

### 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

- Play Stations:
  - Create-a-Character
  - Family Time
  - The Body of Christ Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: What's a Spiritual Gift?
- Word of Wonder: Romans 8:14
- God's Big Story / Snack
- Circle Time: Musical Beanbag Toss
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Family of God
- Game: Color Matching



[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

### Play Stations

**SUPPLIES:** potato-shaped toys with removable features, dollhouse, toy people figures, coloring utensils

**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: Create-a-Character

**Set-up:** Set out potato-shaped toys with removable features.

**Play:** Allow the kids to use the different removable parts to create unique toy characters. Encourage them to be creative and make each character different!

#### 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.

## Curiosity Activity: What's a Spiritual Gift?

**SUPPLIES:** scissors (prep only), gift bags (8), tissue paper (8–16 sheets)

**RESOURCES:** [Spiritual Gifts Sheet \(1/SG\)](#)

Print a copy of the Spiritual Gifts Sheet and cut apart the images. Place each image inside a gift bag with one or two sheets of tissue paper on top.

**"Gifts are so much fun! Raise your hand if you like gifts.** Allow the kids to respond. **Me too! I have a gift now. Let's open this gift together to see what's inside.** Pull out one picture from one of the bags. **Hmmm. This doesn't look like a present we would expect, does it?** Let kids respond. **But it's something extra special. The picture shows a spiritual gift!**



**A spiritual gift is something God gives to everyone who is part of His family. We use these special gifts to serve others!** Ask a few kids to pull out pictures from the other bags. **We'll learn more about the spiritual gifts that God gives in our lesson today. Let's keep exploring some of the spiritual gifts God gives.** As the kids pull out pictures, ask them what spiritual gift may be represented by each picture. If they guess incorrectly or name something that isn't a spiritual gift from the Bible, it's OK. The point of this activity is not to memorize or teach every spiritual gift but to allow the kids to be curious and explore the concept of gifts from God.

**Spiritual gifts aren't like presents we get on a holiday or a birthday, but something special God gives to everyone who is a part of His family. In God's big story today, we'll learn about the spiritual gifts from God and how the Holy Spirit makes us one family."**

## Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, posterboard, marker, dice, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

### WORD OF WONDER

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

—Romans 8:14

Ahead of time, use a marker to make a sign on posterboard (or write on a whiteboard) that includes the number, word, and a picture to correspond with each roll. Write:

- 1–Head
- 2–Feet
- 3–Hands

- 4–Legs
- 5–Arms
- 6–Whole body

This game is like "Simon Says," but with a twist: Kids take turns making up an action to do while saying the Word of Wonder. One child will roll a dice and make up an action that corresponds to the body part for that number. All the kids will say the Word of Wonder while doing the action.

**Make It Inclusive!** If a child in your ministry has a physical disability, help the kids think of actions or modifications that everyone can do. For example, instead of jumping, they can touch their toes.

Before playing the game, encourage kids to do the motions and say the Word of Wonder with you a few times.

- **THOSE WHO ARE**—Hold your hands out in front of you with palms together, then open them up.
- **LED BY THE**—March in place like following the leader.
- **SPIRIT OF GOD**—Hands up in front of your head, bringing them down.
- **ARE CHILDREN**—Hands on hips.
- **OF GOD.**—Point up.
- **ROMANS 8:14**—Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.

**Let's play a game to practice our Word of Wonder. It's like "Simon Says," but you get to roll a dice and do action for the body part that goes with the number you rolled.** Roll the dice and show the kids how the number rolled corresponds to a body part on the board. Offer suggestions of actions the kids could do, such as patting their head, stomping their feet, clapping their hands, patting their legs, waving their arms, and wiggling their whole body. Let each kid take a turn rolling the die and doing motions for the body part that corresponds to the number on the die. Encourage all kids to recite the Word of Wonder while doing the action together. Play as many rounds as time allows.

