Classroom: 2nd, 3rd, 4th Grades

1 Corinthians 12:7; Romans 12:4-5; Acts 4:32-37

04/26/2020

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: 1 Corinthians 12:7; Romans 12:4-5; Acts 4:32-37
- In This Passage: Because we all have spiritual gifts, we can serve each other! The Holy Spirit gives us gifts so we can work together to serve God and his church. In Acts, we see this happen as those in the church share what they have. A man named Barnabas sells his field to give more to the church.
- <u>Bible Point:</u> The Holy Spirit gives us gifts to serve God.
- Summary Verse: "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord" (1 Corinthians 12:4-5).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: The Holy Spirit gives us gifts to serve God. Kids love to get involved in serving, but sometimes it's hard for them to know what they can do. Throughout this lesson, kids will have the opportunity to serve God and the church. Empower them to keep on serving!
- Think About: How have you seen God work as you've served him by teaching kids?

Dig In to Prayer

 Ask God to use the kids in your class in mighty ways as the Holy Spirit empowers them with gifts.

Quick Tip

 You'll notice that Dig In often suggests you share your own stories before inviting kids to share. This is important for three main reasons: It sets the tone for vulnerability, causing kids to be more willing to open up; it makes you a "real" person to your kids so they can see God is working in your

life; and, if nothing else, it gives kids time to think about how they could respond. Be sure you're ready to share examples of how God has used you to serve him.

This Lesson at a Glance (CLICK ON EACH HEADING TO GO TO EACH ACTIVITY)



OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible (click here)
- large gift box from Week 10
- plastic forks (1 per child)
- tape
- pens

Easy Prep

• Set out the large gift box you wrapped for Week 10.



OBJECT LESSON

Kids use a simple machine to make a hard job easier.

Supplies

- pool noodles (4 for every 5 kids)
- laundry baskets (1 for every 5 kids)
- scissors

Easy Prep

- Cut each pool noodle in half so each group of 5 kids will have 8 pool noodle halves.
- Set the pool noodle halves aside where you can access them easily when it's time for kids to use them.



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids identify the purpose of various spiritual gifts.

Supplies

- Bible (click here)
- paper clip
- spiritual gifts signs from last week

Easy Prep

 Make sure the spiritual gifts signs from last week are still hanging. These should include prophecy, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, kindness, wise advice, special knowledge, great faith, healing, miracles, discernment, speaking in unknown languages, interpreting unknown languages, and apostles. If you need to download the handout set again, you can find it here.



DEEPER BIBLE

Kids do a service project within the church.

Supplies

- Bibles (click here)
- supplies for service project options (see list in activity)
- paper
- pens
- basket

Easy Prep

 We've suggested several service project ideas below.
 Narrow the list down to 5 or 6 that will work in your church, and gather any supplies you may need.



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Kids watch a video and discuss the Bible point.

Supplies

"The Family That Serves" teaching video (watch or download here)



MUSIC VIDEO

Kids sing songs of praise to God.

Supplies

- "Ready to Serve" (Deuteronomy 13:4) (watch or download here)
- "To God Be the Glory" (watch or download here)
- "Living by the Spirit" (Galatians 5:25) (watch or download here)



CRAFT

Kids make bath bombs for single moms in your church.

Supplies

- Bible
- whisks
- large bowls (1 for every 8 kids)
- plastic spoons (1 for every 8 kids)
- small bowls (1 for every 2 kids)
- food coloring
- baking soda (1 cup for every 8 kids)
- citric acid powder (1 cup for every 9 kids) (check the

Easy Prep

Make a sample craft to show kids.

- canning aisle; this may also be called sour salt)
- cornstarch (½ cup for every 8 kids)
- canola oil (½ cup for every 8 kids)
- lavender essential oil (a few drops for every 8 kids)
- measuring cups
- construction paper
- wax paper
- scissors
- markers
- transparent tape



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids serve each other in creative ways.

