



# Paul Teaches About Spiritual Gifts

## 1 Corinthians 12:4-27

The majority of 5- and 6-year-olds will not be able to tell you what spiritual gifts they've received from God. Some might not even know yet that such gifts come from God. However, children at this age will understand that they do some things well—and those are God-given gifts. Use this lesson to show children that God gives them each special gifts because he loves them and wants them to use their gifts to serve him.



► **Bible Point**  
Serve God.

### Key Verse

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you” (John 14:26).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will learn to use their gifts to serve God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Welcoming Song</b> Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>A Rolling Message</b> Roll a ball, and learn that the Holy Spirit teaches each one of us.	Bible, ball	
<b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Theo's News</b> Find out what a package of jelly beans has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, bag of jelly beans, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Put the bag of jelly beans inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	<b>Bible Time: Church of Many Colors</b> Build walls of different colors to make a colorful church.	Bible, 4 or 5 lunch bags, 3 connecting blocks per child	Separate the blocks by color, and place each color in a lunch bag.

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p><b>Center 1: I'm a Gift</b> Draw self-portraits, and decorate bows on presents.</p>	My Bible Playground, glitter glue, crayons	Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p><b>Center 2: What's My Gift?</b> Create a hidden treat with jelly beans.</p>	napkins, jelly beans, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p><b>Center 3: What's Your Part?</b> Play a game where they try to touch multiple body parts at one time.</p>		
	<p><b>Center 4: Colorful People</b> Glue beautiful colors onto a paper body.</p>	an assortment of colored construction paper, scissors, marker, glue, 1 copy per child of the "Paper Person" handout (at the end of this lesson)	Cut out each Paper Person. For each child, write the child's name and "Serve God" on the back of a Paper Person. Cut out an assortment of small shapes from construction paper.
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Playground	
	<p><b>A Flavorful Prayer</b> Experience different flavors.</p>	jelly beans	
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.

# Paul Teaches About Spiritual Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:4-27

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Key Points on a Key Passage

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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.

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## Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Hurrah!" (track 19), "Jesus Loves Me Rock" (track 6)


# 1 GETTING STARTED

## Welcoming Song

**Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

### What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in singing "Hurrah!" (track 19 on the CD) to the tune of "When Johnny Comes Marching Home." Encourage kids to join you in singing and doing the motions.

 **Let's come and sing at church today. Hurrah! Hurrah!** (*pump fists into the air on "hurrah!"*)

**Let's come and pray at church today. Hurrah! Hurrah!** (*pump fists into the air on "hurrah!"*)

**The girls will cheer, the boys will shout;** (*have girls cheer and boys shout*)

**We'll learn what love is all about.**

**And we'll sing and pray** (*fold hands in prayer*)

**With our friends at church.**

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **Today we'll learn that God gives special gifts to everyone. Let's use the voices God has given us to tell our friends about how much Jesus loves us!**

Lead kids in singing "Jesus Loves Me Rock" (track 6 on the CD). Encourage kids to join you in singing. The first time through, have the girls sing the first phrase and have the boys sing the echo. On the repeat, reverse the parts. Have kids move "freestyle" to the beat.

 **Jesus loves me;** (*echo*)

**This I know,** (*echo*)

**For the Bible** (*echo*)

**Tells me so.** (*echo*)

**Little children** (*echo*)

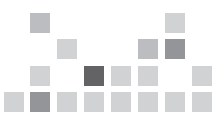
**To him belong.** (*echo*)

**They are weak, but** (*echo*)

**He's so strong!** (*echo*)

**Jaaayyy!** (*J*)

**Eeeeeee!** (*E*)



Ssssss! (S)  
Uuuuuu! (U)  
Ssssss! (S)

And what's that spell? (Jesus!)  
And who do you love? (Jesus!)  
And who loves you? (Jesus!)  
Who died for you? (Jesus!)  
And who's your guy? (Jesus!)  
The apple of your eye! (Jesus!)  
And who's your friend? (Jesus!)  
He'll love ya to the end!

(Repeat from the beginning.)

"Jesus Loves Me Rock" by Dean-o. © 2003 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: I'm so glad you came today! We're going to learn how we can ► **SERVE GOD.**

## 2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

# A Rolling Message

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to John 14:26, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from John 14:26 says, "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." That means that the Holy Spirit will teach you. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the simplified Key Verse aloud with you: **The Holy Spirit will teach you (John 14:26).**

Say: **We can ► SERVE GOD by using our gifts. But one gift that God gave to all of us is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit teaches us all about God. We can learn how God wants us to use our gifts...how to show our love to Jesus...and how to treat each other.**

Provide a ball for children to roll as they personalize this verse for one another.

Say: **Each of us will roll the ball to someone across from us in the circle and say, "The Holy Spirit will teach you, [child's name]."** Take turns around the circle until each child has had a turn to say and hear the verse. Demonstrate rolling the ball to a child.

