



# HOW TO DISCOVER GIFTS & TALENTS

## Lesson 1: You've Got Talents



DISCIPLETOWN™.com





# How to Discover Gifts & Talents

## Lesson 1—You've Got Talents

### Unit Summary

One of the most exciting things about being a Christian is that God gives His children special gifts in order to help them serve Him. While all of His creatures are born with talents that are a part of what makes them unique, when we become a part of God's family, the Bible tells us that we receive special abilities—spiritual gifts—that help us serve God and advance His kingdom. In this unit, children will be encouraged to learn about both their talents and spiritual gifts and will be guided through a process of exploring what their spiritual gifts might be. **Note:** Find an article explaining spiritual gifts in the Supplemental Resources download folder.

### Lesson Summary

God made everyone different, and to each He gave different talents and abilities. To some He gave the ability to be warriors like Samson, to others the ability to make music like David. Some received great wisdom like Solomon. Even Jesus' followers had different talents. Some were fishermen (strong and athletic), others were good with numbers (Matthew and Judas), and one was a doctor (Luke). Children can recognize that we are all different and that God has made our world special by making us different. Too often we wish we were like others instead of getting to know how God made us and rejoicing in what makes us unique.

**Paul's Power Principle:** Nobody on the planet is talented like you!

### DISCIPLE TARGETS

In this lesson, your children will...

#### KNOW

- God gives each person unique talents and abilities

#### FEEL

- Amazed at how much God knows about them—inside and out

#### DO

- Identify specific talents that God has given to them

## SUPPLIES ✓

### General Supplies

Bibles, puppets, video projection (optional)  
Pencils, pens, paper

### Spark Interest

WELCOME!: various games/supplies (see below)  
LET'S PLAY!: none  
CONNECT WITH YOUR KIDS: none

### Explore Scripture

KEYVERSE: PowerPoint slides

### Inspire Action

LET'S TALK: ink pad

## PowerPoint Presentation

As you plan your lesson, select PowerPoint slides that correspond to the lesson elements you choose. In the "Slide Sorter" View, you can rearrange and/or delete the slides as necessary. For descriptions of the included slides and tips on their use, see the notes accompanying each slide.



## SPARK INTEREST

Choose from the following activities and ideas to engage kids and grab their attention.



### Welcome!-Activity Centers

As the children arrive, have some activity centers set up around the room with various games and activities that they can immediately engage in. Try to choose activities that appeal to different types of talents and skills so that different children will be drawn to different activities. Do not attempt to steer them toward anything and do not worry about whether they are equally spread out. Have some musical activities, math activities, building projects, sports (such as shooting hoops), stacking, drawing, and so on. (Avoid video games because that will tend to attract too many kids.) When it is time to start the service, review the different activities. As you identify an activity, ask the children who went to that activity to raise their hands. Call on a few children; ask why they chose that activity and not others. Talk about how we all have different talents and interests because each of us is created differently. Use this to lead into the topic of the day.



### Let's Meet-n-Greet!

Turn to two kids you don't know and ask them their names and one talent that they have. When you regroup, ask the children what the word "unique" means. **Today we are going to learn that God designed each of us with a unique combination of talents and skills that no one else has.**



Leaders, be sure to stop whatever you are doing to move through the audience and greet the children, especially those you do not recognize. Announce any birthdays for the week. (See the **How to Use DiscipleTown** guide for quick and easy ways to acknowledge visitors and birthdays.)



## Let's Worship!

**Recommended Song:** *I Can Do All Things*, from *God's Kids Worship Classic Worship Summer/July*, available at [Kidology.org](http://Kidology.org)



## Puppet Intro

*Leader & puppet introduce today's lesson. You will find a scripted version of this intro at the end of the lesson.*

Puppet\* is discouraged because there is going to be a talent show at school, and he thinks he has no talent. He says maybe he should get onstage and be the puppet who can't do anything. He could be a tomato target and let the audience throw things at him. Leader says puppet must have a talent—something he is good at or enjoys doing. He says actually, there is, but he is really embarrassed to say what it is, and he only does it when no one is around. After some coaxing he finally says what it is. He has a sock puppet he made. The leader says, "You have a puppet?!" Puppet says that he's always thought puppets were really cool because the kids like them so much, so he made his own. The leader says he thinks a puppet that does a puppet is one of the most original ideas he's ever heard of, and he thinks it would make a great routine at the talent show! Puppet gets really excited and says that he needs to get home and practice!

