



## STUDY GUIDE

July 28, 2024

**Message Series:**

That's So Metal

**Message Title:**

Using Your Gifts and Talents

**Teaching Pastor:**

Elijah Schiarelli

### Warm-up/Icebreaker: (10 min.)

What is the fanciest gift you've either given or received?

### Pray:

Dear Lord, You are our God and Savior and worth our time and attention. Your teachings are the greatest investment and through them we desire to be changed. We pause and consider what our hearts pursue. We pray that You prepare us to hear from You. We need direction and guidance. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### Get Started: (20 min.)

*"Just like the Israelites did before us, we often put a dangerously low priority on the one thing that matters most. The one thing that can save us. The one thing that will stay with us when this life is over: the presence of God. And every single gift we have - whether it's time, money, deep relationships, skills and talents, a stable career, health, family - should be given back to God just like the materials He asked for in Exodus. Just like the gifts the Magi gave to Jesus at Christmas. And His promise to us is that He'll give those gifts right back in all sorts of ways. Especially His presence with us." - Pastor Elijah Schiarelli*

- How would you rate yourself on prioritizing the presence of God in your life? One being the lowest and five the highest. What are the ways you have prioritized your relationship with God within the last week?
- What are the gifts that you've been given that you could give to God?

### Read Proverbs 22:1.

- What is the life lesson in this verse?

### Read Matthew 6:19-21.

- How do we make the turn from storing up treasures on earth to storing up treasures in Heaven? What does that look like?

### Watch and Discuss Video: (No follow-up video in the summer)

### Reflect and Commit: (30 min.)

### Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15.

- Which of these principles is most encouraging or inspiring to you? Why?

- What does it mean to commit yourself first to the Lord and then to others? Why does that make a difference in addressing the needs of the poor?

### **Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-14.**

- The passage says that the recipients of the gifts would praise God for two reasons. What are they (vs. 13)?

### **Read Hebrews 13:16.**

- Describe a time when you felt fulfilled by either serving someone else or being generous? Do you have a plan to do good this week or in the near future?

*"Any gift we've been given - our plans, our relationships with our spouses or kids, our jobs, abilities, talents - God wants you to give all of them joyfully, out of the prompting of your heart. Not so He can hoard them. But so He can partner with you and give more of Himself to you. So surrender them to God. Make the commitment to give the gifts you've been given. Resist the temptation to hoard, collect, and hog what it is you have, and instead, lay it at the feet of Jesus. Spend time with Him. Trust Him with your finances. Change your plans for Him. Use your talents for Him. Center your relationships around Him. All out of gratitude for who He is and what He's done. Let's begin right now, in fact. Let's take these next few moments, forget about where we're headed next or what tomorrow has for us, and give the gift of our time and attention to Him, in this holy moment, right now." - Pastor Elijah Schiarelli*

- Take a few moments for quiet, personal contemplation. Afterwards, if comfortable, share how God is leading you.

### **Gather prayer requests and pray. (5-10 min.)**

#### **Pray:**

Dear Lord, in You we live and move and have our being. Unfortunately, we often move about as if we, ourselves are the lord of our lives instead of You. We pray that we can be aligned with Your heart and will for our lives. Your Word says that You will supply all our needs according to Your riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Your Word is truth. Help us understand that all that we have and all that we are is Yours. We ask that You open up opportunities for us to live more freely and sacrificially when it comes to our time and money. You are our provider and the owner, and we trust in You. It's in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.