

The Gift is His Book Discussion Guide



Author's Note: My name is Nicole C Schroeder, and I am blessed to have an opportunity to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in such a fun and creative way. Writing a realistic fiction book series about teenagers who discover their spiritual gifts in high school is a dream come true and an answered prayer all in one. While this book is in no way perfect, it is proof that I am chasing the perfect one, and I can't wait to share it with you.



*Purpose: Our goal is to teach our young believers and the village that is blessed to raise/mentor them that we are never too young to do the work of the Lord. Not only will we read and discuss *The Gift is His*, we will seek God's guidance concerning our individual spiritual gifts through scripture reading, prayer, and journal writing.*

General Discussion Questions

1. According to Ruth Sinclair, her boyfriend, Adam was a gift from God, and she was determined to cherish their relationship. However, her mother, Gloria, believed she was putting Adam before God. If you had to take sides, whose side would you take and why?
2. Adam's family blamed Ruth for his death. Do you agree or disagree?
3. Aaron promised to "forsake all others" when he married Ruth. Do you think he meant to include his future children in those vows?
4. The word coincidence is mentioned 15 times in the book. Why do you think the characters wanted to believe Grace's dreams were a coincidence? Do you believe in coincidences?
5. As the students at Mountaintop Christian Academy discover their spiritual gifts, what is and will be their greatest challenge?
6. Have you discovered your spiritual gift? If so, what is it? If not, which one would you hope to discover when that day comes?
7. Which character do you relate to the most? Which character do you relate to the least? Who is your favorite character? Who is your least favorite character?
8. Grace and Angelica were as different as night and day, but Charlie became friends with both of them. Why do you think that is?
9. Faith told Ruth that there's more to the story. What do you think that means?
10. Have you discovered your spiritual gift? If so, what is it?

Let's Have Fun

[Put the discussion questions in a basket, and pull the questions out randomly]

1. If *The Gift is His* becomes a movie series, would you be interested in playing one of the characters? If so, which one? Why?
2. If you could spend the day with one of the characters, who would it be and why?
3. Grandma Gloria is an amazing cook. She spends a lot of time, preparing southern dishes for her family. Do you like to cook? If so, share a recipe with the group or bring a dish to the next meeting to share.
4. In the book, the characters celebrated Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Eve. Which holiday is your favorite? Do you have any special family traditions that you would like to share with the group?
5. Renovating their home in Florida inspired Ruth to become a realtor. What inspired you to choose your career?
6. Ruth attended football games and cheered on her boyfriend every Friday night, but she didn't know anything about football. Have you ever attended an event or participated in an activity just because you liked someone romantically?
7. At the beginning of the book, Ruth was upset because she didn't hear from her friends all summer. How important is it for you to hear from your friends regularly? If a person doesn't call you or invite you to events, can they really be classified as a friend of yours?
8. Thomas Earl's Delights was located between a religious book store and a tarot reading business. Think of a business in your area that is in an unusual location.

Teen/Young Adult Book Discussion and Activities

1. If *The Gift is His* becomes a movie series, would you be interested in playing one of the characters? If so, which one? Why?
2. If a group of your friends decided to hang out this weekend, which character or characters would you invite?
3. Choose the Soundtrack for this book. What song would be playing during specific scenes in the story?
 - Ruth drops a plate in the kitchen when Grace talks about spiritual gifts
 - Anna Marie collapses on the track field
 - Grace meets Charlie
 - Choose other scenes (Have fun with it!)
4. If Grace tweeted about Angelica, what would she say?
5. Angelica needs your help. She needs you to create a flyer about the Baptism Drive. Be Creative! Remember: It must meet Angelica's standards. (Please take a picture of the flyers and send it to nicoleschroeder@nicoleschroeder.com) Flyers may be posted on the website.
6. Mountaintop Christian Academy's Homecoming was in the cafeteria. Where was your Homecoming? Did you go? If so, did you go with a date or a group of friends?
7. Ms. Hill is a teacher at Mountaintop Christian Academy and she cares a lot about her students. Talk about a teacher that made a positive difference in your life.
8. Grace has the gift of prophecy. God speaks to her through dreams and visions. Have you discovered your spiritual gift? If so, what is it?

Book Club Discussion Meeting

Title: The Gift is His

Featured Character: Faith Thomas

Spiritual Gift: Discernment

Welcome

Prayer

Spiritual Gift (Discernment): This is the God given ability to clearly recognize and differentiate between the influences of God, Satan, the world, and the flesh in different situations.