Supplies

- variety of simple items, such as pencils, paper, tape, eraser, cup, paper towels, and tissues (at least 1 item per child)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids run a baton relay race.

Supplies

- wet wipes (1 container for every 5 kids)
- Goldfish crackers (several per child)

Easy Prep

- Create different serving stations in each corner of the room.
 - Station 1: Place wet wipes in a corner.

- plastic spoons (1 per child)
- 2 trash cans
- cups (1 per child)
- pitchers of water (1 pitcher for every 5 kids)
- napkins (1 per child)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

- o Station 2: Place Goldfish crackers, spoons, and a trash can in another corner.
- Station 3: Place cups, a trash can, and the pitchers of water in another corner.
- Station 4: Place napkins in another corner.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids pray for people who serve in your church.



TAKE-HOME

Kids receive a take-home page about the lesson.

Supplies

this week's "Dig In @ Home" handout (1 per child) (download here)

Easy Prep

 Add your church announcements to the "Dig In @ Home" handout.

*Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



Supplies

- Bible (click here)
- large gift box from Week 10
- plastic forks (1 per child)
- tape
- pens

Easy Prep

• Set out the large gift box you wrapped for Week 10.

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- · Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: Today we're going to learn about how we can use spiritual gifts.

Spiritual gifts are special skills God gives everyone who loves Jesus, through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives us gifts to serve God, so let's use them that way! Since serving food is one way to serve, let's use forks to remind us to use our gifts to serve.

- Distribute a fork to each child.
- Have kids place their forks in the gift box.
- You'll continue to add to the gift box next week, so leave it in the room.

Share

- Tell kids a chore you'd be willing to do for someone else.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share what chores *they'd* do for someone else.

• After partners have shared, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group.

Summarize

Open a Bible to 1 Corinthians 12 and say: **Doing chores for others is one way** to serve. Let's find out how the Holy Spirit gives us gifts to serve God. We'll see in the Bible how the church served God and each other! The Bible isn't like other books; it's special. The Bible is one way God talks to us. God is here right now, ready to talk to you. Let's talk with him now.

Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help kids serve with their gifts.

Supplies

- pool noodles (4 for every 5 kids)
- laundry baskets (1 for every 5 kids)
- scissors

Easy Prep

- Cut each pool noodle in half so each group of 5 kids will have 8 pool noodle halves.
- Set the pool noodle halves aside where you can access them easily when it's time for kids to use them.

<u>Tip</u>

• If you don't have pool noodles or can't find them to purchase, you could also use 2½-foot lengths of PVC pipe. Many home improvement stores will cut the pieces to the length you need.

Try to Move a Weighed-Down Laundry Basket

Say: We've been learning about the Holy Spirit, and believe it or not, these two things (hold up a laundry basket and a pool noodle) can help us understand more about why the Holy Spirit gives us gifts.

- Form groups of about five kids.
- Give each group a laundry basket, and have the groups spread out along one wall in the room.
- Challenge groups to move the laundry basket across the room while two people sit in the laundry basket, two more stand at the sides of the basket, and the last person stands at the front of the basket and pulls it forward.
- As the basket is pulled forward, the two people on either side of the basket will act as spotters to make sure it doesn't tip over.
- Kids can swap roles to see how hard it is to pull the basket forward while it's weighted with two people. It may even be impossible!
- After round one, have groups move back to their starting places along the wall.

Ask: • What was it like trying to pull the basket on your own?

Use Simple Supplies to Make a Simple Machine

Say: Sometimes we need a simple machine's help to turn a hard task into an easy one. Simple machines are things like pulleys that help lift heavy things

we couldn't lift all on our own, or wheels and axles on cars that allow us to travel much faster than we could by walking. Let's make our own simple "wheel" machine and see how it helps move the laundry basket.

