

### LESSON 4 THE BODY OF CHRIST

#### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** The Holy Spirit Makes Us One Family

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Corinthians 12

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** Through the power of the Holy Spirit, all followers of Jesus become one family, and each has a special place in the body of Christ.

**WORD OF WONDER:** Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. —Romans 8:14

#### CURIOSITY

#### BELIEF

#### FAITH

- Welcome Question: If you could have any animal as a pet, what would you choose?
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder: Romans 8:14
- Word of Wonder Activity
- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Body of Christ Time
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Family Crest



[Holy Spirit Our Helper Spotify playlist](#)

### INVITATION

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

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**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 our 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

**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.

### Small Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** The Holy Spirit Makes Us One Family

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Corinthians 12

**WORD OF WONDER:** Romans 8:14

### Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

**RESOURCES:** Coloring Page, whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have play stations with various board games, activities, or use games from the extra Games & Activities Guide to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them! Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group. Allow quieter kids who don't engage with the board games to color. Involve them in the curiosity questions.

#### As kids arrive..

Invite them to write/draw the answer to the Welcome Question: on the designated board:

**“If you could have any animal as a pet, what would you choose?”** Set out sheets of paper and colored pencils.

#### While kids are playing in their opening activity groups..

Pose the following “I’m curious” questions. Say “I’m curious...” before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

- Which part of your body do you think is most important? Why?
- What’s something about your family that might not be true about most families?

**Leader Tip:** It’s likely kids in your ministry come from a variety of family units, some traditional families, some single parent, some led by grandparents, and some adoptive or foster families. Be aware of and sensitive to the different families kids are a part of and be sure not to make assumptions about the different family structures.

### Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

## WORD OF WONDER

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

—Romans 8:14 (NIRV)

### Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid); **Word of Wonder Poster (1/SG)**

"The Word of Wonder for the Holy Spirit Our Helper series is Romans 8:14. Today we've discovered that the Holy Spirit makes us one and our Word of Wonder tells us how that happens: When we're led by the Holy Spirit, we're children of God. And since we all have God as our Father, we're brothers and sisters in His family. Let's read the Word of Wonder together!"

Help kids locate Romans 8:14 in their Bibles and invite them to join you in reading the verse aloud in a "fatherly" voice. This will help them make the connection that God is our Father and, as Jesus-followers, we are His kids!

**Leader Tip:** Kids will best understand what you mean by a "fatherly" voice if you read the passage aloud once to demonstrate. Intentionally deepen your voice as much as possible and speak slowly, as though you are very wise.

Gather kids to talk about these questions:

- **How do you know when you're following the Spirit of God?**
- **God is willing to lead, but how willing are you to follow? How hard or easy is it for you to follow God?**

### Word of Wonder Activity

Ask kids to line up single file behind you. Say the first phrase of the verse and have kids repeat after you. Then move throughout the room in a unique way, such as hopping, walking on tiptoes, or walking backward. Have kids follow you and your movements. Then stop, say the second phrase, and have kids repeat after you. Move again, but in a different way. Repeat several times, moving in a different way after each phrase. Consider inviting kids to take turns being the leader.

**Make It Inclusive!** If kids in your group have limited mobility, lead the group in movements everyone can do while seated, such as moving their arms in circles, nodding their heads, blinking their eyes, etc.

**Leader Tip:** *For Older Kids.* Invite kids to stand in the center of the room and individually choose something in the room that reminds them of God. As you say the phrases again and again, kids can take a step toward the item they chose. Once everyone has reached their items, ask volunteers to explain why they chose their items.

## Small Group Discussion: Younger Kids

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid); Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find 1 Corinthians 12.

**"The Bible tells us something really cool today—we are all like parts of a body! That means just like hands, feet, and eyes all do different jobs, people in God's family have special jobs too. While we read, listen for body parts—can you hear when it talks about hands, feet, or eyes?"**

Give each child a simple hand motion to do when they hear a body part: Touch your head for "head" ; Wiggle fingers for "hands" ; Tap knees for "feet"

**Read 1 Corinthians 12:7–22, 25–27 aloud. Then discuss the following:**

- **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?** (*It hurts too.*)
- **Which part of Christ's body is most important?** (*Trick question! We are all important!*)
- **How does it feel knowing you have a special place in the body of Christ? Why?**
- **What's something you can do well? How could you use that to worship God and help others in the body of Christ?**

**"Maybe you think you have to wait until you're a grown-up to follow Jesus and serve Him. Not so! If you believe in Jesus and follow Him, you're a child of God. You are a special part of the body of Christ, and you can serve Jesus right now. Let's pray together and ask Him to show us how."**

**Make It Inclusive!** Answering open-ended questions can be difficult for kids who are neurodiverse as well as for younger kids. Consider modifying open-ended questions by offering specific answer choices. For example, "How does it feel knowing you have a special place in the body of Christ? Exciting, happy, or confusing?"

## Prayer Time: Younger Kids

Open your prayer time by thanking God for making the kids in your group one family through His Holy Spirit. Invite kids to share what they're thankful for and also share their prayer requests. Consider asking volunteers to share ways they want to serve Jesus in the coming week. Close by praying for each kid in the group.