Scripture Reading and Discussion: Ephesians 5:6-10 ESV

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore, do not become partners with them; for at one time, you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

Opening Question

1. How can you discern what is pleasing to the Lord?

Answers May Vary: One of the best ways to discern what is pleasing to the Lord is to read the bible and pray for guidance.

Transitional Phrase (if needed): Thank you for sharing! I can't wait for us to dive into the rest of the discussion.

Introduction: Today we will focus on Aaron and Ruth's oldest daughter, Faith Thomas. She has the gift of discernment. When she recognizes that Satan is influencing her mother's decisions, she becomes extremely upset. Let's prepare to watch our members act out this scene, so we can discuss it as a group.

Note: Assigning the roles before the meeting will give the members a chance to become familiar with the flow of the script.)

Characters: Aaron, Faith, Ruth, and Grace (Grace is a nonspeaking role)

Skit: (Role Playing Opportunity- Skit Attached)

Discussion Questions: (Ask questions at the end of each Act)

Applause: Please give the actors and actresses a round of applause at the end.

Closing Prayer

The Gift is His Skit

The Book of Grace- Act 1

Scene I.

Costumes and Props: Optional

Characters:

Aaron, Ruth, Faith, and Grace (Grace is a nonspeaking role)

[Ruth is wearing a bathrobe while her family is dressed for church. Her daughter, Faith walks over to her with a bible in her hand.]

Faith

Mom, you better hurry. We're going to be late!

Ruth

Late for what?

Faith

Morning service! You promised to come and hear me sing my solo this morning.

Ruth

Oh, is that today? I'm sorry.

[She looked down at herself.]

Faith, it would take me at least an hour to get dressed and church starts in thirty minutes.

Faith

Well, I'm singing the third song this morning, so that should give you enough time to get there.

Ruth

Oh, um-m... I don't know—

Faith

Please! Will you try? I really want you to come. I've been working really hard on it.

Ruth

[She smiled at Faith]

Of course... I'll try. You guys better get going. I don't want you to be late.

Aaron

[Aaron grabbed his car keys.]

Come on, girls! Let's go.

[As he closed the door behind him, he turned and looked at Ruth with a sad look on his face because he knew she had no intentions of coming.]

Scene II.

[Ruth was sitting at her desk when her family came home from church]

Faith

[She barged into the room to see her mother.]

Aaron

[He quickly walked behind Faith.]

Faith, your mother is working. We can talk about this later—”

Ruth

[She looks concerned]

Faith

No! We need to talk about it now.

Ruth

[Her eyes shifted between the two of them.]

What's going on? What's wrong?

Faith

[She narrowed her eyes angrily]

That's what I would like to know! Why weren't you in church today, mom? You promised! I asked the pastor to move my solo until the end of service because I thought you were coming.

Ruth

Well, I tried to watch the online service, but something was wrong with the church website.

Faith

Mom, we don't have an online service!

Ruth

Since when? I watched you sing last month online.

Adam

[He stood behind Faith and put his hand over his face.]

Faith

[She pointed her finger at Ruth]

The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy. When are you going to start telling the truth, mom? Jesus is waiting!

Ruth

[Her eyes widened and her mouth opened, forming an O shape.]

Aaron

[He stepped forward]

Faith! For the last time, that's enough!

Faith

No, I'm not finished yet, dad—

Ruth

[She stood up and glared at Faith]

Yes, you are! I want you out of my house now!

Faith

[She looked stunned]

What?

Aaron

[He stepped forward]

Wait! Let's go to our neutral corners and calm down.

Ruth

[Ruth glared at Faith]

It's too late for that! I want her out of here right now!

Scene Ended

Personal Reflection Questions

Note: This is an opportunity for everyone to write their responses in a printed or digital journal. Sharing is optional, but everyone will be encouraged to participate.

1. Have you ever disagreed with a parent or parental figure's behavior? How did you handle it? If you had that moment back, would you do anything differently?

Book Discussion Questions

Note: We will discuss these questions as a group.

1. The Holy Spirit gave Faith the gift of discernment; however, based on her conversation/argument with her mother after church, was she being influenced by God, Satan, the world, or the flesh when she said, "The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy. When are you going to start telling the truth, mom? Jesus is waiting!"
2. What advice would you give to Aaron, Ruth, or Faith to help their family during this difficult time?

