

Paul Teaches About Spiritual Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:4-27

First- and second-graders are eager and ready to learn new things, and as they learn new things they often come across new abilities, gifts, and talents. They're naturally excited to share their new discoveries with others. Use this lesson to help kids know that God wants them to use their special gifts to serve him.



► Bible Point

God gives us gifts to serve him.

Key Verse

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:10).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will use their special gifts to serve God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p>	<p>A Special Gift <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Open and share a gift, and discuss what it’s like to receive special gifts.</p>	<p>gift-wrapped box containing 1 sticker per child</p>	
<p>2</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p>	<p>A Special Letter <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Open letters and learn what Paul wrote in his letter about spiritual gifts.</p>	<p>Bibles, 1 envelope per child, 1 photocopy per child of the “Special Delivery” handout (at the end of the lesson), masking tape, 1 self-stick bow per child, 1 spool of ribbon</p>	<p>Place each handout in an envelope and seal it. Write kids’ names on the envelopes, 1 per child. Use the masking tape to make a large square on the floor in which all the children can stand.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	All for One <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Consider what gifts God has given them and how those gifts can be used to serve God.	My Bible Fun, extra-large sheet of paper, markers, scissors, glue	Tear out the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Fun student book. Cut out a child-sized body shape from the extra-large sheet of paper.
	Mix Well and Serve <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and work together to make snack mix.	Bible, snack-mix ingredients, paper cups, large bowl, mixing spoon, antibacterial gel (optional)	Choose at least 6 different ingredients for the snack mix, such as dried fruit, chocolate chips, granola, dried seeds, jelly beans, and pretzels.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Paul Teaches About Spiritual Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:4-27



Key Points on a Key Passage

Paul begins today’s passage with a key point about spiritual gifts (verses 4-7): They are diverse, but they are unified because they come from the same God. There are many different gifts, but the same God is working through all of them. And they all are for a common purpose: the good of the church.

Gifts From God

The question may arise, What is the difference between spiritual gifts and natural talents? The difference between spiritual gifts and natural ability may not have been of concern to Paul. Every good thing, every gift comes from God. What concerned Paul was that people exercise the gifts the Holy Spirit gave them and use them to build up God’s church.

Many Gifts, One Body

In verses 12-27, Paul introduces to the Corinthians the concept that the church is like a body, more specifically the body of Christ. Paul’s message is a great equalizer: People with gifts that seem insignificant are actually much more important than they may think, and people with gifts that seem more spectacular aren’t any more important than anyone else. A significant fact to note is found in verse 18: “God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.”

Building God’s Kingdom

In a body, if one part is hurting, the other parts feel the hurt. And if one part feels great, it makes all of the body feel better. That’s how God wants the church to be! God gives different gifts for the building up of the body of Christ. We’re all part of that body, and God wants us to use the gifts he’s given us to fill the place

intended for us in his church! That’s how we’ll be most fulfilled and how we’ll work together with other Christians to further God’s kingdom on earth.

The Jesus Connection

Your spiritual gifts are God-given opportunities to be like Jesus and build up Jesus’ body.

Have you taken time to discover your spiritual gifts? Have you taken time to develop and refine your gifts? Complete a spiritual gifts inventory or ask some Christians who know you well to tell you what spiritual gifts they see in you. Ask God what your gifts might be. You can write your prayer here.





A Special Gift Supplies

gift-wrapped box
containing 1 sticker
per child

A Special Letter Supplies

Bibles
1 envelope per child
1 photocopy per child of
the “Special Delivery”
handout (at the end of
the lesson)
masking tape
1 self-stick bow per
child
1 spool of ribbon

A Special Letter Easy Prep

Place each handout in an envelope and seal it. Write kids’ names on the envelopes, 1 per child. Use the masking tape to make a large square on the floor in which all the children can stand.

1 GETTING STARTED

A Special Gift

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone in a circle, and place the wrapped box in the middle of the circle.

Ask:

- What do you think is in this box?
- What’s it like to look at a gift box and wonder what’s inside?
- What’s it like when you give or get a special gift?
- Tell about the best gift anyone’s ever given you.
- Tell about a gift you were excited to give to someone else.

Say: **Let’s see what’s inside the box.**

Allow children to unwrap the box and share the stickers they find inside.

