



SPIRITUAL GIFTS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31

The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

CAN I JOIN YOUR CLUB?

The object of this puppet skit is to talk about the church being Christ's body. Use the following discussion to talk about the Gospel with the children.

- Puppet: Hey, how is everybody doing?
- Teacher: We are doing fine, Puppet. How are you?
- Puppet: I'm doing fine. Can I join your club? It looks like fun!
- Teacher: Well, I'm afraid this isn't a club, Puppet.
- Puppet: Well, when I drove up I saw this great big building and thought for sure it was some kind of club, or school... that's it! I'll bet this is a school!
- Teacher: Nope, we are really not a school. They do call this class Sunday school, but we are not a school.
- Puppet: Aha, a Sunday school! That means this building is a church.
- Teacher: Well, now you are correct. But the building is a church building. The actual church body is made up of all the people who are a part of the church.
- Puppet: A body! What do you mean by a body? How can more than one person be a body?
- Teacher: The Bible describes the church as a body and the head is Jesus Christ Himself. We are like His arms and legs. Though each of us is a different part and has different gifts, by working all together we form something bigger than ourselves!
- Puppet: Well, can I join your body?
- Teacher: Anyone who places his hope in Jesus Christ and His death on the cross becomes a part of His body, the church.
- Puppet: I guess I'll have to be an arm or an eye or something because you already have a head and I don't have any feet! (Puppet shows his lower body with no legs and then laughs.)

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I HAVE NO NEED OF YOU

Supplies

- a bandana
- some cord
- child's puzzle (25 pieces or less)
- table
- chairs

Ask for three volunteers from your class.

Blindfold the first volunteer, gently tie the hands of a second volunteer behind his back and tie the legs of the third volunteer together. Bring out the child's puzzle and place it on a table.

Explain to the volunteers that they will need to walk, not hop, over to the puzzle, bring it back to a table with chairs and put it together. Remind them not to talk as they work. Their handicaps should force them to work together and thus illustrate the Scripture lesson of the day. When the exercise is completed, talk about the wisdom of God in giving us different gifts.

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

In 1 Corinthians 12:27 Paul declares "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." The gifts of God which are given to us as He determines are not given merely for our individual pleasure or pursuit.

There is a greater purpose: the building up of Christ's body, the church. Though God has given various gifts to individual members, all believers are to pursue their spiritual gifts to strengthen the body of Christ. Jesus Christ died that a people might be reconciled to God.

Prior to the death of Christ, the presence of God was limited to the Most Holy Place behind the curtain in the temple. At the death of Christ, that curtain was torn in two, symbolizing a wonderful change. After Christ's death we, the believing body of the church, are the temple of the Holy Spirit. Together we can encourage each other with the gifts God has bestowed upon us, all made possible because of the sacrificial death of Christ.

