

1. We Are One (1 Corinthians 12:12-31)

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. (Acts 4:32)



PLAN

Session Outline

1. Gather

Greeting
Puzzlers
Build a Body
Transition to Explore

2. Explore

Sacred Conversations
Hear and See the Bible Story
Interact with the Bible Story
Say the Bible Verse
Transition to Respond

3. Respond

The Body Together
The Right Ingredients
Loving God, Loving Neighbor
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: Pencils | Newsprint or large paper | Markers | Crayons | Paper plates | Napkins

Gather: TV/DVD player

Explore: TV/DVD player

Respond: Instant yeast | Sugar | Water | Milk | Butter | Eggs | All-purpose flour | Salt | Knife | LED candle | Tablecloth

Bless: Yarn | LED candle | Tablecloth | Lip balm

Before You Teach

Our Scripture for today comes from First Corinthians, one of Paul's letters to the church in Corinth. The letter was written at a time when Paul was hearing of conflicts among the people of the church there. This segment of Scripture teaches us how to be in community as part of the body of Christ. The description emphasizes each part being necessary for the whole body of Christ to function. The human body is used as a way of illustrating this.

The Scripture demonstrates how each part of the body performs a necessary function. It also reminds us that one part cannot quit because it is not given the responsibilities belonging to another part. To paraphrase, a foot can't say it's not a part of the body because it's not a hand. An ear can't say it's not a part of the body because it's not an eye. "If the whole body were an eye, what would happen to the hearing?" (verse 17). The point of this illustration is that all the parts are needed for the whole to function properly. Paul reminds us that we each have a job to do within the body that benefits the others. Our Scripture ends with verse 31 where Paul addresses those who are seeking to obtain greater gifts by saying he will show his readers an even better way.

In Chapter 13, Paul goes on to name the better way as the way of love because love builds unity within the community. Though this chapter is not a part of our lesson, love is at the heart of this teaching. We are not to be jealous seekers of the gifts of others, but instead to demonstrate the greatest gift, love, by working together in community.

As we begin our focus on community, you'll want your children to come away from this session with the message that all are important and must work together for the benefit of everyone. This week, we will focus on activities that require cooperation and on the message that all are important to the whole. Let your children know that they are each special and an important part of the body of Christ.

1. We Are One (1 Corinthians 12:12-31)

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. (Acts 4:32)



GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display your choice of "Attendance Chart" (Class Kit—pp. 15 & 18, or 16–17) at eye level.

- Play "All People Are God's People" (Adventure DVD), as you welcome each child.
- Show the children where to place their offerings on the worship table.
- Have each child mark the "Attendance Chart." For the "Community Attendance Chart," the children can write their first names or initials on the building marked #1.

SAY: Today, our Bible story is about how the body of Christ is like the human body because all of the parts of the body of Christ are important just like all of the parts of the human body are important.

A—Puzzlers (Activity Sheets)

Before class: Tear out the Session 1 Activity Sheets for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Parts" (Activity Sheets—p. 3). Let them complete the puzzle.
- Allow them to work on the "The Body" activity (Activity Sheets—p. 4).

SAY: Our Bible story for today reminds us that all of the parts of the body of Christ are needed for it to function, just as all of the parts of the human body are needed for it to function properly.

OR

B—Build a Body (Collaborative Art)

Before class: Gather a large sheet of paper (about four feet long), pencils, markers, and crayons.

- Divide the children into two groups, children whose last names begin with the letters A through M and children whose last names begin with the letters N through Z. (Divide in a different way if there are too many children with last names that fall into one group.)
 - Assign the children with letters A through M to work together to draw a face, hair, and features related to the head of a person. Have them decide together on colors and shapes.
 - Assign the children with the letters N through Z to work together to draw a body for the person. Have them work together to make sure that the limbs match up in size and length as much as possible.

SAY: Our Bible story tells how all of the members of the body of Christ are necessary for the church to function, just as all of the parts of the human body are necessary for it to function. Today, you all worked together to create a drawing. All of you were needed for this activity to be a success.

Transition to Explore

- Encourage the children to bring chairs or to sit on the floor in a carpeted area.
- Invite the children to form a circle on the floor.

TIP: *Transitions are a useful way to help children easily move from one activity to the next.*



1. We Are One (1 Corinthians 12:12-31)

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. (Acts 4:32)

EXPLORE

Sacred Conversations

- Encourage children to join and sit in the circle.
- Demonstrate a listening position for the children.
- Ask wondering questions.

ASK: I wonder:

- Where are you a part of a group?
 - How do you feel about working in a group?
 - What are some ways to work well with others?
-

Hear and See the Bible Story

- Read the Bible story together (*CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible*—1 Corinthians 12:12-31).
- Watch the Adventure DVD Session 1.

SAY: Today, we're studying a story about how we all bring gifts to the body of Christ.

ASK: What gifts can you share?

Interact with the Bible Story

- Assign parts and act out "We Are One" (Bible Story Sheets—Session 1).
-

Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Display the "Unit 1 Bible Verse" poster (Class Kit—pp. 5 & 28).