Act II.

Scene I.

Characters:

Grace, Aaron, Faith, and Grandma Gloria

[Grace is in the car with her father, Aaron, and he is driving her to school.]

Grace

[She looks at her father from out of the corners of her eyes]

I talked to Faith last night. She's doing well, by the way. I asked her to come home Labor Day weekend. She said she would think about it.

Aaron

[His hands tightened around the steering wheel]

Don't get your hopes up. She probably won't come—

Grace

I know

[Her tone was sharp]

Aaron

[An awkward pause lasted for at least five seconds]

Well, what else did she say?

Grace

[Thinking, she looked upward for at least three seconds]

To be honest... most of it didn't make a lot of sense to me.

Aaron

What do you mean?

Grace

She kept going on and on about my Religion class...she said the lessons on spiritual gifts would help me identify my gift... she said I will begin to understand why God placed it on the inside of me... whatever that means.

Aaron

[He mumbled]

It means it's time for me to have a little talk with someone.

Grace

What did you say?

Aaron

Nothing! Forget it. We're here. Have a great day, baby girl.

Grace

[She exited the car.]

Scene II.

Faith

[She is standing in front of a mirror]

Grandma Gloria

You look beautiful...just like your momma did at your age.

Faith

[Faith looked over at her grandmother and smiled]

Good morning, Grandma Gloria.

Grandma Gloria

Do you have time for a little breakfast? I could make a few pancakes, a couple of strips of bacon, and some scrambled eggs?

Faith

Or a smoothie bowl?

Grandma Gloria

A what?

Faith

Grandma, we have to start eating healthier.

[Faith's cell phone started to ring.]

Grandma Gloria

I'll let you get that while I go in the kitchen and put some grapes and strawberries in a Tupperware bowl for you.

Faith

Thank you, grandma.

Grandma Gloria

[She walks out of the room.]

Faith

[She slid her finger across the screen and answered the phone.]

Hello?

Aaron

Good morning, Faith.

Faith

Good morning, dad. Let me guess, Grace told you about our conversation.

Aaron

[He sighed heavily.]

Faith, you have to stop. You have to let this sort of thing happen naturally. You can't manipulate the situation. Grace shouldn't have to deal with all this right now. This is her first day of high school. She needs to find her own way.

Faith

Manipulate? You must have me confused with mom—

Aaron

Young lady—

Faith

[She spoke in an angered whisper]

Don't young lady me. You sided with her even though you knew I was right.

Aaron

Being right isn't everything. You said some hurtful things to your mother and I hope you will find it in your heart to apologize to her someday.

Faith

Apologize? She threw me out of the house over a year ago and packed up all of my stuff..., but you want me to apologize to her. Unbelievable!

Aaron

I never said your mother was perfect, but she is your mother. She deserves your respect.

Faith

[She tried to fight back the tears.]

I have to go, dad. Not that you care or anything, but I'm starting school today too. I'm a sophomore now and my first class is in an hour.

Aaron

[He looks upset]

I do care about you. I love you. I want our family back together. I wish we could put this whole thing behind us.

Faith

This thing is my gift. She wants me to deny my gift just so she can feel comfortable about living in sin—

Aaron

[He cut her off in midsentence]

That isn't true Faith. There's a lot more to the story. Your mother isn't happy with the way things are.

Faith

She seemed pretty happy to me. She didn't mind missing my Easter speeches, Christmas plays, or solos on Youth Sunday. Work always came first.

Aaron

She's been through a lot. We just have to be patient.

Faith

[She ends the call and grabs a Kleenex to wipe the tears from her eyes.]

Aaron

[Aaron looks hurt, as he stares at his phone.]

Narrator

He wanted to call her back, but he couldn't give her what she wanted. He had an obligation to stand by his wife.

Scene Ended

Personal Reflection Questions

Note: This is an opportunity for everyone to write their responses in a printed or digital journal. Sharing is optional, but everyone will be encouraged to participate.

