

UNIT 32 | SESSION 5

WE ARE PART OF ONE CHURCH

1 CORINTHIANS 12

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Paul told the believers in the church to come together. Jesus saves sinners. Because of Jesus and what He has done, believers can come together as one church.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:

Like a body has many parts, the church has many people who work together.
1 Corinthians 12:12



LEADER Bible Study

The twelfth chapter of Paul's letter to the church in Corinth is known for its role in encouraging the church body toward unity. Steering us away from division and partiality, this passage reminds us that we each have a role to play in Christ's mission of sharing the gospel. Our differences can serve to strengthen us, if only we walk together in obedience to Jesus' mission through the power of the Holy Spirit.

How can we best determine how to serve within the body of Christ? What does unity look like in the modern-day church?

It can often be difficult to determine how we can serve within the church. We might even feel like the service we have to offer is unimportant. Yet, Paul wrote to encourage the Corinthian church to remember that all roles within the body of Christ are indispensable. As we seek to serve within the church, we can consider our interests, passions, and giftings, which are given to us by God for His glory. Like Paul wrote in verse 17, if we all try to take on the same role within the church, we do not function in the ways God designed us. Therefore, we can trust that the gifts and interests God has given us play an important role in the purpose of His church and in the edification of the saints toward gospel-centered unity.

Though we are not all called to be pastors, we might be given the roles of Sunday School teachers, small group leaders, camera operators, sound engineers, bakers, meal deliverers, and so on for our churches. Paul calls us to pursue unity in the body, even amidst our diverse giftings in the church. He reminds us that the same Spirit is active within all believers, yet working uniquely within each of us as He calls us to serve for our common good. We can rejoice that God uses diverse people with various giftings to demonstrate how the Spirit unites us all to one another through Christ.

As you prepare to teach this session, remember that every member of the body of Christ, including you and all the preschoolers in your classroom, have an essential role to play in building up God's church! As you boldly proclaim these truths of the gospel, pray that your group will pursue unity and seek how they can serve within the body of Christ.

DOCTRINE TO KNOW

Unity of the Church: Christ's desire for the church is that we be united as one in Him by the gospel, allowing for no divisions to separate us.



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



Find hearts in the sensory bin

- ☐ Big Picture Question and Answer Poster
- ☐ heart cutouts
- ☐ sensory bin
- ☐ people figures



Review the Bible story

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ basket

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker



Draw hearts in shaving cream

- ☐ shaving cream
- ☐ trays or a sealed tabletop
- ☐ smocks
- ☐ gallon-size ziplock bags, several

Make a handprint banner

- ☐ butcher paper
- ☐ washable ink pads or shallow pan of paint
- ☐ baby wipes or bucket of soapy water and paper towels
- ☐ smocks



Play "What's Missing?"

- ☐ felt board or dry erase board
- ☐ felt pieces or dry erase markers

Missions activity

- ☐ pineapple rings
- ☐ baby carrots or pretzel sticks
- ☐ paper plates
- ☐ knife (teacher use only)

Snack and transition

- ☐ snacks
- ☐ Activity Page, 1 per child
- ☐ Big Picture Cards For Families, 1 per child



Say the key passage phrase

- ☐ globe beach ball
- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker

Five senses search

- ☐ felt board
- ☐ felt pieces

Draw self-portraits

- ☐ butcher paper



Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

WELCOME



Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

FIND HEARTS IN THE SENSORY BIN

Place the sensory bin near the big picture question poster. Place heart cutouts in the sensory bin and bury them under plastic people figures. Use the big picture question poster as children dig for the hidden hearts and talk about the poster and about the hearts and why the hearts might be buried under the people figures.

SAY “ I am so glad you came to our class today. God loves all the people in the world so much. The hearts in our sensory bin can remind us of His love. The people remind me that when people believe in Jesus and follow Him, they become Christians. Christians are all part of the church. In today’s Bible story, we will be talking about the church. Paul told the believers in the church to come together. Jesus saves sinners. Because of Jesus and what He has done, believers can come together as one church. **The church is all Christians everywhere.** ”

Worship

* Praise The Lord

* God is So Good

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Ask children to show you 'thumbs up.' Then ask them to show 'thumbs down.' Tell children you will name ways the body functions and ways the body cannot while they show thumbs up if the body can do the action or thumbs down if it cannot. Example actions: Eyes can blink. (Thumbs up), Ears can smell. (Thumbs down), Mouths can eat food. (up), Stomachs can smell. (down), and so on.

SAY “Welcome! This was a fun game! It was silly thinking about things like our stomach or ears doing something they can’t. Do you know what a word picture is? A word picture is when someone describes one thing by using another to help explain it. In the Bible, there are a lot of word pictures. Jesus sometimes talked about people by describing them as sheep. Today, we learn Paul wrote about the church like it is a person.”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY *Video*

Open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 12. Tell the Bible story using the provided story below.