**Notes!** Have kids turn to the Notes Pages on the back of the Coloring Sheet to draw or write the Scripture and any words that stand out to them.

## Small Group Discussion: Older Kids

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid), **Bible Story Picture (1/SG)**

Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find 1 Corinthians 12.

"Have you ever thought about how your body works together—your eyes see, your hands hold things, and your feet help you move? In today's passage, Paul uses this picture to show us how the church works. Everyone is different, but every person is important. As you read, think about what part you might be like in the body of Christ."

Engagement Tip: Before reading, instruct kids to listen for certain words (like "body," "part," "same," or a body part). Each time they hear their word, they quietly put a finger up to keep count. After reading, let them share how many times they heard it!

**Turn to Page 3 of this guide and help kids understand the context of this passage.**

**Read 1 Corinthians 12:7–22, 25–27. Then discuss the following:**

- **Who do God's children have in common, making them one family?** (*the Holy Spirit*)
- **If one part of the body of Christ, the church, is suffering, what does that do to the rest of the body of Christ?** (*Those members suffer too. We're in this together!*)
- **Which part of the body of Christ is most important?** (*Trick question! We are all important!*)
- **What's one way you—with your unique combination of gifts, talents, and interests—can worship God and serve others in the body of Christ?**
- **How does it feel knowing you're part of God's family? Why?**

If you believe in Jesus and follow Him, you're a child of God and are a special part of the body of Christ right now. You don't have to wait until you're grown up to worship God and serve others in the body—the church. Let's pray together and ask God to show us how to do that this week!

**Make It Inclusive!** Answering open-ended questions can be difficult for kids who are neurodiverse. Consider modifying open-ended questions by offering specific answer choices. For example, "How does it feel knowing you're part of God's family? Exciting, happy, or confusing?"

## Prayer Time: Older Kids

Open your prayer time by thanking God for making the kids in your group one family through His Holy Spirit. Invite kids to share what they're thankful for and also share their prayer requests. Consider asking volunteers to share ways they want to serve Jesus in the coming week. Encourage kids to take turns praying for each other until everyone has been prayed for.

**Notes!** Use the notes page during Small Group time to help kids reinforce what they are learning and also equip them to take home and discuss with their families!



## PAUSE for Large Group time, then continue...

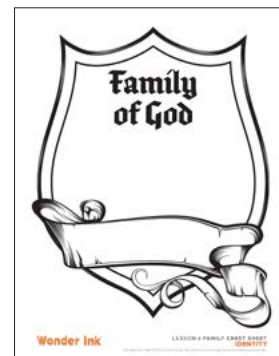
### Responding in Worship: Family Crest

**SUPPLIES:** coloring utensils, masking or painter's tape, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

**RESOURCES:** Family Crest Sheet (1 per kid), Lion CrestPicture (1/SG), [Holy Spirit Our Helper Elementary Spotifyplaylist](#)

Ahead of time, print a copy of the Family Crest Sheet for each kid. Clear a space on the wall where kids can hang their finished Family Crests.

**Leader Tip:** Print an extra copy of the Family Crest Sheet for yourself and design a crest ahead of time to show kids as an example.



Display the Lion CrestPicture. **If you've ever seen a movie or read a book about knights and castles, you may have seen a family crest that looks something like this.** Point to the picture. **Family crests have images and words on them that tell you something about the family. This crest features lions as symbols of bravery. And the crown is a sign that this is a royal family. There's one star and that might mean this family likes to study the night sky.**

**We get to respond to all we've learned and experienced today by drawing a crest for the family of God.** Hold up a Family Crest Sheet; it can be blank, or you can show a sample crest you designed ahead of time. **To do that, let's think of words and symbols describing the family of God.** As ideas are shared, consider writing or drawing examples of each on a whiteboard or inviting another leader or older kid to draw them. **For instance, you might include a cross because it's through Jesus dying on the cross we're saved into this family. Or you might draw a footprint because those who are led by the Holy Spirit are children of God. Or you might think about the spiritual gifts the Holy Spirit has given you for the good of the whole body and show or list those.** Encourage kids to offer a few more suggestions.

**Choose the symbols and/or words that tell about the family of God for your crest. You'll have a few minutes to design it while music plays. When you hear the music stop, you'll know it's time to wrap up.**

Hand out coloring utensils and copies of the Family Crest Sheet. Select music from the [Holy Spirit Our Helper Elementary Spotify playlist](#) and play it softly as kids work.

As kids create, say: **In a few moments, I'll ask you to show a friend your crest and to describe the meaning of what you drew or wrote on it. But first, please write your name somewhere on your crest. Why? Because if you're a child of God, then you're in the family of God and this crest is your family crest too.**

When most kids are finished with their crests, stop the music and invite kids to form pairs or trios and to share their crests. Invite volunteers to share theirs with the larger group. Finally, ask kids to come to where you've made space on a wall to tape their crests. If possible, leave the crests displayed for several weeks as part of your decor—and as a reminder to kids they're part of God's family!