

Many Parts, One Body

Grades
1-2

BODY

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31

What's happening in this story?

Paul is writing to a community of Christians divided by their spirituality. However, they deem some gifts as less valuable than others. Paul uses an extended analogy of the human body to explain how every part is important and is to be honored. Because the focus here is on the unity of the church, the gifts Paul highlights relate to ministry: prophecy, teaching, healing, leadership, and so on.

What does this story mean for kids?

Kids will hear the words *ear*, *eye*, *foot*, and so on and think: *This is a story about bodies*. Because their thinking is still so literal—especially among the younger ones—they will need help making the jump to the bigger picture Paul presents. They can extend the concept to see that each of us is unique and valuable, not meant to be someone else.

Why this theme?

People from all walks of life make up the church, and they all bring different talents to the table. The Christian church is always healthiest when people are respected as unique individuals and welcomed as part of the body of Christ.

AGE LEVEL TIP

For first and second graders, body parts can be funny, embarrassing, or silly. But it's important to remember that God created our whole bodies, and we should honor them all. Encourage kids to use kind words today—*bottom* instead of *butt*—and give gentle reminders that some body parts are private.



GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Markers
- Masking tape

LESSON SUPPLIES

- Beach balls (1 per 5 kids)
- Game tokens (1 per kid)
- Dice (1 die per 4–5 kids)
- Toy car (1)

Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Kids make labels by tearing pieces of masking tape, then draw or write different public body parts such as *arm*, or *neck* on the pieces and wear the labels on their corresponding body parts. For fun, kids can switch around labels (for example, wear an *arm* label on their leg).

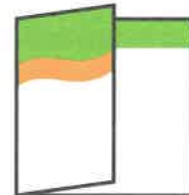
Circle up with kids for an opening conversation.

In today's Bible story, we will learn that we are all part of the body of Christ. I wonder what that means to you. Pause. Show kids the toy car. A car body has many parts. Let's name some of the parts of this car body. Can you ride safely in a car with no tires or a steering wheel? The body of Christ needs all of its parts to grow in faith. Today we will explore how we are all important parts of the church body.

Pray together: **Thank you, Jesus, for bringing each of us into the church—the body of Christ. Amen.**

Pass out leaflets and markers.

Hold up a leaflet. **What do you see in these three photos?** Allow kids to respond. **We see an eye, hands, arms, and feet. How do these body parts look like yours? How are they different? Tell me how we use each of these body parts for the work we do**



at church. Listen and discuss. **Now draw one picture of you doing one of the things we've talked about in the space on the right.** Wrap up by asking: **How do these body parts work together?** Listen. Collect their leaflets until Respond.

Gather kids around the screen where you'll watch the video.

Who loves granola or granola bars? Victor loves his granola with an extra ingredient. Let's watch and find out what it is.

View Episode 13, "Victor Vision," on the Year Gold Spring PreK–Grade 2 DVD.

Ask kids these questions about the video:

- **What does Victor want to add to the granola?**
- **Describe Victor's dream.**
- **If we all liked the same things, dressed the same way, and thought the same thoughts, how would the world be different?**
- **When God created the world, did God create only one kind of bug? How many types of bugs did God create? Let's name as many as we can.**
- **Why is Victor happy when he wakes up?**



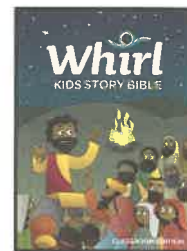
Open your Whirl Kids Story Bibles.

Let's find our story today! Help kids find "Many Parts, One Body" on page 382. Before you read, invite kids to look for body parts.

Read the story and Ada and Otto's questions and comments on each page.

Ask these questions after you read the story:

- **What was happening in Corinth? Who did something about it?**
- **In Paul's letter he wrote: "Together we can love and care for each other, just like the parts of a body! How can we love and care for each other in our community?"**
- **If our whole body were an eye, what could we do? What couldn't we do?**
- **Paul wanted the Corinthians to work together. How does fighting stop us from working together?**
- **Name some good ways to work together.**



Gather near the Wall Chart to place today's sticker.

Point out the Testament (New), Bible section (Letters), and character image (Paul). **Paul knew that all of God's people are different and important. They were the church together. Let's add a sticker to remind us of how Paul wrote about the church and told people they were like different parts of a body (hand, eye, foot).** Point to the corresponding images of body parts on pages 382 and 385 in the Whirl Kids Story Bible.



Play together!

Divide into groups of five. Groups stand in small circles. Give each group a beach ball. **Your job today is to keep this ball in the air as long as possible, working as a team.** Play one round for a few minutes or until every ball has touched the ground. Ask the whole group: **What did you do as a team to keep the ball in the air?** Then say: **Let's try again using only our shoulders.** Go another round and again stop when all the balls have touched the ground. **Let's try one more time using only our knees.** Recap after the final round: **The body of Christ works together. It is important that we have each other. You are each part of the body of Christ!**

BIBLE BIT

Jesus shows his knowledge of scripture by using words from the prophet Isaiah to teach people about serving the poor, healing the sick, and freeing the oppressed.

WATCH IT AGAIN

Who in Victor's dream helps him understand that we all need to be different? Why do we all need to be different?

OUR CHURCH

Ask everyone in your community to write one gift they give the community on a sticky nametag, then wear the tags in worship. How many different gifts does it take to be the body of Christ?

RESPOND 10

Pass out leaflets, markers, game tokens, and dice.

Unfold and tear off leaflet square.

1. Divide kids into small groups of four or five.
2. Hold up the square and discuss the different gifts listed on the page. **This square is a game board. Let's learn how to play!**
3. **This game is all about being the body of Christ. Different people in our church and our communities do different things to help the church run and to teach each other about Jesus.**
4. Explain that each group will only need one leaflet square to play this game. Then pass out game tokens and dice. **Place your token on the space that says "Smile."**
5. **Beginning with the youngest person in your group, take turns rolling the die and moving your token the number of spaces you roll. When you land on a segment, read the word on that segment, then write the name of a person you know who can do that thing for the church. Segments can have more than one name. Keep moving around the game board like the hands of a clock until all your segments are full.**
6. When kids finish, or when time runs out, gather to wrap up. **There are a lot of different names on our squares. It takes a lot of people with different gifts to be the body of Christ! If your square was not used, try playing the game at home.**

LAUNCH 10

Circle up with kids for a quick review.

Paul wrote: The church is like a body. We all have ONE body, but every body has MANY parts. Let's all put our hands in the center. Do our hands look exactly the same? No. Now let's hold hands. We need our hands working together to be the body of Christ in the world.

Pass out leaflet panels and markers.

We are all part of the body of Christ. Kids write their name on one another's leaflets as a reminder that each person is an important part of the church.

Send kids out with a blessing.

Circle up with kids. **God blesses all of us. And that means me** (place a hand on your chest). **And that means you** (place your other hand on the shoulder of the kid next to you). Each kid passes the blessing by repeating those words and actions. When the blessing makes it back to you, say, **Go and bless the world.**

Thank kids for coming today. Remind them of the Family Square on the other side of the leaflet.