



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

Contributor to Wonder Ink

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

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: toy people figures, coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: The Body of Christ Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Family Time

Set-up: Set out a dollhouse and an assortment of toy people figures to create families. Be sure to include a variety of toy figures (since not all families look the same).

Play: Encourage kids to create families and play with the families inside the dollhouse.

Play Station: The Body of Christ Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the Body of Christ Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of a gift they would like to receive.



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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

Use the script provided:

A man named Paul shared about Jesus with lots of people. Paul traveled to many places and wrote many letters to share this good news about Jesus. In one letter, Paul shared about the work of the Holy Spirit.

Paul taught that the Holy Spirit is our helper. The Spirit helps people know and share that Jesus 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 their gifts from the Spirit to serve others. Hold up the picture of the hands. Paul said, "A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other" (1 Corinthians 12:7). The Spirit gives some people the gift of wisdom. Hold up the picture of the owl. He gives others the gift of great faith. Hold up the picture of the Bible. And the Spirit gives some the gift of doing miracles or the gift of speaking God's message. Hold up the picture of the mouth. Some have the gifts of teaching or leading others. Hold up the picture of the teacher. These are just a few of the gifts God can give us! These gifts are only from the Holy Spirit when you ask Jesus to live in your heart.

When we have Jesus in our hearts, we are part of God's family. In God's family, we are like one body with different parts. The body needs each part. We all have a special part in God's family. Your special gifts will be different from your friend's special gifts, but all of the gifts are important. Paul wrote, "Our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it." (1 Corinthians 12:18). Every gift was chosen on purpose and with you in

mind! Then Paul said, “The eye can’t say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you!’ The head can’t say to the feet, ‘I don’t need you!’ In fact, it is just the opposite. The parts of the body that seem to be weaker are the ones we can’t do without” (1 Corinthians 12:21–22).

Every person is an important part of God’s family. We take care of one another. We are always there for each other. The Holy Spirit helps us build each other up and cheer for one another. Hold up the picture of the heart. We go through hard things together. We celebrate together too. We love each other just the way Jesus loves us. Jesus shows us how we can love each other well.

Every follower of Jesus gets the same Spirit. The Spirit give each of us a special way to serve others. The Holy Spirit joins us together as one big family.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- **Who makes us one family?** *(the Holy Spirit)*
- **If one part of Christ’s body (the church) is hurting, what happens to the rest of the body? Is it happy, hurting, or lost?** *(The whole church hurts too.)*
- **Which part of Christ’s body is most important?** *(Trick question! All parts are important!)*
- **How does it feel knowing you have a special place in the body of Christ?**
- **What’s something you are good at? How can you use that to help others?**
- **Share about someone you know who is gifted and serves others.**
- **What is one spiritual gift that we heard about today?**
- **Do you feel like God has given you a spiritual gift to use to help others? If so, which gift?**

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

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

—Romans 8:14

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What do you think it means to be a child of God?**
- **Who can you pray for who needs help?**



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LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Craft: Steps to Serve

SUPPLIES: coloring utensils, glue sticks, wooden clothespins (1 per kid), days of the week labels (1 set per kid)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Steps to Serve Sheet (1 per kid)

We're learning how each of us can serve in God's family. Let's make a special craft to remind us to use our special gifts each day this week.

Have kids put their days of the week labels on their foot. Kids can decorate the foot and clothespin using the provided coloring utensils.

In our story today, we learned that the Holy Spirit helps people by giving them the ability to do special things for others. These are spiritual gifts. People can use the gifts from the Spirit to serve others. The Spirit gives some people the gift of wisdom. He gives others the gift of great faith or the gift of doing miracles or speaking God's message. There are even more gifts from God than that! Every person is an important part of God's family. Every spiritual gift is important.

Invite the kids to clip the wooden clothespins onto the corresponding day of the week. Encourage kids to think about ways they can serve others each day of the week (picking up toys, setting the table, picking up trash, making a picture for a friend, etc.). You can also brainstorm ways the kids can use their gifts to serve in your church and community.

You can take this craft home and move your clothespin each day to track how you are serving others each day! It doesn't have to be something big or fancy that you do to serve others. It can be as simple as a kind word of encouragement. That can change someone's whole day! Pray and ask God each day to help you serve others and use your gifts.

