

LESSON 13: SPIRITUAL GIFTS: THE BODY OF CHRIST

Leader Guide for Grades 3 & 4

Classroom: 2nd, 3rd, 4th Grades

 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

06/08/2020

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
- In This Passage: In a letter to the Corinthians, Paul compares the church to a body. In this body, Jesus is the head and each Christian is a part of his body. Each part is important and couldn't function well without all the other parts. Just as the hand needs the eye and vice versa, we need each other.
- Bible Point: We need each other.
- 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: *We need each other.* Kids are often pulled out from the rest of the church. Most kids don't go to "big church" these days and may not feel much like they're part of the larger church body. Help them see how they have an important role in the body of Christ!
- Think About: Which body part are you in the body of Christ? Why?

Dig In to Prayer

- Ask God to help your kids see their value to the church.

Quick Tip

- Help your kids see how they're part of the church as a whole. Give them a tour, have a special week where they do a presentation in "big church," let them watch clips from a service so they can see the elements of "big church," connect them with adult mentors or prayer partners, and invite pastors from other parts of the church to come say hi during your Sunday school class.

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
- paper
- scissors
- tape
- pens

Easy Prep

- Set out the large box you wrapped for Week 10.



OBJECT LESSON

Kids use water to turn toothpicks into a star.

Supplies

- toothpicks (5 for every 3 kids, plus a few for you)
- drinking straws (1 for every 3 kids)
- disposable plastic dinner plates (1 for every 3 kids)
- disposable cups (1 for every 3 kids)

Easy Prep

- Fill the cups a little over half full with water.



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids make paper people with only one type of body part, then mix and match.

Supplies

- Bible (click [here](#))
- “Body Outline” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- “Body Parts” handout (1 set for every 5 kids) (download [here](#))
- scissors
- cotton ball
- peppermint oil or vanilla
- glue sticks

Easy Prep

- Put a drop of peppermint oil or vanilla on a cotton ball.



DEEPER BIBLE

Kids explore the importance of young people in the church.

Supplies

- Bibles (click [here](#))
- shirts with buttons (1 for every 10 kids)
- paper
- pens
- tape
- water bottles (1 for every 10 kids)

Easy Prep

- Make the following signs to hang around the room: “what you say,” “the way you live,” “your love,” “your faith,” and “your purity.”



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Kids watch a video and discuss the Bible point.

Supplies

- “Teamwork” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))



MUSIC VIDEO

Kids sing songs of praise to God.

Supplies

- “Stand Together” (watch or download [here](#))
- “Living by the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25) (watch or download [here](#))
- “Let’s Go!” (Ephesians 2:10) (watch or download [here](#))



CRAFT

Kids make a building blocks set like Tinkertoys.

Supplies

- Bible (click [here](#))
- 3-ounce cups (8 per child)
- straws (mix of bendy and straight straws) (8 per child)
- hole punches
- pencils
- markers
- stickers
- paper towel tubes (optional)
- scissors (optional)

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids try to hold as many cups as they can against a wall.

Supplies

- paper cups (approximately 5-8 per child)
- timer or smartphone
- upbeat music (optional)

- music player (optional)



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids work in teams to toss a beach ball.

Supplies

- plastic tablecloths (1 for every 4 kids)
- beach balls (1 for every 8 kids)
- masking tape
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Make a masking tape line on the floor in the center of your playing area.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids pray for people in different areas of 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.



OPENING

[5 min]

Welcome

Supplies

- Bible (click [here](#))
- large gift box from Week 10
- paper
- scissors
- tape
- pens

Easy Prep

- Set out the large 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 start learning about spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts are special skills God gives everyone who loves Jesus. And because we all have different spiritual gifts, we need each other! Let's create a reminder of how we work together.**

- Distribute a piece of paper and a pair of scissors to each child.
- Have each child cut out a gingerbread-man-style outline and then write his or her name on the figure.
- Have kids tape the hands of all their figures together and put the chain of figures in the gift box.
- This is the last week you'll use the gift box, so you can remove it after class.

