

**God's gift**

**1 Corinthians 12:3b-13**

Paul writes to the church in Corinth who were in danger of thinking they were 'God's gift' to the Church – believing their spiritual gifts made them special. Paul explains that the Holy Spirit gives different gifts to God's people, but they are to be used to serve the common good. The believers should be united as one body in Christ, no matter their background or status.



Read this week's passage:

**Living Scripture**

*'For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.'* 1 Corinthians 12:13

Do you know what the name is for people who come from your town or city? There are plenty of slang terms based on where someone comes from. In France, anyone from Great Britain is automatically one of 'les Rosbifs' (the roast beefs). Some sports teams' fans or fans of kinds of music have names too – the 'gunners' (fans of Arsenal FC), 'mods and rockers' (fans of the different styles in the 1960s), or 'swifties' (fans of Taylor Swift). The Corinthians had formed into groups based on their preferred Bible teachers, but Paul is clear that there is no hierarchy with God. No particular group is preferred over another.

What group names might you use to describe yourself? What labels or categories do you have for other people? Are there certain groups that you would avoid spending time with or struggle to be friends with? Ask God to help you see everyone as he sees them.



**First impressions**

- How would Paul use a chocolate selection box to explain his point about the spiritual gifts?!
- What gifts/skills has God given you? Ask someone if you're unsure!
- How can we encourage others with gifts that are different to ours?



**Pray**



Jesus, thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Breathe on us again and enable us to see your life in us and in the people around us. Amen.

**REFLECT**

Take time to think about the different gifts listed in the Bible passage – do you recognise any of those gifts in different people in your church – what about in yourself? Thank God for all these gifts and how they help us to be stronger together!

**Research**



Research how churches look different in other countries. Take some time to pray for churches across the world who make up the Body of Christ. An organisation like Tearfund might be good launchpad for your research.

Find more free Roots resources to reflect on this week's theme:



**PLAY**

Hold a balloon race in pairs or teams. Stand in a line and balance a balloon between each player (no hands allowed!). See which team can work together to cross the finish line without bursting or dropping their balloons.

**LOOK**

Keep a note of the different skills you see your friends and family use this week. You can encourage them by telling them what they're good at doing.