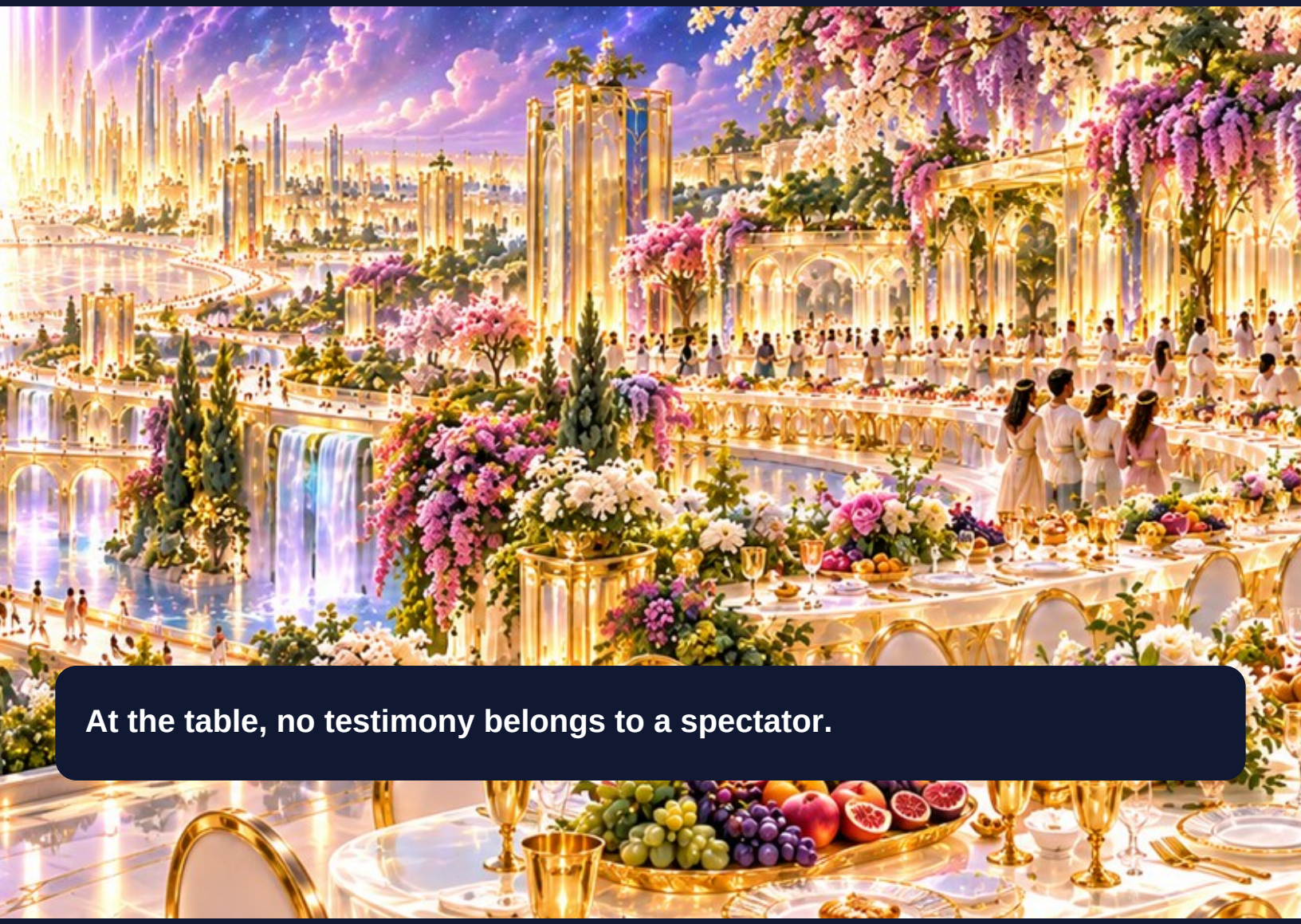
COMPANION C / AFTER STUDY 11



At the table, no testimony belongs to a spectator.

EVERY STORY HAS A MINISTRY

If every redeemed person has a story, where can my gifts serve Christ’s people now?

WATCH / NOTICE / ASK

A question inside the story



Movie-production concept; final still and exact edit may differ.

Around the heavenly tables the narrator hears testimony after testimony of Christ’s saving work, including the accounts of those who suffered for Him. The story displays a multitude with distinct histories united by one Savior. Bring that picture back to the present church: how does the Holy Spirit equip different people for one mission?

NOTICE	Whose stories are heard at the table? What is shared even when their histories differ?
ASK	Read 1 Corinthians 12. Does one Spirit create identical ministries, or a body of interdependent members?
FOLLOW THE TEXT	The meal scene does not list each person’s earthly spiritual gifts. Its variety introduces the question; Paul and Peter supply the teaching about gifts and ministry.