- Give eight pool-noodle halves to each group.
- Have groups lay their pool noodles on the floor so that their lengths are parallel to the wall the groups are moving toward.
- Groups can set the laundry baskets on top of the pool noodles, and two group members can get into each basket.
- Groups will do as they did in the first round, but this time the people on both sides of the
 baskets will be Rollers. As the people in front pull the baskets forward, they'll quickly transfer
 the pool noodles from the back of the laundry baskets to the front so there are noodles for the
 baskets to continue rolling over.
- It'll be much easier for the people pulling the baskets to move them forward now that groups have created a simple machine with the pool noodles.
- Have group members swap roles so everyone can experience the difference the simple machine makes.

Talk About It

Ask: • How did the simple machine change pulling the basket forward?

• What could the Holy Spirit help you do for God that would be hard to do on your own?

Say: The simple machine helped you do something that was hard or even impossible on your own. The Holy Spirit helps *us* do things we couldn't do on our own, too. The Holy Spirit gives us gifts to serve God and helps us know how to use those gifts for the purpose of serving.

Spiritual Gifts: The Purpose (1 Corinthians 12:7; Romans 12:4-5; Acts 4:32-37)

Supplies

- Bible (click here)
- paper clip
- spiritual gifts signs from last week

Easy Prep

 Make sure the spiritual gifts signs from last week are still hanging. These should include prophecy, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, kindness, wise advice, special knowledge, great faith, healing, miracles, discernment, speaking in unknown languages, interpreting unknown languages, and apostles. If you need to download the handout set again, you can find it here.

Tip

Want to beef up the guessing game? Instead of whispering the items, gather items and place
each one in a separate brown paper lunch bag so kids can look inside each bag and then
describe the purpose of the item.

Describe the Purpose

Say: We've been learning about spiritual gifts—God-given abilities every Christian has. Today we're going to learn the purpose of spiritual gifts. Let's start by seeing how well we can guess ordinary items based on what they're used for.

Hold up a paper clip and say: For example, if I were trying to get you to guess this item by describing its purpose, I might say, "If you have a report and you need to hold all the pages together, you could attach this to the corner. Or you could make a chain of several of them." I could *not* say the words *paper* or *clip*, since they're part of the answer!

Whisper each of the following household items to different kids, allowing time after each one for kids to describe its use so others can guess.

- tweezers
- tissue
- pencil

Ask: • Why did knowing the purpose of an item help you guess what it was?

• How would you describe the purpose of spiritual gifts? Why do we have them?

Say: God tells us the exact purpose of spiritual gifts! Let's see what it is. Read 1 Corinthians 12:7.

Say: We have spiritual gifts so we can help each other, which is a way of serving God. The Holy Spirit gives us gifts to serve God and each other!

Read the Story

Say: Soon after Jesus went back to heaven, the church started to grow. People who believed in Jesus were meeting together, and they used spiritual gifts to help and serve each other. As I read each verse, go to the sign that names a spiritual gift you think is shown in that verse. (We've listed suggested spiritual gifts in case kids are stumped, but let kids go to whichever signs they think are appropriate and explain why.)

Read Acts 4:32. (Giving)

Read Acts 4:33. (Teaching)

Read Acts 4:34-35. (Giving)

Read Acts 4:36. (Encouraging)

Read Acts 4:37. (Giving)

Ask: • We saw a few different gifts that were being used. What difference did these gifts make in the church?

• What do you think *our* church would look like if everyone lived like this Bible story describes? What if our *town* lived like this? our whole world?

Say: In this Bible story, a lot of people used the spiritual gift of giving. We don't know specifics of how Barnabas encouraged people, but since he was given that nickname, he must've had the gift of encouragement!

The Holy Spirit gives us gifts to serve God. If we all used those gifts to serve God and help each other, the world would be a better place to live!

Make It Personal

Ask: • What talents do you have that you could use to serve God and help people?

Say: Go to a sign that shows a *quality* you have that you could use to serve God. For example, maybe you think you're really kind or a good leader. Allow time for kids to go to the signs.

Say: Wow! Look at all the gifted people we have here. The Holy Spirit gives us gifts to serve God. You each have at least one gift you can use to serve God. Look at the sign you're standing near.

