



UNIT 32 | SESSION 5

WE ARE PART OF ONE CHURCH

1 CORINTHIANS 12

CHRIST CONNECTION

Because of Jesus and what He has done, believers from every nation, tribe, people, and language can humbly come together as one body — the church.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

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

MEMORY VERSE

1 Corinthians 12:12

PREPARE



Take time to reflect
on today's lesson

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 may not all be 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 kids in your classroom who have trusted in Jesus, 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.



WE ARE PART OF ONE CHURCH

The apostle Paul wrote a letter to the church at Corinth. Years after Paul helped start the church in Corinth, the believers there were facing problems. One problem was that the church was divided. The people did not always get along or agree about what was most important. Paul wanted this to stop. “Is Christ divided?” Paul asked. Of course not. Jesus came to bring people together as one body — brothers and sisters in God’s family.

In his letter, Paul told about the importance of the church working together like one body. Paul wrote, “Think about the human body. 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. The Holy Spirit brings together many different people, but we are all one in Christ.

“The body is not one part but many,” Paul wrote. “A foot shouldn’t say, ‘I am not a hand, so I don’t belong to the body.’ A foot is just as much a part of the body as a hand. An ear shouldn’t say, ‘I am not an eye, so I don’t belong to the body.’ An ear is just as much a part of the body as an eye.

“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 arranged each part of the body just as He wanted. If they were all the same part, how would it be a body? A body is made up of many parts!

“In the same way, an eye can’t say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you!’ and the head can’t say to the feet, ‘I don’t need you!’ Even if a part is weaker than another, it is still an important part of the body.”

Paul said that the church — like the body — should be unified. The members should have the same concern for one another. “If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it,” Paul wrote.

“We are the body of Christ, and individual members of it. God gives each member a specific purpose and different gifts. Some are apostles, some are prophets, some are teachers. Not everyone is the same, but every part of the body of Christ is important.”

CHRIST CONNECTION

Because of Jesus and what He has done, believers from every nation, tribe, people, and language can humbly come together as one body — the church.

WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive

OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group.

Before heading to Large Group, kids can work on the provided coloring or activity pages. You can also do the Memory Verse Activity below as a class!

MEMORY VERSE

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

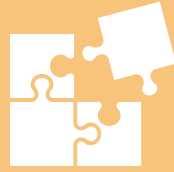
- 1 Corinthians 12:12, ESV

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

This is our last week in Unit 32, so we'll have a new memory verse next Sunday! Our verse, written above, is 1 Corinthians 12:12.

Today, kids can work on whatever verses they want to memorize. If they don't have one they're already working on, encourage them to pick a new verse!

K12 ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with younger kids after Large Group

ACTIVITY

Divide the kids into groups and give each group blocks that all are the same size/shape (so each group should receive different size/shaped blocks than the others).

Instruct each group to build a house using only the blocks you gave them. After a few minutes, have the groups merge and share their blocks to create a house as one big group.

CONNECT THE DOTS



When you only had one shape to build with, your house seemed incomplete or maybe didn't look like a house at all. But when you used different shaped and sized blocks, your creation was better and more complete! God builds His church the same way — He gives people different skills, talents, and passions so when we come together, the church is complete.

CONNECT THE DOTS



The church is not just a building — it's the people inside! The building is a place for God's church to meet together to worship Him, learn more about Him through the Bible and encourage one another. When you accept the free gift of salvation from Him, we become a part of His family and His church!

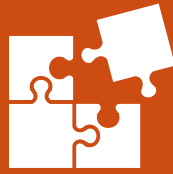
CRAFT

Have kids glue the envelope to the construction paper — glue the flap so that the envelope stays open. Kids can draw doors and a cross on the envelope to make it look like a church building.

Give each kid 4-5 popsicle sticks and have them decorate them like people. Then, they can put the people into the envelope and write "We Are The Church" on the paper or use a sticker.



345 ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games
with older kids after
Large Group

ACTIVITY

Provide each kid with a piece of paper and a pencil and challenge them to write their name without using their hands. Invite kids to get creative to figure out how to write without their hands!

Next, have kids go to one side of the room (or one end of the hallway) and challenge them to cross to the other side without using their feet. Again, invite them to get creative!

CONNECT THE DOTS



Without your hands, writing your name becomes very challenging, and without your feet it becomes difficult to cross the room. Our hands and feet play an important role in our day-to-day activities. In the same way, God gives each person different talents and passions for their important role within the church! We need every person to do their part to help the church grow and share the gospel with others.

CONNECT THE DOTS



The church is made up of people - not just bricks, windows, and doors. When we all come together and bring our different talents, we make the church complete and can work together to share the gospel with everyone!

CRAFT

Today, kids are creating a picture of a church made up of paper hands!

Give each kid one of the provided craft sheets and have them decorate as they desire.

Once they're done, have them cut out each hand and work to put them together to create the church building image.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids while they wait to be picked up

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

After Large Group, ask the following questions and lead your class to discuss.

1. Why does God give Christians spiritual gifts? Why do we need different spiritual gifts?
2. What gifts do you have that you could use to worship and serve Jesus in the church?
3. Why is it important to work together as believers and use our gifts for the sake of the gospel?
4. How have you seen people in the church work together before?

HAVE EXTRA TIME?

Review the books of the Bible!

Watch the “Books of the Bible” song on the TV in your class, then give the kids the provided puzzle to work on.

Optional: Make it a game by dividing the class into teams, then having them race to put the puzzle together before the other team(s).



BEFORE YOU GO...

Please clean up by doing the following:

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins (**Kinder leaders: Curriculum bins go back inside the bottom cabinet**)
2. Clean all trash off the tables
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in holder
5. Turn off TVs as you leave

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!