Share

- Tell kids whether *you'd* rather have an extra eye or an extra arm and why.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share which *they'd* choose and why.
- 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: **Unfortunately, we won't be giving out extra eyes or arms today. But when we work together, we form one awesome, super-functioning body—the body of Christ. And we can learn together from the Bible! The Bible is a really special book, unlike any other book. God is here right now, ready to talk with us! Let's praise him.**

Pray, thanking Jesus for the church.



OBJECT LESSON

Designed for Teamwork

[10 min]

Supplies

- toothpicks (5 for every 3 kids, plus a few for you)
- drinking straws (1 for every 3 kids)
- disposable plastic dinner plates (1 for every 3 kids)
- disposable cups (1 for every 3 kids)

Easy Prep

- Fill the cups a little over half full with water.

Tip

- If you're using the Craft block today, do this object lesson first. You can reuse the cups and straws for the craft. You can also use the cups in the Low-Energy Game block before making the craft.

Watch a Toothpick Star Take Shape

Say: **We've been talking about how the church is God's family that works together like parts of a body. God designed us to need each other and work together. Let's dig in to that more with a fun teamwork experiment!**

- Form groups of three. Adult and teen helpers will float among groups to offer help as needed.
- Give each group five toothpicks, a straw, a plate, and a cup of water.
- With a couple of your toothpicks, demonstrate how to break toothpicks in half while leaving the wood fibers still connected at the break—so the pieces don't entirely come apart, as shown below.



- Kids can carefully break their group's toothpicks.
- Then have helpers guide each group in laying out the broken toothpicks on the plate so the broken edges almost touch in the center.



- Next, kids can use the straws to draw water from the cup and slowly drop water from the straws into the center of the toothpick design and watch what happens.



- As more water is added, the toothpicks will move into a star shape. Kids can take turns adding water and may need to adjust the toothpicks a little to help the star take shape. It helps to drop water at each broken point to make the toothpicks spread out.



- If too much water comes out of the straw and drowns the star, have kids remove the water from the plate and try again.

Talk About It

Ask: • **How did the toothpicks work together to make the star design?**

• **What was helpful about working with your group?**

Say: **As the toothpicks moved with the water, they were held in place by the other toothpicks on either side, and that's what made the star take shape. But it also took some teamwork within your group, so it wasn't only the toothpicks working together!**

We can do a lot more together than we can on our own—we need each other. God works through us in big ways when we work together with the spiritual gifts he's given us.



Supplies

- Bible (click [here](#))
- “Body Outline” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- “Body Parts” handout (1 set for every 5 kids) (download [here](#))
- scissors
- cotton ball
- peppermint oil or vanilla
- glue sticks

Easy Prep

- Put a drop of peppermint oil or vanilla on a cotton ball.

Fill a Body Outline

Say: **Today’s Bible passage uses a body as an example, so let’s make some figures that will help us learn the story.**

Give each child one “Body Outline” handout, one page from the “Body Parts” handout, and a pair of scissors. (Each child will have a page with only one kind of body part on it.)

Say: **Time to get decorating! Using only what’s on *your* handout, cut out your body parts and fill in your body outline.**

Allow time for kids to work. Don’t provide glue at this point; kids will just be placing the body parts on the page.

Ask: • **How much does your figure look like a real person?**

• **What would it be like if that’s what your body really looked like?**

Say: **Let’s try doing things with just the part of the body you have on your paper!**

Complete Challenges

Have kids try to complete the following challenges using only the body part they have on their paper. That means only the group with eyes can keep their eyes open, only the group with feet can walk normally, and so on. All kids can use their mouths.

- Walk across the room.
- Clap five times.
- Listen and repeat a phrase after you (all kids except the “ears” kids have to cover their ears for this one). The phrase is “We need each other.”
- Tell you how many fingers you’re holding up.
- Identify the smell on a cotton ball. (For this one, all kids except the “nose” kids have to hold their noses. Then you’ll walk around and hold the cotton ball near kids’ noses.)

