

Many Parts, One Body

PreK-
K

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

Preschool kids and kindergartners enjoy all the fun things their bodies can do. They can run so fast and jump so high and stomp so loud! Help them celebrate the wonderful, amazing bodies God created.



GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Crayons
- Scissors

LESSON SUPPLIES

- Jigsaw puzzles
- Beanbag

WHIRL SUPPLIES • WHIRL KIDS STORY BIBLES • DVD • WALL CHART & STICKER • LEAFLETS

Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Set out the jigsaw puzzles. Help kids discover that every piece has a different shape and a different image on its surface. Each piece is a unique and necessary part of the puzzle, just like we are all unique and necessary parts of God's family.

Circle up with kids for an opening conversation.

I wonder how many body parts we have. Does anyone want to guess? I expect it's a big number. Let's wiggle some body parts. Can you wiggle your head, your toes, your elbows, or your nose? The church is like our body and has many parts. This Bible story is about the many parts of the body of the church.

Pray together: **God, there are so many different parts to your church. Thank you for making each of us different so we can be your church together. Amen.**

Pass out leaflets and crayons.

The Bible story today talks about some body parts—the foot, the hand, and the eye. The leaflet has three of each of these body parts. The drawings are all the same, but God made all of us different. Use your crayons to make all the eyes different, all the feet different, and all the hands different. Collect their leaflets until Respond.



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

In today's video, we get a little idea of what it might be like if everyone were the same. Let's sit quietly to watch together.

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

Ask kids these questions about the video:

- What did Victor want to put in the trail mix?
- What happened when Victor was hit in the head with a sausage?
- Where do you like to share trail mix?
- Why is Victor glad that everyone is different?
- Think of all the different kids God has created over time. I wonder how they can *all* be different?



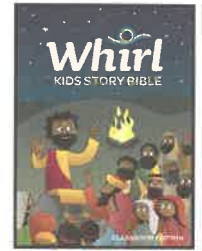
Open your Whirl Kids Story Bibles.

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

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

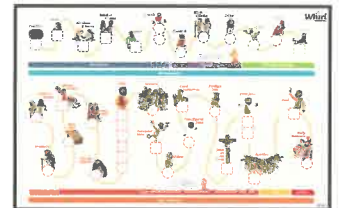
Ask these questions after you read the story:

- **Why were the people in Corinth arguing?**
- **Name one of the body parts talked about in the story.**
- **What is your strongest body part?**
- **Who does God think is most important?**
- **Why do you like to play with people who are different from you?**



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

Point out the Testament (New) 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 the body parts on page 385 in the Whirl Kids Story Bible.



Play together!

Form teams of two to four kids. In this game, kids move across the room as quickly as possible with all team members touching the same body part together. **For the first round, everyone on the team must touch fingers. Now, move across the room together! For the second round, move across the room touching elbows.** Additional rounds might include touching knees, legs, backs, or toes. Teams could also try elbows to shoulders or elbows to backs. **What other silly ways can we move together? God made us with so many wonderful body parts. Our church is like a body of many parts. We have many wonderful people who can help the church in different ways.**

BIBLE BIT

Paul encourages believers to celebrate their unique gifts and avoid viewing differences with competition, envy, or pride. We're strongest when we work together in unity.

WATCH IT AGAIN

List the trail mix ingredients named in the video, and add others that aren't named to the list. Tally kids' favorites. How many different favorites does your group have?

OUR CHURCH

Visit with a person who coordinates volunteers. Talk with kids about how people decide to serve God in different ways.

RESPOND 10

Pass out leaflets and have the beanbag ready.

Unfold and tear off leaflet square.

1. **The leaflet shows the video church with lots of different rooms. Our church has different rooms too, and lots of people who do different things in those rooms. When everyone does the job they do best, the whole church works together to share God's love.**
2. Line up the leaflets on the floor a short distance from the kids. **We'll take turns tossing a beanbag onto our leaflets and seeing on which room it lands.**
3. With each turn, talk about the room on which the beanbag lands, who might work there, and what they do. Invite kids to act out the work that goes on there.
4. **In the sanctuary, there are people who sing, play musical instruments, count the people, sweep the floor, and lead worship.**
5. **In the offices, people use computers, count money, and plan for worship together. There are people who love to take care of other people. There are people who write sermons.**
6. **What rooms aren't on the pictures? How do people share their gifts in those rooms?**
7. **What about outside? What would it look like if no one cared for the garden or washed the windows?**
8. **The Bible story tells us that all of those things are important. Our church is strong and exciting because everyone does their part.**

LAUNCH 10

Circle up with kids for a quick review.

God made one church body with many people who have different gifts to share. It takes all the different people, doing different things for the church, in order to do God's work. What would you like to share with the church? Take time to hear kids' responses.

Pass out leaflet panels, scissors, and crayons.

Read the leaflet. **Write your name in the blank. We're each important in the church. Cut on the blue line to create a hole for a door hanger. You can hang it on a doorknob at home to remember you are part of God's 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.