



LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: The Holy Spirit Makes Us One Family

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12

WORD OF WONDER: Romans 8:14

I talked my kids into helping make brownies. They cracked a couple eggs, mixed the oil, water, and brownie mix (not from scratch, we're not that fancy!) and put them in the oven—and they were ... chef's kiss. A simple recipe, but it's still important to use all the right ingredients and correctly. That's like the church. There are a lot of different parts, and when mixed well together, they produce something beautiful. Paul liked to refer to the church as a body. Similar to a good recipe, all the parts of the body of Christ need to mix well and work together for the whole body to function as it should.

It should be no surprise that the Spirit is at work in the church. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4–27. Paul reminds us that while we are all separate parts of the body, we are united in one Spirit. We may have different gifts, strengths, ministries, and interests when it comes to serving our church, but always the same Spirit. Where do you fit within your church body? (Children's ministry, maybe?)

Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 12 also remind us that our gifts, while different, actually come from the Spirit. Just as our physical bodies need different working parts doing their unique jobs, we—the church—need different people with unique gifts and talents so together we can thrive, and in thriving, bring glory to God. How can you encourage others in serving with their spiritual gifts?

—Kramer Mize

Ministry Volunteer

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LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

THE BODY OF CHRIST

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

The Holy Spirit is God, one with the Father and the Son. He is fully powerful, fully wise, and fully loving. He inspired Scripture, unites people to Jesus, and empowers believers to serve one another and spread the good news that Jesus is Lord.

WHAT?

The Holy Spirit establishes a new community—the family of God—because every believer receives the same Spirit. The Spirit gives each person gifts and abilities to serve others and build up the church. Every believer is an important part of the body of Christ.

WHERE?

Corinth was a Roman colony in Achaia (uh-KAY-uh), which was south of Macedonia in the southern part of present-day Greece. It was about 50 miles west of Athens. Paul likely wrote 1 Corinthians from Ephesus, which was across the Aegean Sea in present-day Turkey.

WHEN?

Paul first arrived in Corinth and established the church there during his Second Missionary Journey around AD 50. He likely wrote 1 Corinthians around AD 53 or 54, during his ministry in Ephesus.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Sin separates us from God, but Jesus broke the power of sin and defeated death on the cross. The presence of the Holy Spirit means that we are now part of God's forever family, empowered to love one another and spread the good news.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Activity: What's a Spiritual Gift

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), gift bags (6), tissue paper (6–12 sheets)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Toddler Spiritual Gifts Sheet

Print a copy of the Toddler Spiritual Gifts Sheet and cut apart the images. Place each image inside a gift bag with tissue paper on top.

Gifts are so much fun! Raise your hand if you like gifts. Allow the kids to respond. Me too! I have a gift now. Let's open this gift together to see what's inside. Pull out one picture from one of the bags. Hmmm. This doesn't look like a present we would expect, does it? Let kids respond. But it's something extra special. The picture shows a spiritual gift!



A spiritual gift is something God gives to everyone who is part of His family. We use this special gift to serve others! Ask a few kids to pull out pictures from the other bags. We'll learn more in our lesson today about the spiritual gifts that God gives in our lesson today. Let's keep exploring some of the spiritual gifts God gives. As the kids pull out pictures, ask them what spiritual gift may be represented by each picture. If they guess incorrectly or name something that isn't a spiritual gift from the Bible, it's OK. The point of this activity is not to memorize or teach every spiritual gift but to allow the kids to be curious and explore the concept of gifts from God.

Spiritual gifts aren't like presents we get on a holiday or a birthday, but something special God gives to everyone who is part of His family. In God's big story today, we'll learn about the spiritual gifts from God and how the Holy Spirit makes us one family.

Our Wonder Truth today is THE HOLY SPIRIT MAKES US ONE FAMILY.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

THE HOLY SPIRIT—*Point up with a single finger.*

MAKES US—*Make two fists and put one on top of the other.*

ONE FAMILY—*Clasp hands together.*



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LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **Father God, thank You for loving us as Your children. We're glad to be a part of Your family and want to know more of Your story. Holy Spirit, help us understand more about You as we dig into the Bible. We love You! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? The Bible

Ask: Why is the Bible special? Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.

Tell the Bible Story

Read from the script provided:

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a person named Paul. Let's find out from the Bible what happened to him!

Today I need your help! I need you to listen for two words in God's big story.

When I say, "Jesus" during the story, raise your arms! Have kids raise both arms. **When I say, "family," wave your hands.** Have kids wave both hands. Do a few practice rounds, calling out each word and having kids do the corresponding action.

Do you have your listening ears on? Let's hear God's big story now.

Jesus (raise arms) **came so all people can be saved. He died on the cross, rose from the dead, and went up to heaven. Then God sent the Holy Spirit.**

The Holy Spirit is God—our helper. The Spirit gave the disciples power to share the good news about Jesus (raise both arms) **all over the world. All kinds of people believed in Jesus** (raise arms). **They all became children of God and members of one family** (wave hands)—**God's family** (wave hands)!

A man named Paul shared about Jesus (raise arms) **with lots of people. Paul wrote letters to churches. In a letter, Paul taught that the Holy Spirit is our helper.**

The Spirit helps people know and share that Jesus (raise arms) **is Lord! He helps people by**

giving them the ability to do special things for others. These special things are called gifts. These gifts are not presents like people get on a birthday or holiday. People can use the gifts from the Spirit to serve others.

When we follow *Jesus* (raise arms), we are all part of God's *family* (wave hands). All people are needed in God's big *family* (wave hands). We take care of one another. We share each other's joy and sadness. We love each other as *Jesus* (raise arms) loves us.

The Spirit gives every follower of *Jesus* (raise arms) a special way to serve others. The Holy Spirit makes us one *family* (wave hands).

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

—Romans 8:14