**Optional:** If the puppeteer is up for it, consider practicing and performing the "Puppet Doing a Puppet" on the final week of the unit after building up to it and including this as a running theme throughout the routines each week.

**\*PUPPET:** Develop a puppet character to use regularly. The children will get to know the personality and enjoy these regular visits. Dee, Cy, and Paul puppets are available at [DiscipleLand.com](http://DiscipleLand.com)



## DiscipleTown Visitor

**Sammy Spotlight\*** Sammy comes in wearing a headset and microphone; he also has a flash-light hanging from his belt. He is carrying a script in one hand. He enters looking very down and upset, shoulders drooped, and walking slowly.

**Leader:** Uh, hi there, Sammy, where are you headed?

**Sammy:** Oh, I'm just headed back to my post. I just run the spotlight. It's no big deal! I wish I got to do something cool for the show!

**Leader:** What do you mean?

**Sammy:** Well...all the contestants have all these cool talents. What do I have? NOTHING! A big fat nothing! Anybody could do my job!

**Leader:** Are you sure? I've never run a spotlight before, but it doesn't seem that simple!

**Sammy:** Heh! I just climb up on the scaffolding, I sit there... [*Leader interrupts him.*]

**Leader:** Climb scaffolding? Oh...not me. I don't like heights—and I've seen your perch. You need to be pretty agile to get up there. That spot isn't for just anyone!

**Sammy:** Well, maybe...but I just sit there, and then follow the contestants on stage—no biggie!

**Leader:** Wait. How do you know where they are going to go? How do you know when to fade out? How do you anticipate their movements?

**Sammy:** Well, uh...you have to be able to read them, watch where they are looking. *[Gets more excited:]* You know, people usually look before they leap or walk! There are other clues too. It takes a keen eye and quick reflexes, but it isn't hard!

**Leader:** But Sammy, that is why you make a good spotlight operator! Not everyone has keen eyes and quick reflexes. Not everyone has the ability to anticipate where people will be and get a light there on time. It's almost as if you were built for this job!

**Sammy:** Hey, you're right! I never thought about it that way! I guess I do have some pretty unique talents, and they come together to help me be a great spotlight operator! Wow! *[Looks at his watch.]* Oh, no! I'm going to be late! I gotta get going. No one is going to be able to see the contestants if I'm not out there!

**Leader:** You're right. You'd better hurry. There is no one here who can do your job! GO! *[Turns to audience.]* You see, God has a big plan, and He has built each of us to play a part in His big plan. It's kind of like *God's People Got Talent* show! No part is unimportant, and God has built each of us so that we can play our part well! Each of us has gifts and talents—talents we can use to honor God and serve others!

**\*CHARACTERS:** These are suggested characters and names. Please feel free to change or adjust according to the actors and props you have available.



## Let's Play!—DiscipleTown's Got Talent

### Intro Drama

*Characters: Shannen: acro dancer, Jarrett: guitar player. Setting is backstage at the DiscipleTown's Got Talent show. Shannen and Jarrett are sitting on chairs in the backstage area.*



**Shannen:** Oh-h-h, I am so nervous! What if people laugh at me?

**Jarrett:** Yeah, I'm nervous too, but it is neat to see all the cool talents, don't you think?

**Shannen:** *[Pauses.]* Well yeah, everyone else has a really cool talent. Not me, though.

**Jarrett:** What do you mean? You are a dancer, aren't you?

**Shannen:** Well yeah, I guess. I do acrobatic dance, but it's nothing special. Everyone else has the real talent! *[Hangs her head.]*

**Jarrett:** Well, what kind of stuff can you do?

**Shannen:** Nothing really, not compared with you. I mean, you could be famous someday.

**Jarrett:** Just because you are famous doesn't mean you have talent. I know a purple dinosaur who can sing better than some famous people I've heard!

