stanza
3. Closing prayer: 'Dear God, we are thankful for calling us to serve you by serving others. Guide us to live out our faith by leading righteous lives. Help us to change our attitudes so that we are always prepared to respond to your call, despite our fears and inadequacies. Cultivate our openness of hearts and minds to be trained and equipped by the Holy Spirit. This is our humble prayer in Christ' name. Amen.'

Adult Level**I. Objectives**

At the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

1. describe the ministry of the church as a ministry of love and service;
2. encourage the church to search for peace based on justice and reconciliation;
3. identify the gifts given by the Holy Spirit and use these to enable persons to hone their natural abilities and talents; and
4. resolve to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit to equip the adults in doing church work of service and in building up the Body of Christ as the church prepare annual plans in line with Jesus' mission.

II. Concept: The Holy Spirit gives gifts to equip the adults in doing church work to build up the body of Christ.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably NRSV), worksheets

III. Learning Experiences**A. Opening Worship**

1. Welcome time
2. Opening prayer: "God of life, thank you for your life-giving Word. Empower us through the Holy Spirit and create in us a heart that loves your Gospel. Help us to live by your Word. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."
3. Opening song: "My Task" (Hymnal of a Faith Journey # 311) first two stanzas

B. Getting Ready

Ask the students to identify which ministry they are involved in. Expected answers are: music ministry, youth ministry, campus ministry, shepherding ministry, disaster response ministry. Let them recall how teamwork, degree of involvement and participation are factors that can determine success in the work. Encourage the students to share first hand information.

C. Learning Time

Tell the class to read the biblical texts.

1. *Exodus 4:1-17*. Moses is equipped by God to lead the Israelites in their exodus out of Egypt.
2. *Ephesians 4:11-12, 16*. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to every member of the Body of Christ, the church, for works of service and to build up the church in love.
3. Present the following thoughts and discuss each in relation to the life and works of the church.
 - a But it is the gift of love that undergirds whatever gift may be received by the members and leaders of our church. There are those who became equipped with the gift of apostleship, the ability and the commitment to witness in all faithfulness to the liberating and healing mission of Jesus the Christ. Some become gifted with prophecy, boldly declaring and announcing the word and will of God for our times. Some receive the gift of zeal for evangelism, sharing the good news of hope and a new future for the poor and the oppressed of our times, while some became pastors, shepherding well and nurturing our people while others have the gift of teaching, enabling them to communicate effectively

the faith of the church and its witness throughout history.

- b. Members have different gifts. At any rate, all these gifts always need to have the undergirding of compassionate love for the most ordinary and lowly people to make them truly effective in equipping the church towards the fulfillment of its historic tasks and mission.
- c. Disciples cannot just become plain, mechanical apostles, pastors, teachers, evangelists and others as if they are just fulfilling an ordinary job. The gift of love is the one main element that makes all the others possible without which no apostleship, pastoring or teaching, or evangelizing can be authentic. Without this gift, an apostle becomes fake, an evangelist is simply an impostor, a pastor is simply acting out the role and a teacher teaches only to mislead and manipulate. Only with this gift of love can all these others become real means by which the body of the church can be effectively equipped for its mission. It is this same gift of love and compassion manifested by Moses, that same degree of concern for those in pain and so marginalized and victimized that will empower the disciples to become zealous apostles and evangelists, deeply committed pastors and teachers, and others. It is this gift that will truly edify the whole body of the church making it truly equipped and empowered even for the most difficult and challenging tasks and mission it has to undertake especially in these critical times.
- d. Members and leaders can change their style of leadership and service to reflect genuine love and compassion.

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

Tell the class to describe the work of the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. Let the adults situate themselves by finding what they can do to get involved in the ministries of their local churches.

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: How does the Holy Spirit equip the adults in doing church work to build up the Body of Christ? (The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to use for works of service and to build up the Body of Christ in love.)

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

Tell the class to help prepare the ministry plan of the church by offering the following strategies having in mind the mission of Jesus (Luke 4:18-19):

1. For the Worship and Christian Education ministries
 - a. Intensive and functional study of God's word to impact the next generation.
 - b. Joyful worship practices with optimal participation of families, children, youth, adults, and church organizations
 - c. Alternative and indigenous worship practices
2. For the Shepherding and Outreach ministry
 - a. Address the needs of the hurting.
 - b. Start a food ministry to the hungry and needy.
 - c. Get involved in the church or conference disaster response management. deeper engagement from God's people and a generous embrace of new worshippers.

3. For all the ministries
 - a. Have frequent fellowship for all the members to do things together.
 - b. Have equipping programs regularly.

G. Closing Worship

1. Offering
2. Closing song: "My Task" (Hymnal of a Faith Journey # 311) last stanza
3. Closing prayer: 'Dear God, we are thankful for calling us to serve you by serving others. Guide us to live out our faith by leading righteous lives. Help us to change our attitudes so that we are always prepared to respond to your call, despite our fears and inadequacies. Cultivate our openness of hearts and minds to be trained and equipped by the Holy Spirit. This is our humble prayer in Christ' name. Amen.'