### A Rolling Message Supplies

Bible  
ball





### Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)  
Theo puppet  
bag of jelly beans  
CD player  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Here, Theo" (track 4)

### ! ALLERGY ALERT

### Theo's News Easy Prep

Put the bag of jelly beans inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why is important to listen to what the Holy Spirit teaches us?
- Why is it important to follow what the Holy Spirit teaches us?

Say: **When we listen to and follow the Holy Spirit, he helps us ► SERVE GOD. Let's shout our Key Verse one more time so everyone can hear how we can learn what God wants us to do.** Lead children in repeating the simplified Key Verse: **The Holy Spirit will teach you (John 14:26).**

## 3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Theo's News

## What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!**

Have the children sit in a circle, and begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put Theophilus the FaithRetriever on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you've dug up about the Bible today.

**Theo:** I hid it in the Surprise Box.

*(Invite a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the bag of jelly beans around the circle so the rest of the group can see it up close. Give the children time to guess what they might learn about the Bible.)*

**Teacher:** Theo, why did you hide these jelly beans in the Surprise Box?

**Theo:** Because they're special. *(Give each of the children two to three candies of different flavors.)*

**Teacher:** Thanks for these candies! We're going to learn about how God gives special gifts to each of us. Friends, what do you think it would be like if there was only one flavor of jelly bean?

*(Pause for kids to answer your question.)*

**Teacher:** God gives everyone different gifts so we can ► **SERVE GOD**, help each other, and encourage each other with our gifts. When God gives us a gift, it's because he loves us.

**Theo:** I'm so glad that God gives gifts!

**Teacher:** And using God's gifts, one thing we can do is help others.

**Theo:** Really?

**Teacher:** Yes, let's learn about the gifts God gives us.

**Theo:** Have fun, boys and girls!

**Teacher:** Say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

## Bible Time: Church of Many Colors

### What You'll Do

Invite the children to sit with you in four groups of two to four children each. Open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 12, and show the children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today in the Bible we'll learn that God created us and that he gives special gifts to each person who believes in Jesus. Our Bible Point today is that we can ► SERVE GOD. Say it with me: ► SERVE GOD.**

**I have a different package for each of your groups.** Hold the bags up for the children to see.

**Tell me what you think is the same about all these bags.** Pause for the children to respond.

**All of these bags look the same on the outside. Now let's open the bags.** Have each group of children sit in a circle and pour the pieces in the center.

Ask:

- **What's the same about the items inside the bags? What's different?**

Say: **Just like each of your groups has connecting blocks but they are different colors, God gives us all gifts but they are different gifts.**

**In the Bible, Paul told a group of people called the Corinthians that they all had different gifts. Some people have the gifts of wisdom and knowledge. That means God makes them extra smart. God gives some people the gift of faith. Those people believe God even when everyone else throws their hands up and says, "That's impossible!" But nothing is impossible for God. Have kids point up.**

**God gives some people the gift of teaching; they like to help others learn new things. God gives these gifts and many more to people who believe in Jesus. We can use our gifts to share God's love with others. And when we do that, we will ► SERVE GOD.**

**Take two or three blocks and hold them in your hand.** Give kids a moment to hold up their blocks.

**Now pretend that each of those blocks is a person who goes to our church, and one of those blocks is you. Each person has a different gift to help others. Have**



### Bible Time: Church of Many Colors Supplies

Bible  
4 or 5 lunch bags  
3 connecting blocks per child

### Bible Time: Church of Many Colors Easy Prep

Separate the blocks by color, and place each color in a lunch bag.



kids click two blocks together to represent the joyful noise that different people and their gifts make in church.

**God gives us different gifts. We can ask God to help us use the gifts he gives us even when we're just young boys and girls. Paul told the Corinthians that we're all part of the family of God when we believe in Jesus. We have special work to do that helps others. That's why God gives us different gifts.**

**Let's build a church together to help us see how God makes this work. First, pretend one block is you, and set it next to you.** Pause for children to do this.

**Help your group make a wall with the rest of your blocks, and then bring your wall to me.** When the kids bring you their walls, put the walls together to form a square or rectangular building. Then encourage each child to put his or her block on the wall.

**This is like our church; look how colorful it is! That's because God gives each of us different gifts. Our church is more colorful and more beautiful because we can all use our own special and unique gifts to ► SERVE GOD.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

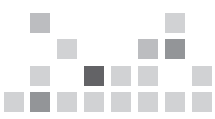
- What's good about helping someone?
- What are some things you can do to help others in our church?