WE ARE PART OF ONE CHURCH

SAY “Paul wrote a letter and said that the church works together like one body. ‘Think about the human body,’ Paul wrote. ‘It is one body, but it is made up of many parts. All the parts work together as one body.’ Paul said that Jesus is like this. Many different people belong to Jesus.”

A body has many parts, and all the parts are important. Paul wrote, “A foot shouldn’t say, ‘I am not a hand, so I am not part of the body.’ A foot is just as much a part of the body as a hand.”

“Imagine if the whole body were an eye. How would it hear? Imagine if the whole body were an ear. How would it smell? God has made each part of the body just as He wanted. An eye can’t say to the hand, ‘I do not need you!’ and the head can’t say to the feet, ‘I do not need you!’”

Paul said that the church—like the human body—should be one. “Not everyone is the same, but every part of the body of Christ is important.”

Christ Connection: Paul told the believers in the church to come together. Jesus saves sinners. Because of Jesus and what He has done, believers can come together as one church.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Place a basket near the Bible story picture with a beanbag. Children will take turns tossing the beanbag into the basket while answering questions about the story. Example questions: Did Paul write a letter to the church? (yes) Did the letter talk about dogs and cats? (no) What did the letter talk about? (the church, the body parts and what they do, etc.) Why do Christians need to work together? (to tell about Jesus, to obey God, etc.) Name something in the church someone can do to tell about Jesus. (preach, teach, sing, help, etc.)

SAY 🗨️ Good job! Paul wrote a letter to the church comparing it to a person's body. People use feet, hands, eyes, ears, and so on in order to go places, do activities, see and hear things. That's like the church. People have different things they are good at, but all Christians are part of the church and have work to do. God wants us to work together happily. 🗨️

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "B-I-N-G-O."

"Like a body has many parts
The church has many people
Who work together,
Who work together,
Who work together.

1 Corinthians 12:12"

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at 1 Corinthians 12:12. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Lead preschoolers to learn the key passage phrase. Ask children to say the key passage phrase while pantomiming using their knees to "eat" with, their ears to "paint" with, etc.

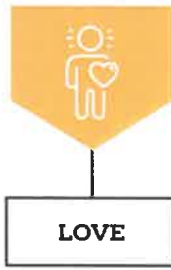
SAY 🗨️ That was hard! God didn't make our knees to feed us or our ears for holding paint brushes, did He? He made each person in the church to do His work in a unique way. We can work together and help each other do God's work. 🗨️

6 PRAY

Thank God for the church, consider naming specific people the children know who work at church.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

▶ **LOVE** God because of what we learned

1 **PLAY A GAME**



Wrap a lightweight square block in construction paper like a gift. Create a number cube by printing a number 1-6 on each face of the block using a marker. Take turns rolling the cube and doing the action indicated for each number: 1-jump, 2-run in place, 3-clap hands, 4-nod/shake head, 5-wiggle all over, 6-spin around once

SAY ☞ Just like God made our bodies to do different things, He made the people in the church to do different jobs. Our feet can't do what our heads can do, just like someone who teaches a Sunday school class may not go on a mission trip. God made every Christian to help tell about Jesus, but not all Christians have the same job to do. ☞

2 **DRAW HEARTS IN SHAVING CREAM**

Choose which method you want to use and prepare the work area. Invite children to draw hearts in the shaving cream. As children play, talk about God's love for people, the work of the church, ways we use our hands to help, and so on. Method 1: Assist preschoolers in putting on smocks. Squirt shaving cream on trays or a table. Method 2: Squirt shaving cream into gallon-size bags, seal out excess air, and tape to a flat surface.

SAY ☞ Paul told believers in the church to come together. Jesus saves sinners. Because of Jesus and what He has done, believers can come together as one church. Working together in this way shows people who do not know Jesus how much He loves them. ☞

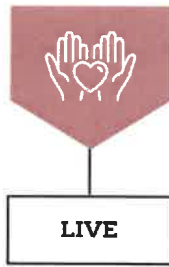
3 **MAKE A HANDPRINT BANNER**

Write the key passage phrase neatly on a long strip of butcher paper. Place washable ink pads or a shallow pan of paint nearby. Supply baby wipes or a bucket of soapy water and towels for children to wash hands when finished. Invite children to make handprints all around the key passage phrase. When finished, hang the banner for all to see.

SAY ☞ Thank you for working together to make such a lovely banner. It says, 'Like a body has many parts, the church has many people who work together. 1 Corinthians 12:12'. Our class is part of the church. We have all these friends with us and we worked together to make this banner. This is part of what Paul meant when he wrote down the letter to the church. ☞

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 **PLAY “WHAT’S MISSING?”**

Display a felt board or dry erase board. Use felt pieces cut like face parts (head, eyes, nose, ears, lips, eyebrows, mustaches, glasses, etc.) to form a face on the felt board or draw a face with a dry erase marker. Be sure to leave off an essential part. Invite preschoolers to identify what part is missing. Play again by rebuilding or redrawing the face, leaving off a different part each time.