Ask: • Tell one way you could use that gift to help someone else and serve **God.** Kids can share with others near them; then have a few kids share with everyone.

Say: Everyone who believes in Jesus has a spiritual gift. The Holy Spirit gives us gifts to serve God. Let's see how spiritual gifts could serve their purpose in different situations.

Read the following situations, and have kids go to a sign that names a spiritual gift they think would be helpful in each situation. Then have kids share with others who picked the same sign how someone with that gift could use it in that situation. Don't look for right answers here; there may be more than one gift that would be useful! After kids have discussed with others at their sign, ask for a report from the kids at each of the signs. It's okay if you don't have time to get through the whole list.

- The church is hosting homeless people for dinner.
- The church had some pipes break and needs major repairs.
- Someone from the church is in the hospital.
- Someone who doesn't speak English visits the church.
- No one has volunteered to lead the second-grade class.
- Someone visits the church and starts crying.
- The church wants to start a ministry to reach out to people who live in nursing homes.
- The church is growing bigger and bigger, and we need to add on to the building.
- A new family started coming to church, and they don't have enough money for food and clothes.
- Someone comes to the church looking for counseling because they're going through a hard time.

Say: Thank you for sharing your ideas! Obviously you know that the Holy Spirit gives us gifts to serve God—and you just shared a lot of ideas for how people could use their gifts to serve God! The coolest part is that when you believe in Jesus, it's guaranteed that you have a gift you can use to serve God. You can be part of a really great community like the church in our Bible story. You can use your gifts to serve God at church and at school, home, or anywhere else you go!

Am I Really Serving God When I Serve?

Supplies

- Bibles (click here)
- supplies for service project options (see list in activity)
- paper
- pens
- basket

Easy Prep

• We've suggested several service project ideas below. Narrow the list down to 5 or 6 that will work in your church, and gather any supplies you may need.

Set It Up

Say: We're learning that the Holy Spirit gives us gifts to serve God. But we've also talked about serving other people. So which is it? Are we really serving God if we're serving other people? Let's dig in to that.

Dig Deeper

Say: As you listen to these verses, listen for how serving others could really be about serving God.

Read 1 Peter 4:10-11.

Ask: • How does serving others point to God?

Say: This verse talks about the attitude we can have when we serve—or when we do anything!

Read Colossians 3:23.

Ask: • What difference would it make when you serve if you really believed this verse?

Say: Jesus talked about this idea, too. Listen to what he said.

Read Matthew 25:37-40.

Ask: • What do you think Jesus meant when he said that giving someone food or showing a stranger hospitality was actually for him—for Jesus?

Say: The Holy Spirit gives us gifts to serve God, and when we serve others, that's one way of serving God! Let's put that into practice and serve God right now.

Serve

Choose five or six options from the list below that kids can do at your church. Have kids vote on which ones they'd like to do. The top two choices will be the two you do, and kids can choose which one of those two to participate in. You can lead one service project while your adult or teen helper leads the other.

- Leave notes around the church to encourage people. (Supplies: paper, pens)
- Look around church grounds for trash and clean it up. (Supplies: trash bags)
- Pray for people in the church lobby. (No supplies)
- Pray for kids in the preschool class. (No supplies)
- Go read Bible books to children in the nursery. (Supplies: Bible picture books and communication with nursery staff)
- Leave a surprise thank-you banner in the staff offices. (Supplies: bulletin board paper, markers, tape)
- Prepare a snack for another class, then serve it. (Supplies: snack items)
- Write Bible verses on tissue boxes, and place the boxes around the lobby. (Supplies: tissue boxes, Bibles, markers)
- Look for sorting or folding jobs your church may need help with. (Supplies will vary)
- Clean bathroom mirrors. (Supplies: glass cleaner, paper towels)
- Prepare preschool crafts for next week. (Supplies will vary; coordinate with your preschool ministry)

Ask: • Why did you choose the service project you did?

