



UNIT 32 | SESSION 5

# WE ARE PART OF ONE CHURCH

1 CORINTHIANS 12

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Believers are part of one church.

## BIG PICTURE QUESTION

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

## MEMORY VERSE

The church has many people who help. 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.

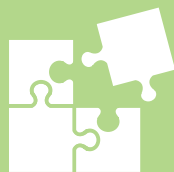
Though we may not all be called to be pastors, we might be given the roles of Sunday School teachers, small group leaders, camera operators, sound engineers, bakers, meal deliverers, and so on for our churches. Paul calls us to pursue unity in the body, even amidst our diverse giftings in the church. 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 children 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.

# OPENING & ACTIVITIES



Connect with children through games and activities

## WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them transition in and feel welcome as they play games and interact with other children.

## ACTIVITY 1: FOAM DICE GAME

Have children take turns rolling the provided foam dice. Whatever number the dice lands on, have them do the corresponding action:

1. jump
2. run in place
3. clap hands
4. nod/shake head
5. wiggle around
6. spin around once

## CONNECT THE DOTS



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 morning 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.

## CONNECT THE DOTS



We created different things, but when we put all the pieces together, it made a body! The church, all Christians everywhere, works the same way. Paul wrote that we are the body of Christ. Not everyone is the same, but everyone is an important part of the church. Believers should come together because of the gospel. Jesus saves sinners, and because of Jesus, believers can come together as one church.

## ACTIVITY 2: BODY OF CHRIST

Give each child a ball of play dough and inform children that they'll be working together to create a body.

Assign a body part to each child such as a head, neck, torso, arms (2), hands (2), legs (2), and feet (2). Each child should only form one part of the body.

Lead children to work together to mold a body where everyone contributes. Consider forming two or three groups of children depending upon your setting.

# CRAFT & EXAMPLE



Help children with a craft connected to the Bible story

## CONNECT THE DOTS



Paul wrote the church in Corinth and told them the church is like a body. You drew part of 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.

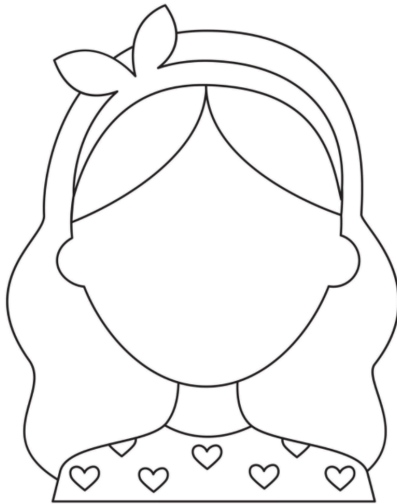
## CRAFT: SELF-PORTRAITS

**Supplies:** self-portrait templates, markers/crayons, stickers

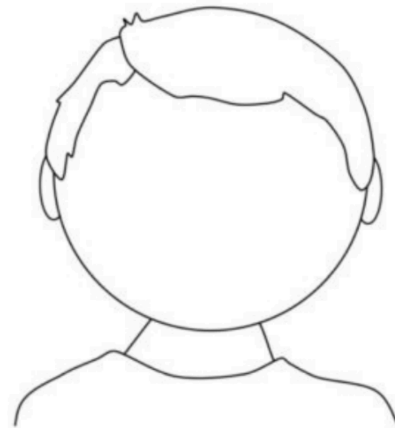
Give each child one of the provided self-portrait templates. Allow children to draw and decorate themselves with markers and stickers.

Talk about the Bible story as they work, reminding them to draw any parts they miss (two eyes, a nose, a mouth, etc.).

I am part of the body of Christ!



I am part of the body of Christ!



# BIBLE TIME



Review the Bible story with your class

## PREPARE

Open your Bible to **1 Corinthians 12** and tell the following story.

## WE ARE PART OF THE CHURCH

Paul wrote a letter to the church in Corinth, which he had helped start. The church was having problems. Some of the believers did not get along. Paul wanted this to stop. “Is Jesus divided?” Paul asked. No, He isn’t. Jesus does not want His people to be divided either. Believers are like one body — all brothers and sisters in God’s family.

In the letter, Paul wrote 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. 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?”

“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. “If one member suffers, all the members suffer, too; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice, too,” Paul wrote.

“We are the body of Christ, and individual members of it. Not everyone is the same, but every part of the body of Christ is important.”

## CHRIST CONNECTION

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

# SNACK & CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning

## SNACK TIME

**Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show children the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions and retell parts of the Bible story as needed.**

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?
3. What example did Paul use to help us understand what the body of Christ is like?
4. What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.

## CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Pick up toys and games from around the room and put them away. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let children work on today's Bible story coloring page or activity page until their parents arrive.

You can also choose a book to read to children as they work or for those who don't want to work. Please make the effort to have children quietly engaged in the last few minutes of the service. When parents arrive to pick up their child, share about something their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

## BEFORE YOU GO...

**Please clean up by doing the following:**

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant
2. Spot sweep if needed
3. Return toys to closet, close door
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room
5. Return storage cubes to **Room 108**

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!**