**Shannen:** *[Laughs.]* True! Okay, maybe, but it just seems that everyone else has a talent that is... well...useful.

**Jarrett:** Well, God created each of us with unique gifts, and He has a plan for how you can use those gifts too.

**Shannen:** Oh. I guess if dancing is my gift, that means I get to help people by doing cart-wheels?

**Jarrett:** Well, maybe, that would be kind of fun!! But the important thing is not to compare yourself with others. Instead, explore who God made you to be, and be that with all your might!

**Shannen:** Really? You think so?

**Jarrett:** Yep, I know so! God gives gifts to all His kids—every single one!



## Talent Show—DiscipleTown's Got Talent

**Option:** Use the name of your church or children's church instead of "DiscipleTown."

**Wow, some neat things are going on backstage at the *DiscipleTown's Got Talent* show. It is interesting because some people feel they have to be perfect or famous to be given gifts by God. But Jarrett was right. Every child of God has special gifts! This month we get to discover them and learn how to use them to help others.**

Each week during this unit, encourage the children to come to church prepared to demonstrate one of their talents onstage for the rest of the audience to enjoy. During this first week, you will either need to plan ahead to have some children read, or have your leaders and volunteers demonstrate some of their unique talents. Throughout the show during this first week, be sure to use the word unique often as you compliment and encourage the performers; then at the end of the show, ask the audience, **What word did you hear me using often throughout the show?** Once someone answers "unique," ask the children if any of them can explain what the word unique means. Allow the children to answer without correcting them if they are wrong. Then explain that it means to be one of a kind and unlike anyone else. **God made us all special and "unique"—there is no one just like you, and your talents are part of what makes you different. Different doesn't mean "better," but it does mean you are gifted for a purpose. God has a plan for your life, and He gave you your talents as part of that plan.**



### Connect with Your Kids

Teaching is always more effective when the children can see that you can relate to the material at their level—connecting with them through their world. Do you have a silly talent? Can you make a really cool paper airplane or do a handstand? Are you double-jointed or able to draw a picture of something really neat? When we think of talents, we often think of things that impress adults—rather than what would really impress kids. My "talent" is that I can shoot fast-food restaurant straws really well—in fact, five at a time and hit five targets! If I set up five Styrofoam cups and hit all five with five straws—now that is a talent that impresses kids! What was a talent you had as a kid? Could you blow a really big bubble with gum or hold your breath underwater longer than anyone else? Share one of those talents with your students, and you will have them eating out of your hands for the rest of the lesson. Those are the talents that interest them. Then you can move them to more "spiritual" talents that impact the kingdom. But you have to start where they are and show them that you understand their world, before you try to get them to care about yours.



## EXPLORE SCRIPTURE

Seize on the children's interest and direct them into God's Word.



### Let's Search!—Bible Dash

**Supplies:** Bibles



Ask all kids with Bibles to participate, or invite a few volunteers to come to the front. As children hold Bibles closed with hands on covers, state the Bible reference twice, then on the command "SEARCH!" have the students race to locate the verse. Once they have a finger on the verse, they can stand and call out, "FOUND IT!" Have the first child read the verse aloud while you project the verse on a screen via PowerPoint. See suggestions below for comments on each verse. Keep your comments brief and to the point of the lesson.

- 1 Corinthians 4:7
- Psalm 139:13-15
- Acts 9:36
- 2 Chronicles 2:7
- 1 Chronicles 22:15
- 1 Peter 4:10

**We can't brag about our talents because they are from God.**

**God planned you before you were born!**

**A nice description of someone with the gift of helps.**

**Notice the talents listed here.**

**God has made people with all kinds of talents and skills.**

**We use our gifts to serve others.**



**Paul's Power Principle:** Nobody on the planet is talented like you!



### Suggested Bible Narrative

Parable of the Talents—Matthew 25:14-30

In this parable, each man was given some talents to invest. (In Bible times, a talent was a unit of money, the equivalent of a little over \$1,000,000 today!) One man foolishly didn't use the talents given to him and his master was disappointed in him. **While the talents in this story were money, the talents (or skills) that God gives us should also be invested. Like the master in this parable, our Master will be disappointed if we are foolish and don't use our talents wisely.**



### Let's Learn!—You've Got Talents

**We Are All Different**

**Supplies:** four poster boards and four boxes of markers (or four drawing surfaces such as whiteboards or chalkboards, but they should be large and easily visible to the audience.)