• What ideas did this experience give you for ways you can use your gifts to serve God?

Have kids think of other practical ideas for how they can serve God throughout the week. Have each child write an idea on a sheet of paper, and collect the papers in a basket.

Have each child pull out an idea from the basket, and challenge kids to serve God that way this week.

Supplies

• "The Family That Serves" teaching video (watch or download here)

<u>Tip</u>

• Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the "download" button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter's DVD here.

Discuss and Watch "The Family That Serves"

Say: Today we're learning that the Holy Spirit gives us gifts to serve God. That means there's a big purpose to the gifts the Holy Spirit gives us! Let's watch a family that uses their gifts to serve God. Pay attention to what gifts you see in each family member.

Watch "The Family That Serves."

Ask: • What gifts did you see in the different family members?

- How were those gifts useful as they served?
- What gifts have you seen in your own family members?
- How could you all use your gifts together to serve God?

Say: Cooper is good at making new friends! He makes people feel welcome and loved. The dad is a good leader who could lead the service. Emery has compassion and helped a man who didn't smell good feel loved. They all have the gift of generosity, giving their time and resources to help people in need. And when they put all their gifts together, they served God in a really cool way! The Holy Spirit gives us gifts to serve God.



Ready to Serve (Deuteronomy 13:4)

Supplies

- "Ready to Serve" (Deuteronomy 13:4) (watch or download <u>here</u>)
- "To God Be the Glory" (watch or download <u>here</u>)
- "Living by the Spirit" (Galatians 5:25) (watch or download here)

Tip

• Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the "download" button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter's DVD here.

Sing Songs to God

Sing the three songs in any order.



[20 min]

Bombs for Moms

Supplies

- Bible (click here)
- whisks
- large bowls (1 for every 8 kids)
- plastic spoons (1 for every 8 kids)
- small bowls (1 for every 2 kids)
- food coloring
- baking soda (1 cup for every 8 kids)
- citric acid powder (1 cup for every 9 kids) (check the canning aisle; this may also be called sour salt)
- cornstarch (½ cup for every 8 kids)
- canola oil (½ cup for every 8 kids)
- lavender essential oil (a few drops for every 8 kids)
- · measuring cups

- construction paper
- wax paper
- scissors
- markers
- transparent tape

Easy Prep

Make a sample craft to show kids.

<u>Tip</u>

We recommend making bath bombs as gifts for single moms in your church. However, if your
church doesn't have a specific outreach for single moms, you could put all the bath bombs in a
basket in your church lobby with a sign inviting people to take one.



Make Bath Bombs

Say: We're learning that the Holy Spirit gives us gifts to serve God. Let's serve God by making relaxing presents for single moms in our church—bath bombs!

Show kids the sample craft you made. Have kids form groups of up to eight and work together to combine enough ingredients that everyone in the group can make one bath bomb. If your class has fewer than eight kids, that's fine! Just have everyone work together. Have kids follow these directions.

- Whisk the dry ingredients together in a large bowl.
- Add the canola oil and a few drops of essential oil to the dry mixture a little bit at a time, stirring
 as you add it.
- Divide the mixture evenly among four small bowls.
- Add a few drops of food coloring to each bowl, then stir it in. (Use whatever colors you want!)
- Mold some of the mixture into a ball about the size of a golf ball. (Each child will make one ball.)

- Set the ball on wax paper to dry.
- Use construction paper and markers to make and decorate a fun, encouraging tag to send with your bath bomb.

Talk About It

Ask: • What part of this craft were you best at?

What did you enjoy about serving others by making this craft?

Say: A lot of times here, we make fun crafts for ourselves. But this was a fun way to serve moms! They'll love relaxing in a bath that's extra nice thanks to your bath bombs! The Holy Spirit gives us gifts to serve God, and serving moms is one way we serve God.

Collect the bath bombs to donate to single moms. They'll need to sit out to dry for a day or two.

