



My Prayer

Thank You, Jesus, for the many gifts You have given to me. Please help me work hard so my gifts can bless others and bring You joy. Amen.



Library

■ "The Spirit gives one person the ability to speak with wisdom. And the same Spirit gives another the ability to speak with knowledge. The same Spirit gives faith to one person. And that one Spirit gives another gifts of healing. The Spirit gives to another person the power to do miracles, to another the ability to prophesy. And he gives to another the ability to know the difference between good and evil spirits. The Spirit gives one person the ability to speak in different kinds of languages and to another the ability to interpret those languages" (1 Corinthians 12:8-10).



My Friend Ellen Wrote

"All your physical and mental and spiritual powers are God's gifts. Use them wisely. . . . Let every power of body and mind be used in earnest, willing service for God" (Review and Herald, May 5, 1903).

Penny for Your Thoughts

What do you think your spiritual gift is?

If you can't think of one, make a list of several ideas to help.

Bible Adventures for Young Readers

LESSON 17



My Gift From God

I Can Read Text

"So enjoy the work you have to do here on earth. Whatever work you do, do your best." —Ecclesiastes 9:9, 10



"I'll take it!" I said with the biggest smile my face could make. Then I watched as my dad paid for my purchase with money that I had earned myself. I had worked all summer for this moment. I'd raked mountains of leaves, taken the trash to the curb, fed my neighbors' dog while they were away on vacation, cleaned out our shed . . . twice, and washed my dad's car at least five times. I'd even taken care of my baby sister while my mom baked cakes for a party.

Finally I'd earned enough, and Dad and I had gone to town so I could buy my very first new bicycle. My old one was falling apart.

When we got home, I put my new bike in the garage and gave it a quick once-over with a cleaning rag. It shone like the sun and

looked like it was going fast even though it was resting on its kickstand. I sat and stared at it for a long time.

"What are you doing?" Dad asked when he saw me.

"It's so beautiful," I sighed, "I don't think I want to ride my new bicycle. I just want to look at it all day."

Dad sat down beside me. "Not a good idea," he said. "If you don't use it, you might lose it. If you don't ride it around the neighborhood and enjoy the wind on your face, your new bicycle will just sit here and rust. Someday, like your old one, it will fall apart right where it sits, and you'll never enjoy riding it. It's best to use the things we have, be it a bicycle, a garden rake, or a gift from God."



"A gift from God?" I asked. "What did God give me?"

Dad leaned forward and rubbed his chin thoughtfully. "Remember what we learned in worship this morning?" he said. "The Bible tells us that God gives us talents called 'spiritual gifts' that we can enjoy using. Some people can sing or play the piano, some people can preach or tell stories, some can build beautiful churches or schools, and some have the gift of simply smiling and making people feel happy. These are all important gifts from God. If we don't work hard to make them useful and practice using them each day, we just might lose them. Like your bicycle, they'll stop working in time. That would be sad, don't you think?"

I thought about the people in my church who sang songs and played instruments. I thought about the beautiful building where I go to school. I thought about all the fun stories I hear in Bible class. And then I thought about Mrs. Simpson, who always smiles at me when I walk by. Yes, those were very nice gifts and I was glad that those people put them to good use each week.

Suddenly, I jumped up and ran to my shiny new bike. "Don't worry, Dad," I called as I hopped onto the soft seat and started racing down the driveway toward the sidewalk. "I'm going to get every bit of fun out of my new bicycle as I can. I'm going to use it, not lose it!"

Earning money for a new bike is hard work. Learning to sing, play the piano, and build buildings is hard work too. But when you use those talents, it can be lots of FUN! **Wheeeeeeeeee!**



TALENTS:

Everyone has a different talent that he or she can use in service for Christ. When we all work together, it's like fitting pieces of a puzzle together.

My Bible **Adventure**

The apostle Paul made a list of some of the gifts that God gives. Find the verse in the **LIBRARY** and read it out loud. Then match the special gift with a work. Draw a line from the gift to the work that that gift would help. Maybe you'll find some of your gifts here too! (Some work might use several gifts. You can draw more than one line to the gift.)

GIFT	WORK
Wisdom (can figure out problems)	Doctor
Knowledge (know lots of facts)	Scientist
Faith (have hope for the future)	Preacher
Healing	Teacher
Do miracles (understand science)	Evangelist
Prophecy (help people make decisions)	Missionary
Know the difference between good and evil	Counselor
Speak in different languages	Writer
Interpret (understand) languages	Friend

Finish these sentences:

The special gifts God gave me include _____

One way I will use my special gifts is to _____

