



Small Group Leader Guide

Naturally Supernatural—Jesus modelled it, he taught the disciples, and the early church lived it out—having the supernatural as part of our daily lives in a natural way. We're going to take three weeks to look at the different gifts of hearing, speaking and walking in the power of God. It can be a natural part of how you live!

Corresponding small group videos can be found online at:

churchoftherock.ca/naturallysupernatural

 **CHURCH OF THE ROCK™**

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Week 1 – Speaking for God

BIG IDEA

The use of prophecy, tongues and interpretation of tongues benefits others and ourselves.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

*Let love be your highest goal! But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives—especially the ability to prophesy. For if you have the ability to speak in tongues, you will be talking only to God, since people won't be able to understand you. You will be speaking by the power of the Spirit, but it will all be mysterious. But one who prophesies strengthens others, encourages them, and comforts them. **A person who speaks in tongues is strengthened personally, but one who speaks a word of prophecy strengthens the entire church.***

I wish you could all speak in tongues, but even more I wish you could all prophesy. For prophecy is greater than speaking in tongues, unless someone interprets what you are saying so that the whole church will be strengthened.

1 Corinthians 14:1–5 NLT (emphasis added)

ICEBREAKER

1. **What supernatural things have you heard of or experienced?** (e.g. healing, a prophetic word, word of knowledge, word of wisdom, raised from the dead, miracle, etc.)

2. **Who did it benefit?**

#2. We want people to recognize that the whole point of the spiritual gifts is to help others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

3. **What intimidates you or keeps you from stepping into using spiritual gifts?**

4. **Does the perspective of “doing it for others” lessen that intimidation? What else could help to break that intimidation?**

GIFT OF PROPHECY – when a person senses the heart & mind of Christ for someone else and shares it with that individual.

#4. e.g. practice, increasing our intimacy with Jesus, etc. Biblically speaking, we all have the ability to bring God’s heart/message into situations. The message does not need to be complicated. Speaking is really just showing God’s love to people.

5. **Can you think of a situation when you may have done this before without calling it “prophecy”?**

#5. e.g. praying with someone, encouraging them, reaching out because someone came to mind, sharing a Scripture verse, etc.

6. Read 1 Corinthians 14:3, which outlines the purpose of prophecy. **How does knowing the purpose actually create safeguards for using this gift?**

#6. Prophecy is to strengthen, encourage and comfort. If what you are sensing does not do one of these things, you shouldn’t share it.

7. **What role does faith play in giving a prophetic word?**

GIFT OF TONGUES – a divinely given ability to speak in a language that has not been learned by the speaker. The private expression of tongues is for building yourself up. The public expression of tongues is always paired with interpretation and is for edifying the church. The gift of Tongues combined with Interpretation of Tongues is the same as the gift of Prophecy in that they together have the same net result of strengthening, encouraging and comforting.

#7. People may have had good and bad experiences, but we can’t let one bad experience stop us from moving in faith. We need to decide that it’s okay to sometimes be wrong – ref. 1 Corinthians 13:9 NLT - *“Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture!”*

8. **Have you prayed in tongues or heard tongues being interpreted? How did it impact you or those around you?**

#8. (e.g. encouraged, comforted, strengthened)

9. Read 1 Corinthians 14:27–28 and verse 32. **What are the guidelines for the public expression of tongues? What are the guidelines for the private expression of tongues? Why are we given these guidelines?**

Romans 8:26 NIV - *In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.*

10. **How else can tongues be beneficial to you?**

#10. e.g. facilitates speaking to God, edifies or builds us up, helps us praise God, it's a spiritual weapon

11. **Where could the Holy Spirit praying for you be useful in your life?**

In the public expression of tongues (1 Corinthians 14:5), it is helpful to recognize that you are doing it for the whole church to be strengthened. Isn't it great that God has so many ways to build up His church through us?

ACTIVATION

Pick someone in the group and listen for what God wants to say to them. Step out in faith and give them the prophetic word—practice is a great way to grow in this gift.

Guidelines for evaluating prophetic words can be found at churchoftherock.ca/prophetic-words.

THIS WEEK

Find ways to increase the private use of tongues in your everyday life.

How to Receive the Gift of Speaking in Tongues

Realize that God commands us to be filled with the Holy Spirit. (*Ephesians 5:17-18*)

- a) **Ask for it** – Luke 11:13, “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”
- b) **Expect to receive it** - Believe God that He will give His Holy Spirit to us in accordance with His Word. We receive the Holy Spirit not by our own works, but by believing what we have read and heard from His Word. People tend to lean on sense and emotions; therefore, if one does not have a sense of “righteousness” or “feeling worthy,” one closes oneself off from the blessings of God.
 - Galatians 3:2, “This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?”
 - Galatians 3:14, “That the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”
- c) **We must be willing to submit ourselves to the will of God.** In Acts 2:37-38, the people were pricked in their hearts and were willing to ask, “What shall we do?” Peter told them to repent and be baptized and then they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Blatant sin, if not dealt with, may hinder our receiving the fullness of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8:18-23)
- d) **In faith step out and use it** – In faith, we need to step out and begin using and exercising that which God has given us. Faith is the condition upon which one receives from God (Hebrews 11:6, James 1:6-8).
 - This is as simple as opening your mouth and beginning to speak your prayer or praise to God. How else will you be able to hear whether your words are in your native language or now in one you don’t yet know?