Inform the kids that you would like to create four identical drawings and you need their help. You will need to place the four poster boards and boxes of markers in the four corners of the room on a table or easel in such a way that the children drawing on them can't see the drawing being done on the others. This is important! One at a time, ask for four volunteers to go to each poster board, and ask the first volunteer to draw a head toward the top of the poster board with the black marker. Then ask for four new volunteers. They are to draw red hair on the head. The next four volunteers are to draw a blue hat on the person. Continue having the volunteers sit down and picking new volunteers. A few times, you can have the children pick their replacement. Continue to give instructions about what to draw and what color to use. Be as specific as you can—what color to use and where to draw it (for example, eyes, nose, mouth, freckles, a

shirt, a number on the shirt, pants, shoes, shoelaces, grass, a flower, a fly on the flower). When you are finished, have the last volunteers bring the posters up to the front and make a big deal about how they are going to look exactly the same because of your exact instructions! Of course, they won't!

Talk about how unique we are, even when we have some of the same things like blond hair or brown eyes or other abilities. **God made us all different, and that is what makes the world such a great place. During this unit in DiscipleTown we are going to learn about another way God made us different—by giving us special talents and gifts.** Read Ephesians 4:11-13, 16.

### **Gifted Number Stack**

**Supplies:** two large bags of Styrofoam cups

Label the cups with the numbers 1-10, over and over, until all the cups are numbered; then mix up the cups and dump into a giant pile. Do this with each bag so you have two separate piles.

Choose two teams of ten children each. Ask if they are right-handed or left-handed. They are to play with the opposite hand they are naturally gifted with in order to make it more challenging. Write with a marker a number from 1 to 10 on the hand of each child. The teams are to race to build a pyramid with their pile of cups. The order they build in doesn't matter—however, the children can only touch a cup that has the same number written on it as the number written on their hand! That is "their" cup! The team that builds a pyramid first with all their cups wins! If any part of the pyramid falls, they must fix it before continuing.

**Application: The teams needed to work together. The pyramid couldn't be built unless every member did his or her part. The same is true with the family of God. We each have different gifts, and we all must do our part to build the kingdom of God!**



**Dee's Disciple Tip:** Each week you will briefly cover two or three spiritual gifts that the children might have. On the screen a present will open and a gift will appear. Read the name of the gift. Ask the kids what they think the gift is, if they know anyone they think has this gift, and if they can describe a time they've seen it in action. Don't put kids on the spot by asking, "Do you have this gift?" Asking them about others will still get them thinking about whether they have this gift. End by saying after each gift, "I just know some of you have this gift!" After all three gifts are presented and discussed, pray briefly for God to reveal these gifts in the kids God has given them to.

### **Spiritual Gifts You Might Have:**

- PROCLAIMING: Telling the truth of God's Word
- EVANGELISM: Inviting others to Jesus
- TEACHING: Explaining the Bible to others





## KeyVerse

**Topic:** Use Your Gifts

**Reference:** 1 Peter 4:10



**Memorization Activity:** Use the PowerPoint slides included in this lesson to help the children memorize the verse. Cover the words of the verse one at a time. Have kids repeat the verse over and over until they can say the entire verse without seeing the words.

Then have the entire verse appear again with the word **received** in bold. Talk about how these gifts are “received,” and ask what that means. It means they were given to us. We did not earn them, deserve them, or ask for them. God simply gave them to us. Consider reading 1 Corinthians 4:7, which talks about everything we have being a gift from the Lord. There is no room for bragging about the talents and gifts that we have.



## INSPIRE ACTION

Encourage kids to apply the Bible truth to their lives.

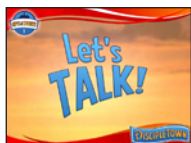


### Object Talks—The Gift of Serving: The Joystick

**Supplies:** video projection

The video clip for this lesson features Karl, the Kidologist, doing a short object lesson featuring a gift and a video game controller talking about the spiritual gift of serving. Use this short teaching video to show the kids or to train a leader to do the talk “live.”