Say: **You might be able to tell people about a part of the Bible, or smile and help people feel happy that they came to church. God wants us to use the gifts he gives us to serve him. Let's say our Bible Point together. ► SERVE GOD.**

## 4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.





**CENTER 1:**

# I'm a Gift

## What You'll Do

Say: **God gives us different gifts so we can ► SERVE GOD.** Our gifts are important to help our church body grow and to help tell others about Jesus' love. You're a gift to our church.

Ask:

- What's something you do well?
- What can you do to use that gift to help someone?

Say: **Just as all the presents on your paper are different, God gives us different gifts. These gifts help us ► SERVE GOD.** If you're good at talking to others, God can use you to tell others about his love. If you're good at smiling and helping others feel happy, God can use you to welcome people to church. And if you like to pray, God can use you to pray for people who are sick. God gives us all different gifts.

Have kids draw pictures of themselves and others in the white spaces on the presents. Then have them decorate the bows with glitter glue.

**CENTER 2:**

# Center 2: What's My Gift?

## What You'll Do

Have kids clean their hands.

Say: **God gives us different gifts so we can ► SERVE GOD.**

Give children each a napkin and equal amounts of jelly beans.

Say: **We learned today that God gives us different gifts. Let's pretend that the jelly beans are the special gifts God has given you.**

Encourage kids to hide their jelly beans in the napkin by folding the napkin over the jelly beans or wrapping the napkin around the jelly beans.

Say: **Each person who believes in Jesus has a different gift from God hidden inside his or her heart. God can help you use your gift to serve others.**



## Center 1: I'm a Gift Supplies

My Bible Playground  
glitter glue  
crayons

## Center 1: I'm a Gift Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson  
8 pages from each  
My Bible Playground  
student book.

## Center 2: What's My Gift? Supplies

napkins  
jelly beans  
antibacterial gel  
(optional)

**! ALLERGY  
■ ALERT**





### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some gifts God has given to people in your family?
- How does your family serve God with those gifts?

Choose a child to pray, and then let children enjoy their snack.

### ■ CENTER 3:

## What's Your Part?

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **The Bible says that our church is like a body. We're going to pretend that we're important parts of the body. The Bible tells us that each of our gifts is very important, just as each part of the body is important to the whole body. A face can't see if it doesn't have eyes.** Put your hands on your face, and have kids each put their hands on their faces.

Say: **Legs can't stand up if they don't have feet at the end to walk on, knees in the middle to bend with, or hips at the top to move with.** Stretch out one leg and bend it, and have kids safely kick their legs and bend their knees.

Say: **The Bible tells us that each of us has special gifts and talents that can be used to help others in the body of Christ. I'm going to call out the name of body parts to understand how a body connects together. When you hear a body part, such as ear, nose, hand, or whatever, quickly put your hand on that body part.**

Begin calling out names of two to four body parts at a time. When all the children are frantically trying to touch two different body parts at a time, have them say the Bible Point. Then have children return to their starting positions to begin the game again.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Afterward, lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was this game like for you?
- Why are all our body parts important?
- Why are all God's gifts important?

Say: **We can use our gifts to ► SERVE GOD.**

**CENTER 4:**

# Colorful People

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Set out the assorted pieces of construction paper and glue. Have the paper people in your hand and ready to give to the children.

Say: **Today we learned that we each have special gifts and that all of us together make up the body of Christ.** Distribute the paper people to the children.

Ask:

- **What gifts does our pastor have? your teachers? your friends?**

Say: **All the people in churches around the world make up the body of Christ. Let's pretend that each of these little colored pieces of paper is a person who knows God and has a gift from God to help others.** Show the children the back of their cutout people with their names and the Bible Point written on them. Read the Bible Point to the children: ► **SERVE GOD.** Have them repeat the Bible Point after you.

Let kids glue the colored pieces of paper onto the paper people. Set the Colorful People aside to dry until the children are ready to go home.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Afterward, lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think is one of the special gifts God has given you?**
- **What can you do to help serve God right now?**

Say: **Just as each of these "people" has different colors of different shapes and sizes, each person in our church has a different gift. But all of our gifts fit together to form the body of Christ, and this body can ► SERVE GOD.**

**5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS**

# Daily Challenges

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, bring everyone back to the circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.



**Center 4: Colorful People Supplies**

- .....
- an assortment of colored construction paper
  - scissors
  - marker
  - glue
  - 1 copy per child of the "Paper Person" handout (at the end of this lesson)

**Center 4: Colorful People Easy Prep**

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Cut out each Paper Person. For each child, write the child's name and "Serve God" on the back of a Paper Person. Cut out an assortment of small shapes from construction paper.