- Read the memory verse to the children: The community of believers was one in heart and mind (Acts 4:32).
 - Have the children repeat the verse after you.
 - Have them say it again, this time placing a hand to their hearts on the word *heart* and placing a hand to their heads on the word *mind*.
-

Transition to Respond

- Encourage the children to put away their chairs and/or get back to their places.

1. We Are One (1 Corinthians 12:12-31)

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. (Acts 4:32)



RESPOND

The Body Together (Game)

- Assign each child a body part (head, arms [two children], hands [two children], legs [two children], feet [two children]). If you have more than nine children in class, add parts such as eyes, nose, or mouth. If you have enough children for two whole bodies, divide the children into two groups.
- This game is sort of like Simon Says. The teacher will call out instructions for the children. However, the object is not only to complete instructions when “Simon says,” but to use the correct body parts to complete the action and to have the children representing those body parts work together.
- You may make up instructions of your choosing, depending on your space and what is in your particular classroom. For example, you might say, “pick a book from the top shelf of the bookcase with your right hand.” All of the children would need to walk to the bookcase as a group because the whole body would be needed to get there. The child representing the right hand would need to pull the book from the shelf, and the child representing the right arm would need to help him or her, since the arm moves the hand. Try to engage each part at least once.

OR

The Right Ingredients (Cooking/Snack)

Before class: Photocopy “Bread Recipe” (Leader Guide—p. 12) for each child. Prepare a loaf of bread dough according to instructions. Prepare a second loaf leaving out the yeast. Gather paper plates, napkins, and a knife for you to cut the bread with.

- Bake both loaves during class (15–20 minutes). After the bread is done, display both loaves.

SAY: This loaf was made with the yeast that the recipe requires (point to the loaf). This one had no yeast (point to the loaf).

ASK: Can you see the difference between the two? (Allow answers/loaf with no yeast didn’t rise.)

SAY: When one ingredient is left out, the recipe does not work the same. The body of Christ is similar. Each person is necessary for it to work properly.

- Serve the bread as a snack, and send a copy of the recipe home with each child.

TIP: Check for food allergies ahead of time.

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Display the “Missions” poster (Class Kit—p. 2).

- Read the poster aloud and discuss how the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre helps children.
-

Transition to Bless

- Ring a bell to announce the transition.
- Create a worship center on a small table with a tablecloth and an LED candle.

1. We Are One (1 Corinthians 12:12-31)

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. (Acts 4:32)



BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Display "Unit 1 Bible Verse Signs" poster (Class Kit—p. 29) on a wall or bulletin board.

SAY: Today, we learned about being a part of the body of Christ. Today's Bible verse teaches us about how those who are part of the body must act. Let's learn to say today's Bible verse in sign language.

- Gather the children around the "Bible Verse Signs" poster. Have the children read the Bible verse.
- Teach the children to sign the verse.

PRAY: Thank you, God, for making us a community of believers who are one in heart and mind. Amen.

Praising

SAY: Today, we learned that all of us are necessary for the body of Christ to function. Let's praise God for each person here who is a part of the body of Christ.

- Have the children form a circle.
- Have each child toss the ball of yarn to another child in the circle and say, "I'm glad you're part of the body of Christ." Be sure to instruct the children to toss the yarn to a different child each time until all children have had a turn. Each child will hold on to the part of the yarn that unravels so that a web is created including all of the children. You can start it off if you'd like.

SAY: We are all connected in the body of Christ, just as we are all connected by this string.

PRAY: God, thank you for the unique blessings each person here brings to the body of Christ. Amen.

Blessing

- Have the children form a circle around the worship center, and light the candle.
- Call each child to you by name, one at a time.
- Using the lip balm, make a cross on the back of each child's hand. Then have her or him go back and join the circle. When you have done this for all of the children, join the circle and pray.

PRAY: Dear God, bless each person here as we each learn and grow. Help each of us use our unique abilities for the good of the whole body of Christ. Amen.

At Home with God

SAY: What was one thing that you learned today about the body of Christ? Can you share what you learned with your family?

- Send Bible Story Sheets, Session 1, and the Unit 1 Song Sheet home with each child.

1. We Are One (1 Corinthians 12:12-31)

The community of believers was one in heart and mind." (Acts 4:32)



Bread Recipe

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pack of instant yeast (.25 ounce)
- 1 tablespoon of sugar
- ½ cup of warm water
- ½ cup of hot milk
- 1 tablespoon of butter
- 1 egg
- 3 cups of all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon of salt

TOOLS: Sauce pan, large bowl, mixer, bread baking pan, grease (for greasing pan)

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Mix sugar and yeast into the warm water. Let it sit for 10 minutes. (Will become creamy.)
- Heat the milk in a sauce pan. When it starts to bubble, add butter. Let it cool to lukewarm.
- In a large bowl, combine 2 cups of flour, salt, egg, milk mixture, and yeast.
- Mix.
- Knead until smooth.
- Set aside for 10 minutes.
- Lightly grease a bread baking pan and add dough.
- Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.
- Cover with a damp cloth and let the dough rise for 20 minutes.
- Bake for 15–20 minutes or until golden brown.