Say: **It’s always fun to give and get gifts. Just as I gave you a special gift to share, God gives Christians special gifts to use for him. Today we’re going to learn what Paul taught about spiritual gifts. He taught that ► GOD GIVES US GIFTS TO SERVE HIM.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

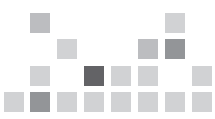
A Special Letter

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **I have a special delivery for each of you—a letter that’s just for you.** Give each child his or her envelope. Then say: **There’s an important message in your envelope. Go ahead and open it now.** Allow time. Then invite a child to read the special message.

Say: **This letter is true.** Point to one child, and say: **God gives you special gifts!** Then point to another child and say: **He gives you special gifts, too.** Point to several other kids and then across the whole group. **God gives every single one of you gifts.**

Open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 12:4-27, and show kids the passage. Distribute Bibles and help kids find the verses in their own Bibles. Say: **Some of the Bible was written in**



letters from people called apostles. Apostles were people who knew and followed Jesus, and one of those apostles was named Paul. Paul wrote some letters to the church in a city called Corinth. In one of those letters, he taught the people in Corinth that ► **GOD GIVES US GIFTS TO SERVE HIM.** Let's read what he said about gifts. Read aloud 1 Corinthians 12:4-6.

Say: **Paul said that not everyone has the same gifts, but all gifts are important. And when Paul talks about gifts, he means things a person is good at doing or saying to serve God. Tell a friend something you know you're especially good at.** Allow time. Then let several kids share with the whole group.

Say: **It's great to hear things you're good at. Paul also wanted the people to know why God gives people those gifts. Let's look at Paul's letter in the Bible to find out why.**

Show kids 1 Corinthians 12:4-27 again.

Say: **Paul said that ► GOD GIVES US GIFTS TO SERVE HIM. Think about things you're good at. Pause. It's great to have those gifts, but Paul says those gifts aren't just for fun. God gives them to us for an important reason. He wants us to use them for good—to serve him.**

Have the kids stand. Then name some body parts and encourage kids to hold up or shake the named body parts.

Say: **Our gifts are kind of like body parts. Our arms and legs and ears work together to help us do important things. In the church, all the different gifts help us work together to do important things to serve God.**

Show kids the self-stick gift bows. Begin placing one bow on top of each child's head. Continue sticking bows on students as you talk.

Say: **Let's pretend these gift bows are like God's gifts to us. God gives some Christians the gift of wisdom—which means those people are really good at using what they know to make good decisions. God gives other Christians the gift of faith—which means they have really strong beliefs that God's there all the time—even in hard times. He gives other Christians other gifts. God gives special gifts to every person who believes in him.**

When each child has a bow on his or her head, stick a bow on your own head. Then direct kids to the square you taped on the floor. Help kids stand together inside the square. After all the kids are standing inside the square, wrap the long ribbon around the group at waist level, step inside the ribbon, and tie a bow.

Say: **Pretend this square on the floor is one great big gift box. Look at all the gifts inside this gift box! ► GOD GIVES US GIFTS TO SERVE HIM. And we can all work together to serve God! Let's think about how God might want all of us to serve him with our gifts.**



Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What were you thinking when I wrapped us all up in our big gift box?
- Tell about a gift you or someone you know has that can be used to serve God.
- What can you do this week to serve God?

Say: Paul wrote in his letter about how ► **GOD GIVES US GIFTS TO SERVE HIM.** His letter helps us remember that everyone who believes in Jesus has special gifts, and all the gifts are important, like the parts of our bodies. This week, let's look for ways to serve God with our special gifts.

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3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

All for One

All for One Supplies

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My Bible Fun
extra-large sheet of
paper
markers
scissors
glue

All for One Easy Prep

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Tear out the Lesson 8
pages from each My
Bible Fun student book.
Cut out a child-sized
body shape from the
extra-large sheet of
paper.

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Put kids in groups of three. Then say: **We're learning today that ► GOD GIVES US GIFTS TO SERVE HIM. And we can use those gifts to work like one body with different parts. Let's think about how we can all work together like parts of a body.**

Show kids the paper body outline. Walk around the room, asking each child to tear off a part of the body. Be sure to keep a piece for yourself as well. Distribute markers. Ask kids to write their names on their pieces of paper.

