



## LC STUDY GUIDE

### Done in Sync with the "MORE" Series

The Passage: 1 Corinthians 12:1-12

For Life Community usage the week of 6/21/15

**Preface:** This is the final part of our series *MORE: Life, Love, Spirit*, which gives us a greater vision of why we need the Holy Spirit acting in our lives. We recommend 45-60 minutes for this study, including 10-15 minutes for application and group prayer.

**Big Idea:** The Spirit isn't just for individual believers, but for the community of believers. We can only experience the fullness of the Spirit in community, and only the Spirit can produce true community.

**Focusing Questions:** What is the most meaningful experience of community you have been a part of? Why was this community so meaningful to you?

### 1 Corinthians 12:1-12

<sup>1</sup> Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.

<sup>2</sup> You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. <sup>3</sup> Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup> There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. <sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

<sup>7</sup> Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. <sup>8</sup> To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

<sup>12</sup> Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

**Context:**

The city of Corinth was a port city probably similar to Las Vegas in its day that was the hub of many trade routes between the people of the time and Western Europe and Asia as well as a hub for entertainment and activity. Paul is writing this letter to the church in Corinth to correct some dissimilarity he saw between what the Corinthian church was doing and what he had previously taught. The passage we just read indicates that the crux of the argument may have been concerning the gifts of the Spirit.

**Verses 1-3**

**O** – What do you see Paul teaching about the Holy Spirit here?

**I** – If the Holy Spirit is the one who reveals Jesus as Lord, what happens when we don't listen to the Spirit?

*[When the community relies on their own understanding apart from the Spirit, they create a false "Jesus," and another vision for the Church that is not rooted in God.]*

**Verses 4-12**

**O** – In verses 4-6, what do you see Paul saying about gifts?

**I** – In this statement, what is Paul trying to communicate to the church in Corinth and what difference would it make to them?

*[The Corinthians came from a context of multiple pagan gods. Paul is underscoring that God is one.]*

**O** – What spiritual gifts do you see in your own life and in the lives of those sitting around you?

**I** – The Corinthian church had become focused on one kind of Spirit-given gift. How would it change their perception to know that all of these gifts come from the same Spirit?

**A** – Do you ever find yourself overly focused on one particular spiritual gift? If so, spend some time brainstorming ways to get out of that mindset. How do a variety of Spirit-given gifts impact the community?

**A** – If Paul is truly calling us to participate in a community of believers, what are some ways that you as an individual and we as a Life Community can be more fully in tune with that truth?

**Pray together** asking the Holy Spirit to be a community that wants MORE of a connection with Him, with the world, and with each other.

**Leader notes:**

- a. Use these questions as a guideline. You best understand your LC—so lead accordingly, prayerfully discerning what will serve your group best. Be flexible in the discussion while encouraging people to grow and follow God.
- b. Complement OIA questions with "process questions" (what else? what more? what do others think?).
- c. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. Wait. Take your time; don't rush people but encourage their participation. And avoid answering your own questions!
- d. Secondary texts—use other texts sparingly, even if they are relevant. Such texts will push you into "teaching," rather than facilitating. It can cause people to feel distracted or de-powered.