Ask: • **How did you do with these challenges?**

• **Why is it a problem to have only your one body part?**

Say: **The Bible says the church is like a human body! We need each other, just like your body needs a bunch of different parts. Listen to this. Wiggle your ears, hands, and feet when I name them. If I say “eyes,” blink. If I say “body,” jump forward or backward.**

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-21.

Say: **Sometimes you might wish everyone was more like you. After all, wouldn’t it be easier to get along if everyone was the same?**

Ask: • **What would happen if the church was made up of only people exactly like you? What kinds of things wouldn’t get done?**

Say: **We need each other! God gave us spiritual gifts, and we’re all good at different things. If the church was made up of only people just like you, there’s a lot that wouldn’t get done! It’d be like having a body that’s just eyes.**

Since that doesn’t work very well, let’s try working together.

Swap and Glue

Have kids trade paper body parts so they end up with two of each part and then glue them to their body outlines in the appropriate places. (They’ll have an extra nose, but they can glue those in a stack so it appears like one.) As kids glue, discuss this question.

Ask: • **If the church is like a body, which part are you? Explain your answer.**

Say: **We need each other! We’re all good at different things, and together we work really well, just like all the parts of our bodies work together. And you know what’s cool? *You* are an important part of the church! I’m going to end our**

Bible time with a verse that I'll read as a blessing to you. But before I can read it, you need to form a body.

Have kids work together to stand, sit, or lie down in the shape of a stick figure. When kids are arranged, read 1 Corinthians 12:27.



What Role Do Kids Really Play in the Church?

Supplies

- Bibles (click [here](#))
- shirts with buttons (1 for every 10 kids)
- paper
- pens
- tape
- water bottles (1 for every 10 kids)

Easy Prep

- Make the following signs to hang around the room: “what you say,” “the way you live,” “your love,” “your faith,” and “your purity.”

Set It Up

Say: **We’re learning that everyone who believes in Jesus is part of the body of Christ, the church. And we need each other!**

Ask: • **What do you know about what the adults in our church are doing right now?**

Say: **We say that we need each other, but right now you’re here, not with most of the adults. Are we really part of the same body? What role do kids really play in the church? Let’s dig in to that.**

Dig Deeper

Read 1 Timothy 4:12.

Say: **This verse lists five ways someone who’s young—like you—could set an example for older Christians.**

- Ask: • **What’s a way you could set an example in what you say?**
- **How could you set an example by the way you live?**
 - **What would it look like to set an example in your faith?**

Say: **Those are all great ways kids can set an example for older Christians. In fact, there were some kids in the Bible who did that very kind of thing.**

In the first story we’ll look at, there was an army commander from a country where they didn’t worship the one true God. And this commander had a bad skin disease called *leprosy*. But he had a servant who *did* know and love God. She was a little girl! Listen to what happened.

Read 2 Kings 5:3.

Say: **And you know what? Naaman went! He found the prophet Elisha and was healed!**

Ask: • **How would you describe the kind of example this girl set?** Kids can go to the signs that indicate their answers and then explain.

Say: **Thank you for sharing those ideas! I think she set an example in her faith in God—and it led to Naaman getting to see God at work! So cool!**

Let's find out what a young boy did when there was a hungry crowd of thousands of people.

Read John 6:9-11.

Ask: • **Why do you think the boy shared his lunch?**

• **What kind of example do you think he set by sharing?**

Say: **Because that boy shared his lunch—which definitely wasn't enough to feed such a big crowd—the crowd got to see Jesus do something amazing! Plus everyone got a delicious lunch. That boy set an example in the way he lived—sharing what he had.**

Both of these kids did things that seemed small but had a big impact. And you can do the same thing! We may have our own Sunday school time just for kids, but we're all a part of the same body as the teenagers and adults.

You may be younger and smaller, but you're an important part of the body! Let me show you what I mean.

Don't Use Thumbs

Ask kids to give you two thumbs up.

Say: **The thumb...not a very big part of your body, is it? Not nearly as big as your head or your leg. It's just one little part on your hand, just a couple of inches long.**

And yet it's pretty important! Let's see what the thumb helps us do.

