

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31



The STORY

Read about Spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:12-31.

Please note: *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What is this passage teaching us? (Christians are members of Christ's body. We all need each other because we have each been given different gifts.)
- What are some of the gifts God gave us? (Apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, gifts of healing, helping, administrating, tongues.)
- What do we all have in common? (We all share in the Holy Spirit no matter what our gifts are.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: body with ears in place of arms. Engage the children by asking:

- What is the problem with the person in the drawing? (He doesn't have arms. He has ears where his arms should be.)
- What problems do you think this person would have living life without arms? (He wouldn't be able to pick up things, write, etc.)
- What do you think this person might be really good at doing? (With extra ears this person might be really good at hearing.)
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-20 again and ask why would this person need others? (This person might need others to help him carry things, open doors, etc.)

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ASSEMBLY WARM UP

In today's lesson we will see that if we desire anything more than God, even if it is a good thing, is a bad thing. Ask the children to name their favorites, this can be favorite flavors of ice cream to favorite sport.

Ask them how much we should love our favorites? (They might do this by showing with their hands outstretched as though they were telling you how long of a fish they caught.)

Ask them if we should love our favorites more than God? (No.)

Ask them if they remember who Samuel is? (He was the little boy who's mother was Hannah and who lived with Eli the priest.) Tell them in today's story Samuel is grown up and God is using him as a prophet.

Describe to your class that a prophet is a messenger for God to men.

Act out just how a prophet would work. Tell the class that you are going to pretend to be God and pick a boy out of the class to play the role of prophet.

Whisper the following things in his ear and tell him to tell the rest of the class real loud. Do these one at a time.

God is good - God loves all men - God sent Jesus to die on the cross.

Tell the class that when God used a prophet, like Samuel the people were supposed to listen to his words and obey. They were not obeying God but man.

Pray for the lesson and the teachers by name.



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SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- Why are different people with different gifts called Christ's body? (The only reason we can come together as God's body or people is because Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Jesus is called the head of the church.)
- Read through the list of gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:27-30 then ask the children why God gives these kinds of gifts to the church. (Jesus gave gifts to believers for the benefit of the church, using people to administrate grace for the benefit of the church.)
- Tell the children that God gives these gifts and explain to them how the gifts help the church.
 - Apostles – Apostles plant and establish new churches and care for existing churches. In this passage, the apostle Paul is caring for the Corinthian church.
 - Prophets – In the very next chapter Paul tells us that prophecy is for building up and encouraging individuals in the church.
 - Miracles – God often uses miracles in the church to help others believe in the power of God.
 - Gifts of Healing – God loves to bless a person who is sick with healing and demonstrate His glory.
 - Helping – We all need help from time to time, the gift of helps is a great way to show God's compassion.
 - Tongues – In 1 Corinthians 14 Paul tells us the gift of tongues is for our own benefit more than for the benefit of others. God gives us gifts for our own benefit as well!
 - Interpreting Tongues – This gift is used to help everyone understand what the person speaking in tongues is praying so that all may be encouraged.



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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.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