*Featured verse:* Romans 12:11

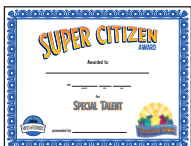


### Let's Talk!—Small Group Discussion

**Small Group Activity:** Have students trace an outline of a hand on the paper with a marker. Using an ink pad, have them put a fingerprint in the middle of the picture of their hand. On each finger have them write a talent or skill that they have. Allow them to decorate the drawings as time permits. Compare and see that the drawings—and even their fingerprints—are different!

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Why do you suppose God chose to make everyone different?
- 2) Why does God want to give us spiritual gifts?
- 3) If we are the only ones with our specific combination of gifts and talents, how important is it that we learn what our gifts are?
- 4) Why is it important to use the gifts and talents we have?



### DiscipleTown Super Citizen

This week, award the Super Citizen Award to a child who displayed a special talent in Disciple-Town—in addition to good behavior during the lesson.



### Let's Pray!

*Dear Jesus, thank You for making each of us one-of-a-kind, different from everyone else. It is so awesome that when You made each of us, You made us with a special plan and then equipped us with unique talents for that plan. Help us as we discover these talents, and then help us be faithful to develop these talents and not to hide or waste them. Help us to develop them and use them for You and to serve You and others. Even this very week, God, we pray that we will enjoy using our talents and that You will show us some ways our talents can be used for Your glory. In Your holy name, amen.*



**Cy's Challenge:** Write a thank-you note to God for your talents.



## Let's Review!

If you have extra time, use these review questions to keep the kids focused on the lesson until time to dismiss. A handful of candy will help you keep their attention. After each question, take a minute to reiterate the lesson point related to the question.

- 1) What was puppet's talent?
- 2) Why was Sammy the spotlight operator sad?
- 3) According to the KeyVerse, what should we do with our gifts?
- 4) T/F God made us mostly the same.
- 5) T/F We are each given one talent, so we should use it wisely.
- 6) Name one of the three spiritual gifts you might have.
- 7) In the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) how many bags of gold did the foolish man bury in the ground?
- 8) In the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) what did Jesus say He would do for the servants who were faithful with a little?



## For the Home

**DiscipleTown Table Talker:** Give each child a copy of this week's *DiscipleTown Table Talker*. Be sure to show the kids how to put it together and encourage them to ask their parents to lead family devotions three times this week.

**Parent Email:** Copy and send the email below to help your parents connect with their kids during the week. Send them early in the week, but not on Sunday. As a courtesy, be sure parents have opted to receive these emails. Review and edit as necessary to reflect the lesson elements you have used. You can also find this email as a Microsoft Word document in your download bundle.

*Dear Mom and Dad,*

*We are so excited to start a new topic in DiscipleTown this week. For the next four lessons we are going to be exploring our God-given gifts and talents and how we can use them to build up and help the body of Christ.*

*This lesson we discovered that God created each of us with a unique combination of talents and gifts that no one else possesses. The fact that we are the only ones with this combination of talents and gifts also means that our work in sharing them with others is very important because no one else will do it like we can.*

*I would like to encourage you to use the DiscipleTown Table Talkers this week around the dinner table or before bedtime. Share with your children one of the gifts that you have discovered God has given to you, and how you like to use it to bless others. You may even discover as this month goes by that you have similar gifts to those of your children—or differing gifts—and you can find ways to work together on projects as a family.*

*Soon we will actually be taking a Spiritual Gifts Survey that will give us clues to the gifts and talents God has given us. I hope you will join us on this very exciting journey.*

*If you have any questions or would like more resources to be able to explore this topic with your family, please do not hesitate to ask.*

*Building young disciples,*

*[Your Name]*



## BONUS MATERIALS

Use these options to extend your time or as substitutes for the ideas above.



### Chip's Snack Time!

**Supplies:** assorted fruit pieces (grapes, apple slices, orange slices, kiwi slices), pieces of licorice, paper plates

Give each child the same collection of fruit pieces and one piece of licorice. Tell the children that before they can eat their snack they need to make a pattern or picture out of their snack pieces.

