

# Paul Teaches About Spiritual Gifts

## 1 Corinthians 12:4-27

God delights in giving his children a variety of gifts for service. In young believers, these gifts aren't always clearly evidenced or developed. That doesn't mean preteens don't possess specific spiritual gifts. They need your help to understand who they are in Christ and to identify and develop the gifts he's given them. Use this lesson to help kids discover their individual spiritual gifts.



### ► 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 spiritual gifts to serve God in specific ways.

| LESSON                                   | WHAT KIDS DO  | SUPPLIES   | EASY PREP   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p><b>1</b></p> <p>Getting Started</p>   | <p><b>Equiptionary</b><br/><i>(about 10 min.)</i></p> <p>Guess occupations by the special tools required.</p> | <p>whiteboard or poster board, markers, basket or bowl, scissors, "Equiptionary" handout (at the end of this lesson)</p> | <p>Cut up the occupations from the "Equiptionary" handout, and put them in the basket or bowl.</p>  |
| <p><b>2</b></p> <p>Bible Exploration</p> | <p><b>Gifts That Keep on Giving</b><br/><i>(about 20 min.)</i></p> <p>Open a gift and try to use it.</p>      | <p>Bible, pens that can be taken apart, 1 paper lunch sack per preteen, slips of paper</p>                               | <p>Disassemble and separate the parts of several retractable pens (spring, ink cartridge, casing, and so on) so there are enough parts for each preteen to have at least 1. Place 1 pen part and a slip of paper in each bag. Write the name of each preteen on a bag. Include extra bags for visitors.</p> |

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



| LESSON                                    | WHAT KIDS DO  | SUPPLIES  | EASY PREP  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <b>3</b><br>Weaving<br>Faith<br>Into Life | <b>What's a Body to Do?</b><br><i>(about 15 min.)</i><br>Find practical ways each part of the body can serve God.       | pens, Bible Buzz  | Tear out the Lesson 8 pages from each Bible Buzz student book. |
|   | <b>Guided Tour</b><br><i>(about 15 min.)</i><br>Take a walking tour (or draw a floor plan) of the church.               | Bible Buzz, large sheet of paper (optional), pens or markers (optional) |  |
| <b>4</b><br>Lasting<br>Impressions        | <b>Daily Challenges</b><br><i>(about 5 min.)</i><br>Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.                       | Bible Buzz  |  |
|   | <b>Weaving Faith at Home</b><br><i>(about 2 min.)</i><br>Talk about how to share what they learned with their families. |   |  |

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





### Equiptionary Supplies

whiteboard or poster board  
markers  
basket or bowl  
scissors  
“Equiptionary” handout (at the end of the lesson)

### Equiptionary Easy Prep

Cut up the occupations from the “Equiptionary” handout, and put them in the basket or bowl.

### Gifts That Keep on Giving Supplies

Bible  
pens that can be taken apart  
1 paper lunch sack per preteen  
slips of paper

### Gifts That Keep on Giving Easy Prep

Disassemble and separate the parts of several retractable pens (spring, ink cartridge, casing, and so on) so there are enough parts for each preteen to have at least 1. Place 1 pen part and a slip of paper in each bag. Write the name of each preteen on a bag. Include extra bags for visitors.

## 1 GETTING STARTED

### Equiptionary

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Invite the kids to sit together in a large group facing the whiteboard. Explain that you're going to play a game called Equiptionary, in which they'll try to guess an occupation by watching someone draw a picture of the tools used for that job.

Have one preteen go to the board, take an occupation slip from the basket, and draw simple drawings of the equipment a person in that occupation would use. The rest of the group should guess the occupation being described by the tools. Continue as time allows, letting different kids have a chance to draw.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why are the tools we drew important for each job?
- Why are the tools different for each job?

Say: **We use different tools to get different jobs done. A dentist wouldn't use a hammer and nails to work on your teeth. In the same way, an airline pilot wouldn't need a stethoscope when flying a plane. We need different tools to do different tasks. God has given us each gifts (or tools). Today we'll discover that ► GOD GIVES US GIFTS TO SERVE HIM.**

## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

### Gifts That Keep on Giving

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **I have a gift for each of you this morning.**

Let the kids find and open the lunch bags you prepared earlier with their names on them. Take a moment for the kids to figure out that each bag contains a part of a disassembled ballpoint pen.



Say: **Now that you have your new pen, I'm sure you'll want to use it.**

Have kids take out the paper in their lunch bags, and suggest they write the words of 1 Corinthians 12:4 as you read it to them: **"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit."** Only the kids with the ink cartridge will be able to attempt to write on the paper, but with difficulty.

Ask:

- **What makes it hard to write with your part of the pen?**
- **What is your part of the pen meant to do?**

Say: **The gift I gave you is a necessary part of the pen. By itself, your part may not seem important, but it is. All the parts are needed, and they all work together to make one usable pen.**

Have the kids group together with others who have the parts they need to make a complete pen. Let them assemble the pens and write the words "Many parts. One pen." on the paper.