Supplies

- variety of simple items, such as pencils, paper, tape, eraser, cup, paper towels, and tissues (at least 1 item per child)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

<u>Tip</u>

• If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album here.

Be Creative

Say: Using our gifts to serve God doesn't have to be a grand production. We can use our gifts to serve God with what we have. I've gathered some simple things from around our room. Let's play a game and see if we can come up with creative and practical ways to serve one another with what we have here.

- Have kids sit in a circle, and set your items in the center of the circle. If you have a large group, form multiple circles with multiple sets of objects.
- Have each child choose one item and use it to serve at least one other person in the circle.
 Watch to make sure everyone gets served. Kids can all serve at the same time and try to serve as many others as possible.
- Ideas include using a pencil to drum a beat while singing "Happy Birthday," making an origami toy for someone, and using a paper towel to clean someone's shoe.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

Talk About It

Ask: • Describe what you were thinking as you served others.

What was it like to have other people serve you?

Say: Serving in creative ways is fun! The Holy Spirit gives us gifts to serve God. Even if we aren't sure how to serve, when we're friends with God, the Holy Spirit helps us look for ways to help others.

Serving Seconds Count

Supplies

- wet wipes (1 container for every 5 kids)
- Goldfish crackers (several per child)
- plastic spoons (1 per child)
- 2 trash cans
- cups (1 per child)
- pitchers of water (1 pitcher for every 5 kids)
- napkins (1 per child)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Create different serving stations in each corner of the room.
 - Station 1: Place wet wipes in a corner.
 - Station 2: Place Goldfish crackers, spoons, and a trash can in another corner.
 - o Station 3: Place cups, a trash can, and the pitchers of water in another corner.
 - Station 4: Place napkins in another corner.

Tip

• If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album here.

Run a Baton-Like Race

Say: Let's play a game where we'll race to serve each other!

- Form groups of five kids, and have them number off One to Five.
- Assign Ones, Twos, Threes, and Fours to each coordinating corner station. Have Fives stay in the center of the room.
- On go, Fives will run to Station 1, grab wet wipes, and use them to wipe off their Number One teammates' hands. Fives will remain at Station 1.

- After having their hands wiped, Ones will run to Station 2. They'll use spoons to scoop and feed their Number Two teammates a few Goldfish crackers and then throw away the spoons. Ones will remain at Station 2.
- Twos will run to Station 3 and pour their Number Three teammates a cup of water to drink. Twos will remain at Station 3.
- Threes will run to Station 4 and wipe their Number Four teammates' faces with a napkin. Threes will remain at Station 4.
- Fours will run to Station 1, and the race repeats. Teams keep moving until Fives complete all the stations and run back to the center of the room. The team whose Number Five teammate gets to the center of the room first wins.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

Talk About It

Say: In this game, every second counted! When we serve others, it doesn't have to take a long time. Each second we serve others counts to impact God's kingdom, too!

Ask: • How do you use your seconds to serve others? Share a simple example from your own life to begin. For example, maybe you've sent an encouraging text message while waiting for a coffee order or you pray for others while you're driving.

Say: <u>The Holy Spirit gives us gifts to serve God</u>. When it comes to using our gifts to serve God, every second matters. Our gifts can help and encourage others.

Pray for Servants

Bless Each Child

- Have kids brainstorm the names of people who serve at your church.
- This could include upfront people like pastors, worship leaders, and teachers; it could also
 include behind-the-scenes people, such as the people who do landscaping, clean the church,
 or set up chairs.
- Tell kids the names of the people who perform those tasks if you know their names. It's okay if you don't.
- When you have a good list, pray together for each person on it, thanking God for using their service.
- Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.



[0 min]

Dig In @ Home

Supplies

• this week's "Dig In @ Home" handout (1 per child) (download here)

Easy Prep

• Add your church announcements to the "Dig In @ Home" handout.

Distribute a copy of the "Dig In @ Home" handout to kids as they leave, or email it to parents during the week.

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