SAY “When a part is missing, is the face complete? (no) That’s like church! When a Christian is not helping at church, the church is not working together like it should be. We all must work together to tell the world about Jesus. We all have a part to play.”

2 **MISSIONS ACTIVITY**



Post an allergy alert. Before the session, core a pineapple and cut it into rings or use canned pineapple rings. If using baby carrots, cut them in half lengthwise. Wash or sanitize preschoolers’ hands. Then distribute a plate, pineapple ring, and 8 to 10 baby carrots or pretzel sticks to each child. Encourage preschoolers to arrange the carrots or pretzels around the pineapple to make sun rays. Talk about the warm weather in Florida and that it is called “The Sunshine State.”

SAY “South Florida has many beaches where people like to go to enjoy the sunshine. What do you like to do at the beach? David and Jennifer McCaman started Gospel City Church in South Florida. Remember our big picture question and answer: **What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.** Let’s pray together for the McCaman family, that they can be a light and share the love of Jesus wherever they go.”

3 **SNACK AND TRANSITION**



Post an allergy alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY “Paul told the believers in the church to come together. Jesus saves sinners. Because of Jesus and what He has done, believers can come together as one church.”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



BONUS

TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 FIND ALIKE AND DIFFERENT

Name some likenesses/differences (hair color, eye color, favorite animals, favorite foods, etc.). Lead children to stand on likenesses and sit on differences. Point out that there are things we have in common and things that make us different. This is part of God's good plan. He also planned for the church to be all Christians around the world working together to share the good news about Jesus.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to 1 Corinthians 12 and talk about the Bible story using the summarized points below.

WE ARE PART OF ONE CHURCH

- Paul wrote a letter. He said that the church works together like one body. Paul wrote, "The body is made up of many parts. All the parts work together."
- A body has many parts, and all the parts are important. Paul wrote, "A foot shouldn't say, 'I am not a hand, so I am not part of the body.' If the whole body were an eye, how would it hear? If the whole body were an ear, how would it smell?"
- God has made each part of the body just as He wanted. Paul said that Jesus is like this. Many different people belong to Jesus. The church—like the human body—should be one.
- "Not everyone is the same, but every part of the church is important."

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "B-I-N-G-O."

"Like a body has many parts
The church has many people
Who work together,
Who work together,
Who work together.
1 Corinthians 12:12"

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Inflate a globe ball. Place the key passage phrase marker at 1 Corinthians 12:12. Open the Bible to the key passage. Pass the ball around the circle, and lead the children to say the key passage phrase together. Point out that the ball is a model of the world. Christians around the world work together to tell others about Jesus.

5 PRAY

Thank God for opportunities to tell others about Jesus.



BONUS

TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 USE PLAY DOUGH



Give each child some play dough and ask them to make hands, feet, ears, eyes or other parts of the body mentioned in today's Bible story. Talk about the various roles in the church that could be assigned the parts named in the Bible, such as mouth = preacher, heart = teacher, hands and feet = people who serve others, and so on. Explain that God gives different people different skills and talents to do the work of the church.

SAY “God places Christians in the church to tell others about the good news of Jesus. God enables Christians to work together as the church.”

7 FIVE SENSES SEARCH

Review with preschoolers what abilities some parts of their bodies have. What do you hear with? (ears) See with? (eyes) Taste with? (mouth) Feel with? (hands) Smell with? (nose) Call out different senses prompts and invite children to search around the room for something that matches the prompt: Find something ... that feels soft, that sounds loud, that smells sweet, that looks beautiful.

SAY “A body has many parts, and all the parts are important. Paul wrote, ‘A foot shouldn’t say, ‘I am not a hand, so I am not part of the body.’ If the whole body were an eye, how would it hear? If the whole body were an ear, how would it smell?’ God has made each part of the body just as He wanted. Paul said that Jesus is like this. Many different people belong to Jesus. The church—like the human body—should be one.”

8 DRAW SELF-PORTRAITS

Give each child a sheet of butcher paper to lay down on. Trace around each child with a marker. Allow children to decorate themselves with markers. Talk about the Bible story as they work, reminding them to draw any parts they miss (two eyes, two ears, fingers, etc.).

SAY “Paul wrote the church in Corinth and told them the church is like a body. You drew your body. Paul said all the ‘body parts’ in the church are actually individual people. You have fingers, toes, hands, feet, and so on. Each part of your body has an important job in your daily life. So too, the Christians are the church, each has an important job in telling others about Jesus.”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church's security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.