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?**

**Leader Tip:** To keep the activity simple, you can let a child roll the die while you call out the body part and action during each round and encourage all the kids to do the action while saying the verse.

## God's Big Story / Snack

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

Read [1 Corinthians 12:7–22 and 25–27](#) from an NIV Bible.

## Circle Time: Musical Beanbag Toss

**SUPPLIES:** beanbag, disposable bowls (8), marker

**RESOURCES:** songs from the [Holy Spirit Our Helper Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, use a marker to write numbers on the inside of eight disposable bowls, numbering the bowls from one through eight.

Have kids sit in a circle and give one child a beanbag. Place the eight bowls in the middle of the circle. Play music from the [Holy Spirit Our Helper Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) while the kids pass a beanbag around the circle. Stop the music. Whoever is holding the beanbag will stand up and toss the beanbag inside a bowl. The number of the bowl that the beanbag lands in will correspond with the number of the question to ask that child. After each question is asked, you can either leave that bowl where it is, take that bowl away, or rearrange the bowls to different places.

**"Let's play Musical Beanbag Toss. When the music plays, pass the beanbag around the circle. Whoever is holding the beanbag when the music stops will stand up, toss the beanbag into one of the bowls, and answer a question. If you don't make it in a bowl, you can keep trying until you make it in a bowl."**

- 1) **Who makes us one family?** *(the Holy Spirit)*
- 2) **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.)*
- 3) **Which part of Christ's body is most important?** *(Trick question! All parts are important!)*
- 4) **How does it feel knowing you have a special place in the body of Christ?**
- 5) **What's something you are good at? How can you use that to help others?**
- 6) **Share about someone you know who is gifted and serves others.**
- 7) **What is one spiritual gift that we heard about today?**
- 8) **Do you feel like God has given you a spiritual gift to use to help others? If so, which gift?**

**You don't have to wait until you're a grown-up to follow Jesus and serve Him. If you trust in Jesus and follow Him, you're a child of God and a special part of the body of Christ. You can serve Him and help others. Let's pray together and thank Him for giving us the Holy Spirit and making us one family."**

### PRAYER TIME

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for the Holy Spirit making us one family.

## Head to Large Group!

Return and finish the rest of this guide before parents arrive.

### Responding in Worship: Family of God

**SUPPLIES:** butcher paper, markers

**RESOURCES:** songs from the [Holy Spirit Our Helper Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Use a marker to trace the outline of one child on a large piece of butcher paper.

**"Now we're going to worship God and celebrate how the Holy Spirit makes us a part of the family of God. One at a time, we'll trace your hand on this outline. Then you'll decorate it."**

Invite the kids to trace their hands somewhere on the body outline. Encourage kids to decorate their handprint using markers. Play songs from the [Holy Spirit Our Helper Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) as kids work.

**If you're a child of God, then you're in the family of God! Do you see the different handprints? God's family is beautiful, full of people with different gifts. Our handprints remind us that we can use our hands to serve others with the gifts God gives us. We all have a part in the family of God."**

**Leader Tip:** Instead of using regular markers to color, let the kids use dot paint markers to allow more creativity.

### Game: Color Matching

**SUPPLIES:** container of different colors of interlocking bricks(LEGOS), tape, construction paper (1 sheet of each interlocking brick color)

Tape different colors of construction paper around the room. Set out a container of interlocking bricks.

**In our story today, we learned how God makes us all one family. Not everyone is the same, but we are all important! Let's play a game where we'll get into groups based on the color of brick we choose. Not all the bricks and groups will be the same, but each person is important and part of the group!**

Encourage the kids to pick out an interlocking brick from the container. They will find others with the same color brick by meeting at the corresponding color zone—the construction paper that matches. Once kids find their color group, have kids return their bricks to the container. Repeat for a few rounds as time allows.

**Even though we might not look anything like the people in our groups, we might be like each other in more ways than having the same color of an interlocking brick. Today we're learning how we're like—and not like—other members of God's family!**