

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

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Your Love For Me, Jesus Loves Me (remix)
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing



Holy Spirit Our Helper Preschool Spotify playlist



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

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**

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

Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

RESOURCES: Tac the Cat puppet

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: Hello, Tac the Cat! Let's wave to him.

Tac the Cat: *(sadly)* Hey, friends!

Leader: You look sad, Tac. Is something bothering you?

Tac the Cat: Yeah, I want to be the best climber in my class at school, but no matter how hard I try, Felix can always climb higher.

Leader: Oh, that must be frustrating.

Tac the Cat: I wish I could be the best tree climber.

Leader: You can still climb and do your best! You don't have to be the best one in the class. I bet you're good at many other things. Can you think of any?

Tac the Cat: Well, if someone loses a cat toy, I can always find it.

Leader: That sounds like a great gift—helping your friends!

Tac the Cat: Gift? I don't give my friends presents. I just help them find what was lost.

Leader: God gives something called *spiritual* gifts. They aren't like presents we get on a birthday or holiday, but a special ability from God that we can use to serve others.

Tac the Cat: So my gift isn't the same as Felix's?

Leader: That's right! In God's big story today, we're going to learn how everyone has spiritual gifts or different abilities. Not everyone has the same gift, and that's on purpose!

Tac the Cat: Does that mean I should stop climbing trees?

Leader: It's good to keep trying things and getting better! But we can be happy when others have abilities we don't because every gift is important. All people are needed in God's big family.

Tac the Cat: Wow! I didn't know I had a gift that's different than Felix's. I gotta go tell my parents! See you later!

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: What is something you're good at? How can you help others by doing that? Allow the kids to respond. What's something true about your family that's not true about all families? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how the Holy Spirit makes us one family?"

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **THE HOLY SPIRIT MAKES US ONE FAMILY**. Today we'll discover how the Holy Spirit makes us one family!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

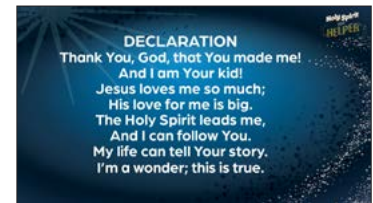
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words. Here is an example: **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.**

Worship

"Today we'll learn how the Holy Spirit makes us one family. Let's sing together about how the Holy Spirit is our helper!"

WORSHIP VIDEOS: Your Love For Me, Jesus Loves Me (remix)

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of 1 Corinthians in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

God's big story, waiting for me! (*Point to yourself.*)

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of 1 Corinthians in the Bible."

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible, scissors (prep only)

RESOURCES: Spiritual Gifts Sheet (1/LG)

If you didn't already, print the Spiritual Gifts Sheet and cut apart the pictures.

"Today you get to help with God's big story. You can listen for three words in God's big story.

When I say, "Jesus" during the story, you stand up! Have kids stand up and then sit back down. **When I say, "Holy Spirit" or "Spirit," you raise both arms in the air.** Encourage the kids to raise both arms. **When I say,**

"family," you wiggle your fingers—we'll call this happy fingers. Encourage the kids to wiggle their fingers. 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 (stand up) **came so all people can be saved. He died on the cross to make the way for all people to be part of God's forever kingdom.**

Jesus (stand up) **rose from the dead and went up to heaven. Then God sent the Holy Spirit** (raise both arms). **The Holy Spirit** (raise both arms) **is God—our powerful, wise, and loving helper. The Spirit** (raise both arms) **gave the disciples power to share the good news about Jesus** (stand up). **The news about Jesus** (stand up) **went all over the world. All kinds of people believed in Jesus** (stand up). **They all became children of God and members of one family** (happy fingers)—**God's family** (happy fingers)!

A man named Paul shared the good news. He shared about Jesus (stand up) **with lots of people. They believed in Jesus** (stand up). **Paul traveled to many places and wrote many letters to share this good news. He wrote letters to the church in Corinth. In one letter, Paul shared about the work of the Holy Spirit** (raise both arms).

Paul taught that the Holy Spirit (raise both arms) **is our helper. The Spirit** (raise both arms) **helps people know and share that Jesus** (stand up) **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 (raise both arms) **to serve others. Hold up the picture of the hands. Paul said, "The Holy Spirit** (raise both arms) **is given to each of us in a special way. That is for the good of all"** (1 Corinthians 12:7). **The Spirit** (raise both arms) **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** (raise both arms) **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. There are even more gifts from God than that! All of them are from the Holy Spirit** (raise both arms).

When we follow Jesus (stand up), **we are part of God's family** (happy fingers). **In God's family** (happy fingers), **we are like one body with different parts. The body needs each part. Paul wrote, "God has placed each part in the body just as he wanted it to be"** (1 Corinthians 12:18). **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** (happy fingers). Every gift is important. All people are needed in God’s big **family** (happy fingers). We take care of one another. We are always there for each other. The **Holy Spirit** (raise both arms) helps us build each other up. Hold up the picture of the heart. We share each other’s joy and sadness. We go through hard things together. We celebrate together too. We love each other as **Jesus** (stand up) loves us.

Every follower of **Jesus** (stand up) gets the same **Spirit** (raise both arms). The **Spirit** (raise both arms) gives each of us a special way to serve others. Our amazing helper makes us one with each other. The **Holy Spirit** (raise both arms) makes us one **family** (happy fingers)."

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God’s big story:

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **THE HOLY SPIRIT MAKES US ONE FAMILY**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

Sin, the wrong things we do, separates us from God, but Jesus broke the power of sin and defeated death when He died on the cross. When we believe in Jesus and follow Him, God gives us His presence—the Holy Spirit—which means we are now part of God’s forever family!"

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for giving each of them a place in His family and special gifts to serve the Lord and each other.

Father, thank You for giving each of us a place in Your family and special gifts to serve You and each other! Help us to serve You and others with joy this week. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you always remember God loves you and has called you to be His child! May you follow Jesus always and look for ways to use your gifts this week.