Have each child show his or her creation to classmates. It is likely that no two creations will be identical.

**Did you notice that each of you had the same snack pieces to work with, but each of you came up with a different picture or pattern? This is proof that God created us all unique, and it is so exciting!**

### Additional Ideas

**Identical Objects or Not?**—You will need two identical combination locks. **Hi, boys and girls! Can you tell me what these weird contraptions are?** Allow for responses. **Why would someone need these things? What are they used for? They must make hundreds of these things. How do you know your stuff will be safe with so many of these in the world? Anyone could open it right?** Allow for responses. **So are you saying that even though the locks look the same on the outside, each one is made with a code unique to that lock?**

**Interesting, this reminds me of God. Even though we are all people on the outside, God has put a unique combination of talents and skills inside us that only we can unlock!**

**Hidden Talents**—To go along with the suggested Bible story (Matthew 25:14-30), you can order some plastic gold coins online from a party or prize website and hide them all over the room. (Order a very large quantity; they are very inexpensive, and the more the better!) Before or after the story, tell the children that we should not hide our talents, but use them! And let them know that the foolish servant hid his talents, but we should find them and share them with others! Let them know that you have hidden “talents” throughout the room. Tell them that they can now go find the “talents” and keep as many as they find! After a few minutes, once you are certain they have all been found, ask those who found more than one to share their talents with any children who did not find any. They are “sharing their talents!”

## Puppet Intro—Puppet's Got Talent



### DIRECTOR'S NOTES

*The words in italics are notes for you and your puppeteers; they are not to be read aloud.*

*Puppet\* is clearly mopey, head hung low.*

**Leader:** Hey, *[puppet name]*. What's wrong?

**Puppet:** Well, there's going to be this talent show at my school, and I have no talent!

**Leader:** Really? You think you have no talents?

**Puppet:** Yeah. I'm the puppet-who-can't-do-anything. Maybe I should just be a tomato target.

**Leader:** A what?

**Puppet:** A tomato target. I can stand there on stage and let the audience throw things at me.

**Leader:** I don't believe you have no talents—God made us all with talents. Isn't there anything you really enjoy doing?

**Puppet:** Actually, there is, but I'm really embarrassed to say what it is. I only do it when no one is around.

**Leader:** Aw, come on, why don't you tell us. *[To audience:]* Don't you want to find out what *[puppet name]* likes to do?

*[Let audience coax puppet. He finally mumbles something unintelligible.]*

**Leader:** I'm sorry? We didn't catch that.

**Puppet:** I said, "I have this sock puppet."

**Leader:** *[Stunned.]* You have a puppet?!

**Puppet:** Yeah. I've always thought puppets were really cool because the kids like them so much, so I made my own.

**Leader:** I think a puppet that does a puppet routine is one of the most original ideas I've ever heard of!

**Puppet:** Really?

**Leader:** *[Laughs.]* Sure! And I think it would make a great routine for your talent show!

**Puppet:** Alright then! I'm gonna go right home now and practice!

**\*PUPPET:** Develop a puppet character to use regularly. The children will get to know the personality and enjoy these regular visits. Dee, Cy, and Paul puppets are available at [DiscipleLand.com](http://DiscipleLand.com)



# CURRICULUM MAP

(DiscipleTown Units in no particular order\*)

How to Worship God

How to Use My Bible

How to Show Respect

How to Pray

How to Be Faithful Workers

How to Love God

How to Memorize  
God's Word

How to Be Global Christians

How to Grow Spiritual Fruit

How to Make Good Friends

How to Walk in the Spirit

How to Be Jesus' Disciple

How to Build Character

How to Navigate the  
New Testament

How to Explain My Faith

How to Earn Eternal Rewards

How to Follow God's Plan

How to Make Good Choices

How to Navigate the  
Old Testament

How to Study My Bible

How to Know the Truth

How to Discover  
Gifts and Talents

How to Walk Victoriously

How to Meet with God

Each DiscipleTown Unit will teach your kids an essential "how to" skill to become victorious disciples of Jesus!