Distribute paper and pens. Have kids try writing while holding their thumbs out in the air, not using them to touch the paper or pen.

As kids practice, go around with the shirts and water bottles, and challenge kids to button and unbutton the shirt or to pick up the water bottle with one hand without using their thumbs.

Kids can also try to turn the pages in their Bibles without thumbs.

Kids who have shoelaces can attempt to tie their shoes without thumbs. And kids who have phones can try to send a text message.

Let kids experiment with other basic tasks they think of to see how not having thumbs impacts those tasks.

Ask: • How often do you *think* about using your thumb?

• Now that you've tried to do basic things without your thumb, how important do you think it is?

• How are kids like the thumbs of the church?

• Why are kids important to the church? Why are teenagers? Why are adults?

Say: You may be small, but you're important! Like the servant girl and the boy who shared his lunch, you can do big things in this body you're a part of. We need each other, and that includes kids!



Supplies

- “Teamwork” teaching video (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](#).

Discuss and Watch “Teamwork”

Say: Today we’re learning that we need each other. Being part of the church is kind of like being on a sports team.

Ask: • If you play a sport, talk about it. How do your teammates help you?

Say: If you tried to be a whole soccer team all alone, you’d definitely lose the game! But when you work as a team, you can win! Let’s see how some soccer-playing kids had to work together in a different way.

Watch “Teamwork.”

Ask: • Why did the kids in this video need each other?

- **Tell about a time you worked together with other people.**

Say: These kids had a hard time tracking down their ball, even though they worked together. The ball kept getting moved to new places! But in the end, putting their heads together helped them solve their problem. When we work together in the church, we can do amazing things for God! But we can’t work alone; we need each other.



MUSIC VIDEO

Stand Together

[10 min]

Supplies

- “Stand Together” (watch or download [here](#))
- “Living by the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25) (watch or download [here](#))
- “Let’s Go!” (Ephesians 2:10) (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.



CRAFT

Building Blocks

[20 min]

Supplies

- Bible (click [here](#))
- 3-ounce cups (8 per child)
- straws (mix of bendy and straight straws) (8 per child)
- hole punches
- pencils
- markers
- stickers
- paper towel tubes (optional)
- scissors (optional)

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Tip

- If you're using the Low-Energy Game or Object Lesson blocks, do those first so you can use the same cups to make the craft.

Make Building Blocks

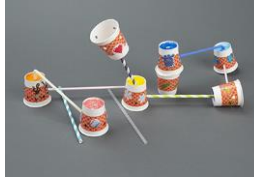
Show kids the sample craft you made. Give each child eight cups. Set out the remaining supplies to share, and have kids follow these directions to make building block toys. As kids work, they can discuss why people in the church need each other.

- Punch holes all around your cups.
- Use a pencil to poke a hole in the bottom of each cup.
- Decorate the cups with markers and stickers.

- If you have paper towel tubes, cut small rings from them and punch holes to make additional links for your straws.
- Choose eight straws to add to your building set.

Build Together

- Have kids form groups and build something by poking straws through the holes to connect their cups. (This is similar to Tinkertoys.)



Talk About It

- Ask:
- **What would this craft be like if you had only one cup and one straw?**
 - **What would the church be like if it was only one person?**
 - **Why do people in the church need each other?**

Say: **You have enough cups and straws to have some fun building. We could have even more fun when we combined our building sets together! The church is like that—we need each other. One cup and one straw wouldn't make a building set, and one person doesn't make the church. But when we work together, we can do awesome things for God!**

Have kids take their building sets home and use them to build with family and friends as they explain why people in the church need each other.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Wall Challenge

Supplies

- paper cups (approximately 5-8 per child)
- timer or smartphone
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tips

- If you're using the Craft block today, do this game first. You can use the cups from this game to make the craft. (You can also use the cups for the Object Lesson block before making the craft.)
- 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](#).