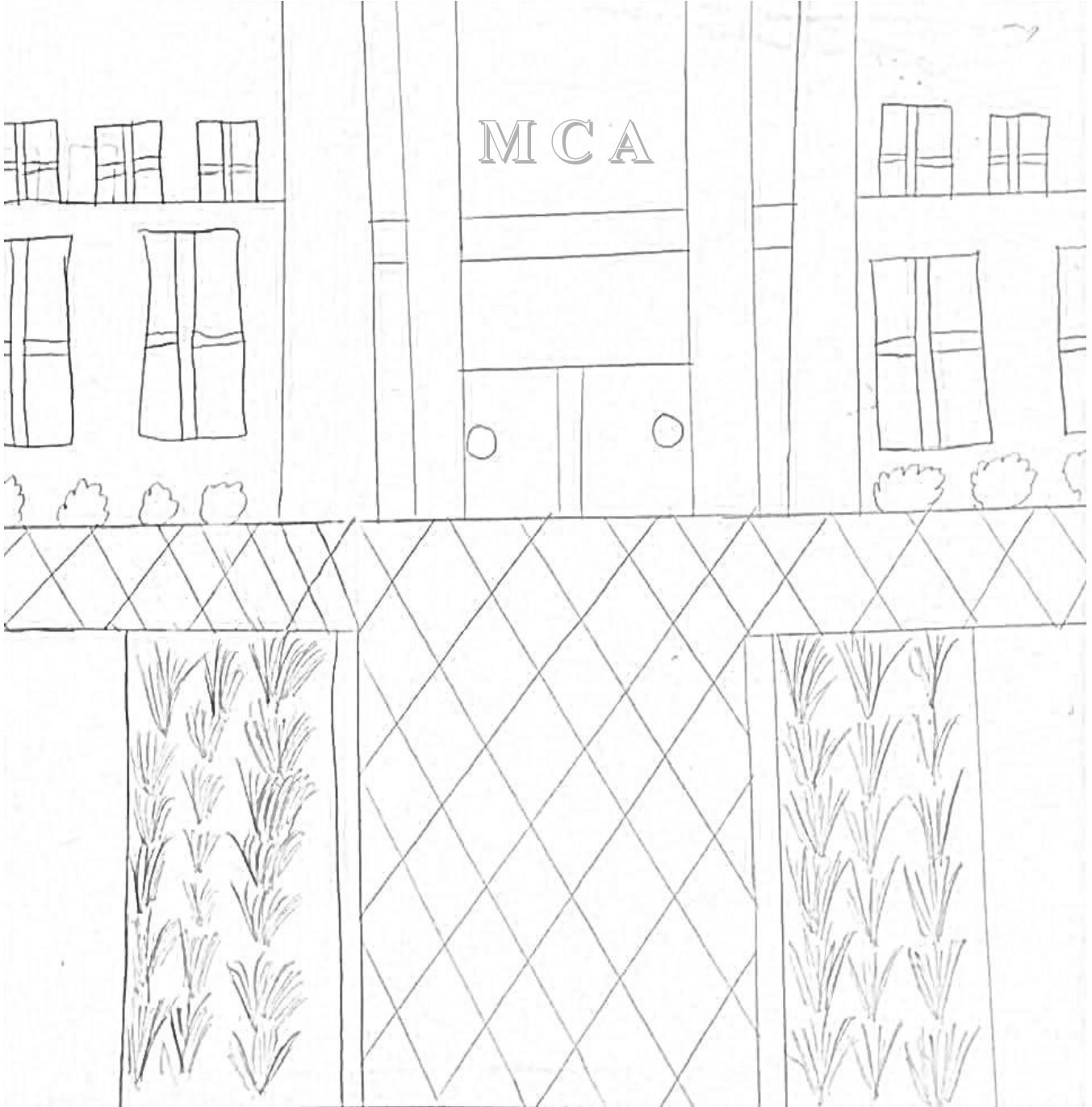
1. Aaron wants his daughter Faith to apologize to her mother; however, Faith believes that her mother owes her an apology. What does an apology mean to you at this stage in your life?
2. How important is it for you to be heard/understood by family members and friends?

Book Discussion Questions

Note: We will discuss these questions as a group.

1. Put yourself in Grace's shoes. She loves her parents, and she loves/misses her sister. How do you think she feels being stuck in the middle? Can you relate to how she feels? What advice would you give to her?
2. After an argument with her mother, Faith's parents packed up her belongings and drove her hundreds of miles away to live with her grandmother. When we meet Faith, fourteen months has passed but the hurt and pain is still fresh on her heart and mind. Why do you think that is?

Coloring Book Page
Mountaintop Christian Academy



By: Our "Maddy"

...Please color the picture and send it to nicoleschroeder@nicoleschroeder.com. We would love to post the pictures on the website.