READ / OBSERVE / CONNECT

Open the Bible together

1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-27

Mark the repeated source: the same Spirit, Lord, and God. Gifts are given for the common good and distributed as the Spirit wills. Paul’s body picture challenges both I am unnecessary and I do not need you. Which members receive special honor? Why would a church become unhealthy if only visible speakers were treated as important?

EPHESIANS 4:7-16; ROMANS 12:3-8

Christ gives equipping ministries so His people can serve and grow in truth and love. Romans joins different gifts to humility and sober judgment. Ministry is not the private work of a professional few. Nor does a personal sense of calling remove the need for character, training, recognition, and accountability within the body.

1 PETER 4:10-11; 1 CORINTHIANS 13

Peter calls believers to use God’s varied grace in service; speech and service should direct glory to God through Jesus. Paul places love between his discussions of gifts and their use. A spectacular ability without love is not spiritual maturity. Ask how your ministry could strengthen another person rather than advertise your own spiritual importance.

READ / OBSERVE / CONNECT

Understand the teaching

EVERY BELIEVER IS CALLED TO MINISTER

The Spirit equips the church across generations with gifts for mission and mutual care. Scripture includes teaching, service, encouragement, generosity, leadership, compassion, healing, faith, prophecy, and other ministries. The lists show variety. Start with people’s needs and the Spirit’s leading; do not assume a quiz provides an exhaustive or final inventory of what God can do.

EQUIPPING LEADERS HELP THE WHOLE BODY

Pastoral, teaching, and evangelistic leadership equips members for service rather than replacing their calling. Read Ephesians 4:11-13 and 1 Timothy 3. Character and church discernment matter as well as ability. Gifts should strengthen unity around Christ and protect a community from destructive teaching. Being articulate does not automatically authorize someone to control a congregation.

LOVE, TRUTH, AND ORDER TEST USE

Read 1 Corinthians 14:26-33, 40 with chapter 13. Gifts must edify, communicate, and operate with order. The Spirit’s work does not require confusion, competition, or disregard for others. An ordinary act of faithful service can be as necessary to the body as an obvious public gift. Fruit, accountable practice, and fidelity to Scripture help a church discern how a gift should be used.

PHOTOTHEOLOGY / CHRIST AT THE CENTER

See the connected picture

THE SANCTUARY: GOD EQUIPS HANDS

Exodus 31:1-11 describes God’s Spirit equipping Bezalel for skilled work on the sanctuary. Read the craft details. This is a direct example of God valuing practical ability in His service; it does not make every modern hobby a prophetic sign.

THE BODY: CHRIST EQUIPS PEOPLE

Ephesians 4 connects gifts with the risen and ascended Christ. First Corinthians 12 joins one body to many members. The sanctuary and body passages both show God enabling people for shared service, but they use distinct images that should retain their contexts.

THE TABLE: GRACE PRODUCES MANY TESTIMONIES

The film’s varied testimonies help us picture the human reach of ministry. Revelation 12:11 directs victory to the Lamb and faithful witness. Let your service contribute to another person’s story without claiming credit for saving them.

FOLLOW THE PASSAGES

One Savior. A lived response.

1

RECEIVE GRACE

1 Peter 4:10 / A gift is entrusted, not a basis for superiority.

2

SERVE THE BODY

1 Corinthians 12 / Different members need one another.

3

GLORIFY CHRIST

Ephesians 4; 1 Peter 4:11 / Growth and service point toward Him.

TRACE AND TEST

Use solid lines for direct biblical statements and supported canonical connections. Use a dotted line for a film illustration or personal application. Explain how each step directs attention to Christ.

APOLOGETICS / LISTEN AND EXAMINE

Questions worth asking

IS MINISTRY ONLY FOR PASTORS?

No. Ephesians 4:11-12 distinguishes equipping ministries from the ministry for which the saints are equipped. Church leadership is real, and so is every member’s calling. Start with supervised service suited to your experience. Caring for a child, explaining Scripture carefully, organizing help, and visiting a lonely neighbor can all contribute to the church’s mission.

MUST EVERY BELIEVER SPEAK IN TONGUES?

Paul asks whether all speak in tongues in 1 Corinthians 12:29-30 within a series expecting a negative answer. The Spirit gives different gifts. Acts 2 describes hearers recognizing languages; 1 Corinthians 14 requires intelligibility and interpretation in gathered worship. A single manifestation must not become a universal badge of salvation or the Spirit’s presence.

WHAT IF I HAVE NO IMPRESSIVE GIFT?