Hold Cups Against a Wall Individually

Say: **I have a challenge for you! How many cups can you hold against a wall like this? Place a cup against a wall so the rim of the cup touches the wall. You'll get one point for every cup you can hold against a wall of our room. You can use hands, feet, nose, or any body part! But you can't ask for help, and you can't stack the cups inside each other. You'll have 30 seconds, and we'll see who can hold the most cups against a wall.**

- Have kids move to be near a wall.
- Give each child a short stack of cups to start, and have an adult or teen helper ready to supply more to kids as needed.
- Remind kids that they cannot nest the cups inside each other. The rim of each cup needs to touch the wall.
- On "go," start a 30-second timer, and encourage kids as they place cups on a wall. If you'd like, play high-energy music while kids play.
- After 30 seconds, shout "Freeze!" and have kids hold their cups against the wall. Count to see who's holding the most cups to find the winner.

Hold Cups Against a Wall as a Team

Say: **That looked pretty difficult. Let's play again, but this time we'll work in teams. Now let's see how many points your *whole team* can get.**

- Form equal-size teams of three or four kids. Have each child bring his or her individual cups from the first round, and be ready to offer teams more as needed.
- On “go,” start a 30-second timer, and encourage teams to communicate well as they work together to place cups on a wall. If you’d like, play high-energy music while kids play.
- After 30 seconds, shout “Freeze!” and have teams hold their cups against the wall. Count cups to discover each team’s collective score.
- Collect all the cups, and have kids sit in a circle to debrief.

Talk About It

Ask: • **How did working together improve your second round score?**

Say: **When we worked together, we got more points. And when we team up with people in our lives, we can do pretty cool things.**

Ask: • **Tell about a time you worked with others to accomplish something. What did you like about working with others? What were the challenges?** Share an example from your own life to begin.

Say: **God made the church so we can work together. We need each other!** Have teams give each other high-fives before moving on to your next activity.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Team Toss-It

Supplies

- plastic tablecloths (1 for every 4 kids)
- beach balls (1 for every 8 kids)
- masking tape
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Make a masking tape line on the floor in the center of your playing area.

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](#).

Recommended for 8 or more kids.

Toss a Beach Ball Back and Forth

Say: **Let's play a game called Team Toss-It. Using a tablecloth, you'll work together to toss a beach ball back and forth. Don't touch the ball with your hands or let it drop to the floor. Let's see how many tosses we can get without messing up!**

- Form teams of approximately four kids. Give each team a plastic tablecloth.
- Pair up teams so each team is standing across from another on either side of the masking tape line.
- Have teams hold the tablecloths stretched out with each child holding a side or corner.
- On only one side of the line, place a beach ball on each team's tablecloth.
- On "go," have kids work together to toss the ball to the team across from them by swinging the tablecloth. It may take a few tries to get the hang of it. Have teams count to see how many times they can send the ball back and forth without dropping it.
- Kids on the receiving team will work together to catch the ball in their tablecloth.

- If the ball drops to the ground, have teams start over and count again.
- If you'd like, play high-energy music as kids play.
- Stop the game after about seven minutes. Ask teams to shout out their highest score, then circle up to debrief.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What do you think would happen if one of your teammates let go of the tablecloth?**

Say: **We need each other. If someone lets the tablecloth drop, the ball drops, too! Now let's think about groups or teams you've been on. Maybe it's a sports team, a group project at school, or your family trying to accomplish a task.**

Ask: • **How is working together to keep the ball in the air like working with a team of people in your life?**

Say: **We need each other. When you're on a team, each person plays a special role, and things don't go so well without everyone cooperating. God's family is like a team. We each play a special part to share God's love with others.**



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

[5 min]

Pray for the Church

Turn and Pray

- Pray for people in different areas of your church while turning in your room to face the general location of those people. Here are some ideas; adjust and add your own!
 - Pray for the people in the lobby.
 - Pray for the adults in the main service.
 - Pray for the babies in the nursery.
 - Pray for the teenagers in the youth ministry.
 - Pray for safety in the parking lot.
 - Pray for friendships on the playground.
- Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.



TAKE-HOME

[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.

Epic Teachings of the Bible, Lesson 13: Spiritual Gifts: The Body of Christ, Design and base content

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