

**THE BIG IDEA: It's easier to buzz when you know what makes you hum.**

### The Take-Off

It's Memorial Day weekend and I know a lot of people are able to grab some time away, but I've got to tell you that you picked a GREAT day to be here at The Gathering!

Today we're wrapping up what has been a 4 part series that we've called The Love Buzz.

Over the last 3 weeks, we've talked about The Buzz PERSONALLY, PRIVATELY, and PUBLICLY.

We've talked about the friendship of God, the family of God and the fragrance of God.

Put simply, we've learned that when we're full of God's love, His love oozes out of us.

It fills us, then oozes out onto others - first those closest to us (church), and then to those further out (unchurched).

Last week, we closed with a simple diagnostic test: when it comes to loving others, are we USERS, ABUSERS or OOZERS?

Today, we hope to help you practically learn how YOU were made to OOZE.

To help us get started, I need you to do some talking at your tables.

Take a few minutes and talk about things that you HAVE to do but that you don't necessarily LIKE to do.

[Allow for a few minutes for table talk then ask for some answers]

Now, let's flip the question and talk about things that you LIKE to do but don't necessarily HAVE to do.

[Allow for a few minutes for table talk then ask for some answers]

Let me give you the Big Idea and then we'll get rolling on the practical said of The Love Buzz.

**It's easier to buzz when you know what makes you hum.**

Cheesy, I know, but I think it gets the point across, doesn't it?

There are times that maturity means we'll HAVE to do some things we don't LIKE to do.

Paying bills, disciplining children, keeping a commitment when something better comes along.

That's true in the church, too. But those things will eventually turn us into users and abusers if we don't find the things that really make us hum!

## 1. What the Bible says about spiritual gifts

- a. 1 Corinthians 12:1
  - God wants us to learn about the gifts
  - Speaks to being intentional
- b. 1 Peter 4:10
  - Everybody has at least one gift
  - Using the gift(s) we have opens the door for grace to spill out
- c. 1 Timothy 4:14
  - God wants us to use our gift(s)
  - He uses the body to help us in the discovery
- d. Ephesians 4:11-12
  - God gives us gifts to prepare us for serving
  - Serving builds (fills) up the body (gets us ready for OOZING!)
- e. Ephesians 2:10
  - God made us with gifts (we're His workmanship)
  - God made works for us that match His work in us

## 2. Steps to help discover spiritual gifts

- a. All the teaching in the world about spiritual gifts is a little pointless unless we discover our gifts
- b. That's done in the lab
- c. Sometimes it's helpful to see church like a lecture/lab environment
- d. There are times that we need the lecture (hopefully not too boring!) - but then the lab is where we put into practice what we learned
- e. Honestly, it's the lab where things really get solidified
- f. Blow something up and it kind of makes an impression, doesn't it?
- g. Think about it. TELLING you not to drop a red gummy bear into a tube of potassium chlorate is one thing, but...

- h. [Show the video]
- i. Guess what? This church, this community, is the lab where we work out our giftedness
- j. So, here are 3 practical things we need to do.
- k. First, EXPLORE
  - Start digging around a bit, investigating the gifts
  - Evaluate yourself with the gift assessment at the table (or by phone or web)
- l. Second, EXPERIMENT
  - You'll find descriptions of the gifts on the table
  - You may already be serving in the church or looking to serve
  - Pick an opportunity and give it a go
  - Failure isn't an option, because you can't fail! You're experimenting.
- m. Third, EXAMINE
  - How did it feel?
  - Did it seem to be a good fit?
  - What did others say about you in that area?
  - Were you SURVIVING or THRIVING?
- a. Finally, EXPECT
  - You're not limited to a test score
  - Ephesians 3:20 - God does greater than we can imagine
  - Let Him breathe His gift of the Holy Spirit into your gifts from the Holy Spirit

#### The Landing

Last week we asked if we were USERS, ABUSERS, or OOZERS

The sure-fire way to be an OOZER of the love of God? Serve in the areas that you're gifted and passionate!

Remember the Big Idea: **it's easier to buzz when you know what makes you hum.**

This morning, you're one step closer to living out The Love Buzz.