The body illustration explicitly protects members who feel unnecessary or receive less public honor. Begin with a real need, prayer, a small commitment, and feedback from mature believers. Gifts can develop through service and training. Faithfulness and love matter more than public excitement. Do not interpret disability, introversion, unemployment, or age as proof that a person has nothing to offer.

KEEP THE STRONG QUESTIONS VISIBLE

Go deeper without shortcuts

HOW DO I TELL A GIFT FROM A PERSONAL AMBITION?

Ask who is helped, whether your teaching agrees with Scripture, how you respond to correction, and what the congregation recognizes over time. Will you serve where no one applauds? A calling that demands unquestioning loyalty to you is already in tension with Christ’s servant pattern. Allow patient testing rather than announcing an irreversible personal title.

WHAT ABOUT ABUSES IN THE NAME OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Claims of revelation or healing do not excuse manipulation, financial exploitation, sexual misconduct, or denial of needed care. Test teaching and practice. Seek appropriate help for actual harm rather than letting spiritual language silence it. Distinguish the Bible’s teaching about gifts from a leader’s unsupported claim to possess one.

CAN MY GIFT CHANGE AS I GROW?

Scripture emphasizes the Spirit’s freedom, the body’s needs, and growth toward maturity; it does not give a lifetime job chart for every believer. Skills, circumstances, and opportunities can develop. Accept training and wise redirection. A season of quiet faithfulness is not spiritual demotion. The aim is a mature body centered on Christ.

DISCIPLESHIP / TRY THE TEACHING

Practice before you leave

A SMALL SERVICE EXPERIMENT

Choose one need and a two-week supervised act of service: practical help, encouragement, Bible study support, hospitality, or organization. Name the person who will guide you and how you will obtain permission. Afterward ask what helped and what you should learn next.

A BODY THAT MAKES ROOM

A confident speaker and a quiet organizer both volunteer. Design a project in which neither treats the other as an assistant with less spiritual value. Include someone whose mobility or schedule limits attendance. Use 1 Corinthians 12 to explain the choices, not merely the project’s efficiency.

RETURN TO THE MOVIE

At the table, a person tells how someone’s ordinary kindness opened a door to Christ. Do not invent this as an additional film scene; use it as your own application exercise. What could you do that gives another person a reason to thank the Savior?

VISUAL STUDY / YOUR TURN

Build a three-frame discovery

Draw a body with Christ as its head, then add five different ministries from Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12. Place hidden ministries as carefully as public ones. Connect it to the movie’s table of testimonies with the sentence: One Savior, many servants, many stories.

READ THE TEXT

Passage / observation

CONNECT TO CHRIST

Passage / observation

LIVE THE RESPONSE

Passage / observation

BACK TO THE NARRATOR

If every redeemed person has a story, where can my gifts serve Christ’s people now?

Explain your answer using Scripture. Add one question you still need to investigate.

REFLECT / PRAY / CHOOSE

Let the truth shape your life

RETURN TO CHRIST

Read the main passages again. What do they show about God’s character, Christ’s work, and your next faithful response? Pray honestly about one conviction and one question. Understanding can grow through further study and life in a local congregation.

Where can I begin a humble, accountable act of service while asking the Spirit to develop my gifts?

MY NEXT STEP

( ) I understand. ( ) I need further study.
( ) I would like a voluntary conversation with an Adventist pastor.
( ) I will try one specific action this week.

Return to main Study 12 to continue the movie’s order.

LEADER COMPANION / READ BEFORE GROUP

Guide the next conversation

PLAN FOR TWO MEETINGS

Meeting 1: scene and observations 10 minutes; Bible and doctrinal investigation 30; Christ-centered connections 15; questions and prayer 15. Meeting 2: map and strongest objections 25; cases and visual activity 20; a practical response and voluntary next step 20. Let questions determine the pace. The goal is informed faith and a lived response, not a completed schedule.

CARE FOR THIS CONVERSATION

Use the table testimonies at 28:55-29:58. Separate the shared salvation story from the specific doctrine of gifts. Avoid labeling a participant’s permanent gift after one exercise. Offer supervised service in a local Adventist congregation and review learning together. Ministry should build up vulnerable people, not make them testing material.

SOURCES AND CONTINUING STUDY

Story: Heaven’s Diary, 28:55-29:58. Read this companion after main Study 11. Scripture is the doctrinal foundation. Official Adventist belief 17 is the alignment reference. Ministry apologetics starting point: spiritual-gifts / sg-1; Holy Spirit gifts objection. The explanations and activities are new editorial adaptations, not quotations attributed to Ivor Myers.

Source notes and official belief: open the companion source page online.