Say: **Spend a few minutes in your groups talking about special gifts God may have given each of you. Then think of a way you'll each use one of your own gifts to serve God this week. Once you've each thought of your own idea, write or draw it on your piece of our paper body. For example, maybe you can sing, and you want to serve God by singing praise songs this week. Or if you have a bright smile, you could smile at someone who feels down.**

Give groups several minutes to think and work. As they're working, walk around and help groups identify gifts and ways to use those gifts to serve God. Help them be as specific as possible.

Take a few moments to write down a way you'll use your own spiritual gift to serve God this week. Then when groups have finished, bring everyone back together and have them sit in a circle on the floor.

Say: **Now we're going to take turns talking about our gifts and the ways we're going to serve God this week.**



Place your piece of paper on the floor as you share with kids your own gift and the way you're going to serve God this week. Then have children take turns adding their papers to yours, assembling the body like a puzzle, as they share about their gifts and commitments.

When the puzzle is complete, lead the group in a round of applause. Then distribute glue and the Lesson 8 My Bible Fun pages. Have each person take his or her puzzle piece and glue it in the "Doing My Part" section of his or her own My Bible Fun page.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about being an important part of this body?
- What's good about people having different special gifts?
- What might you do the same or differently now that you know ► **GOD GIVES US GIFTS TO SERVE HIM?**

Say: **Just as Paul said in his letter, when we know and love Jesus, we're all in the same family of Christians. And in that family of Christians, ► GOD GIVES US GIFTS TO SERVE HIM. Let's remember to use those gifts to serve God this week.**

Mix Well and Serve

What You'll Do ■■■■

Have kids clean their hands. Then open your Bible to Ephesians 2:10, and show it to kids. Say: **Our Key Verse says: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10).**

Say: **That means God made each of us just as we are, and he wants us to serve him.** Have the children repeat the verse with you several times.

Say: **God gives people different gifts so we can do good works for him. Let's make some yummy snack mix to celebrate the many wonderful talents God gives us!**

Set out cups of separate snack-mix ingredients. Gather kids around a table, and hand out a cup of ingredients to each child. Then pass a large bowl around the table, having kids pour their ingredients into the bowl one at a time. Remind kids to hold on to their cups so they can use them to eat the snack.

After all the ingredients are in the bowl, have kids take turns using the mixing spoon to stir the ingredients together. Serve the snack mix in kids' cups.

Pray: **Dear Lord, thank you for helping us understand how important it is to work together to serve you with our many talents. Help us remember that everyone's**



Mix Well and Serve Supplies

- Bible
- snack-mix ingredients
- paper cups
- large bowl
- mixing spoon
- antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Mix Well and Serve Easy Prep

Choose at least 6 different ingredients for the snack mix, such as dried fruit, chocolate chips, granola, dried seeds, jelly beans, and pretzels.





talent is wonderful and important when it comes to serving you! In Jesus' name, amen. Then let kids eat.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How are your gifts like or unlike the different ingredients for this recipe?
- What kinds of good works can you do with your gifts?
- Why do you think it's important to serve God?

Say: Like the different ingredients in our snack, Paul said in his letter that ► **GOD GIVES US GIFTS TO SERVE HIM**. And just as we worked together to make the snack mix, when we all use our different gifts to serve Jesus, we can do great things for him.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Let's think about how ► **GOD GIVES US GIFTS TO SERVE HIM**. As this week's **Daily Challenge**, try to follow through on using the gift you drew on your puzzle piece that you glued on your My Bible Fun page.

Tell the kids how you'll use your gift this week. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.

Say: You're special, and so are the gifts God gave you. Remember this week that ► **GOD GIVES US GIFTS TO SERVE HIM**, and use those gifts for God by following through on our Daily Challenge.

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how God gives us gifts to serve him. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God for the gifts he gives us. Then have kids pair up and quickly each share a gift. Give kids a moment to silently pray for their partners. Then close the prayer. Pray: **God, we’re so glad you made us how you did. We want to use our gifts to serve you. Help us do that this week. In Jesus’ name, amen.**



Special Delivery



Art Credit: Alan Flinn

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