**Daily Challenges Supplies**

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My Bible Playground



Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that with our different gifts we can ► SERVE GOD! Choose one of these Daily Challenges as a way that you can serve God this week.**

Give kids these three challenges to choose from:

1. **Pray for someone you love. Ask God to take care of that person and help that person.**
2. **Give the gift of helping to each person in your family this week!**
3. **Make a nice card or color a pretty picture for your pastor or another person at church.**

Say: **If you want to pray for someone, circle choice number 1. If you want to help people in your family, circle choice number 2. If you want to make a card, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

## A Flavorful Prayer

### A Flavorful Prayer Supplies

jelly beans

**! ALLERGY  
■ ALERT**

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give children each two or three jelly beans, and allow them to eat as you discuss the following.

Ask:

- **What if every candy tasted exactly the same?**

Say: **Just as your candies all tasted different, God gives us different gifts. And we can use those gifts to ► SERVE GOD.** Have kids all take turns and say a gift they're thankful for.

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for the gifts you have given us to use for you each day we live. Help us love you every day and bring you joy through our work and play. In Jesus' name, amen.**

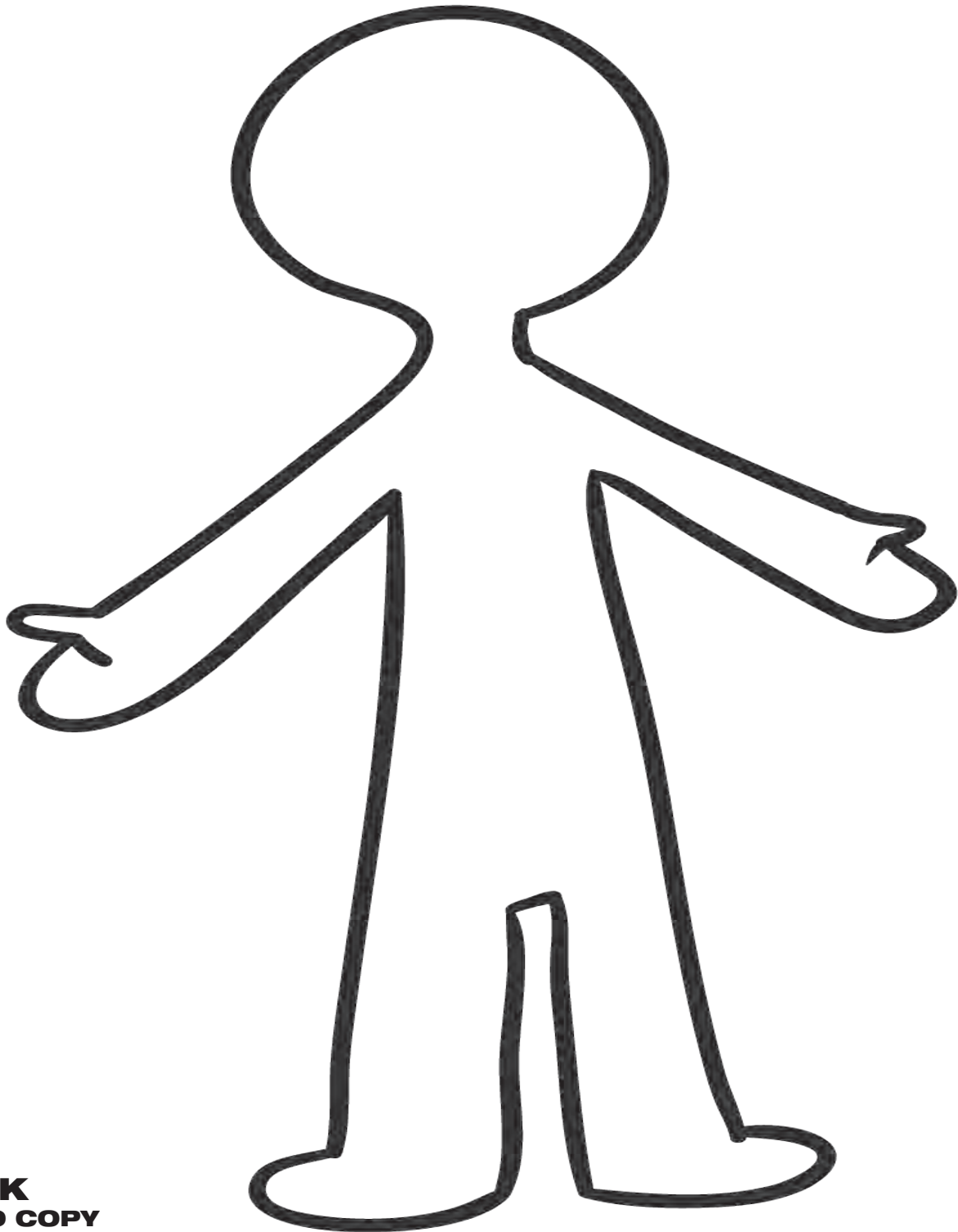
## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground pages whether they worked on them or not. Have children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).



# Paper Person



**OK  
TO COPY**  
Illustrated by Wes Comer.