Form groups of five, and have each group assign one person to be a foot, hand, ear, eye, and nose. Say: **Okay, body parts, lie down on the floor and position yourselves where you think you should be on the body. I'm going to read a passage from 1 Corinthians, and when you hear your body part mentioned, do what the verse says.**

Read aloud 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, and allow kids to act out the verses according to which body part they are.

### **Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How are the people in the church like a pen?**
- **What stood out to you from this passage?**
- **What would be wrong about everyone having the same gifts?**
- **Why did God give us spiritual gifts?**

Say: **Unlike the gifts we receive at Christmas or on our birthdays, our spiritual gifts aren't only for our enjoyment; they're to be shared within the church. The gifts I gave you equipped you to do a job as a group. Just as all the parts of the pen are necessary, and all the parts of the body are necessary, all the "parts" of the church are necessary. ► GOD GIVES US GIFTS TO SERVE HIM. Each gift is different and can be used in different ways.**



### What's a Body to Do? Supplies

pens  
Bible Buzz

### What's a Body to Do? Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 8  
pages from each Bible  
Buzz student book.

## 3

## WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

# What's a Body to Do?

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Spiritual gifts are the special abilities God gives Christians to accomplish his work. God might make you a “hand” and give you many opportunities to reach out to others or give of your time and money. He might make you a “foot,” and you’ll go places telling others about Jesus. He might make you a “mouth,” and you’ll learn to teach others from God’s Word. Whatever your gift, when you use it for God, it’ll help build up the body of Christ—the church.**

Distribute pens and this week’s Bible Buzz pages. Divide preteens into six groups (eyes, ears, hands, feet, mouth, head). Have the kids locate the “What’s a Body to Do?” section.

Use the following scenarios to help preteens think in terms of using spiritual gifts to serve God. After each one, let the groups discuss a specific way their part of the body could serve God in that particular situation. For example, the eyes could see a specific situation arising and alert the rest of the body. The hands may come up with a way to help out in a scenario. Encourage kids to be creative and realistic with their responses. Let them record their ideas on the Bible Buzz page beside the body part they’re representing.

Say: **Scenario One: Mr. Johnson lives alone and will celebrate his 88th birthday this week. His family lives far away and will not be able to visit. Mr. Johnson is not a Christian. What’s a body to do?**

Give groups about two minutes to decide how they will contribute. After a few minutes, ask each of the groups to share their ideas with the rest of the group. The other groups can write down the ideas others share. By the end of the activity, preteens will have many ideas written in their Bible Buzz pages to answer the question “What’s a body to do?”

Say: **Scenario Two: The annual Fall Work Day at church is only three weeks away. What’s a body to do?**

Give groups another two minutes. After a few minutes, ask each of the groups to share their ideas with the rest of the group.

Say: **Scenario Three: On the bus ride home from school, your neighbor tells you that his mom had surgery and is in the hospital. Your neighbor is in fourth grade and has a big math test tomorrow. He needs help with fractions. He knows his dad will be busy making dinner, doing laundry, taking care of his baby sister, and he will be visiting at the hospital until late that night. What’s a body to do?**

Give another two minutes for kids to work. After a few minutes, ask each of the groups to share their ideas with the rest of the group.

Say: **Scenario Four: A missionary speaker visits your church and tells all about his ministry with orphans in South America. The orphanage is very poor, but they are trying to help the children know about God and learn to read and write. What's a body to do?**

Allow time for kids to complete their Bible Buzz pages, and then have groups share their answers. After a few minutes, ask each of the groups to share their ideas with everyone.

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Was your body part easy or difficult to brainstorm ideas for? Explain.
- Which scenario was hardest to come up with a solution for? Explain.
- What are some other places you can use your gifts?

Say: **Just because you've been given a certain gift doesn't mean you can't contribute to a person in need. You just need to think about the best thing for you to do, with your gifts. ► GOD GIVES US GIFTS TO SERVE HIM.**

## Guided Tour

### What You'll Do

Have the kids find and read the Key Verse, Ephesians 2:10, on their Bible Buzz pages: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Say: **We can do good works by serving one another. That means helping others whenever, wherever, and however we can. God has equipped you with something you're good at and enjoy doing. He wants everyone to use his or her gifts to serve in the church. Everyone has a place he or she can serve.**

If it's possible to let the kids walk through your church building without disturbing other people, lead a short "guided" tour. Before you leave for your tour, share a brief prayer asking God to guide the kids as they walk. Pray that God will help them discover which gifts they can use to serve him in the church.

As you walk through the building, encourage kids to talk about different ways people are serving one another in each room. If touring the church isn't convenient, ask the kids to draw a large, simple floor plan of the church and take a "table tour." Talk about the specific opportunities to serve God that are available in each area of your church building. Encourage your kids to ask themselves, "If I were one of the people in this room, how could I serve God in some way?" Help them think in terms of things they are good at or enjoy doing.



### Guided Tour Supplies

Bible Buzz  
large sheet of paper  
(optional)  
pens or markers  
(optional)



When they finish, bring all the kids together, and let them share what they discovered about places of service during their “guided tour.”

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What good works are people doing to serve God at our church today?
- What are some gifts you think you might have? How can you use them?
- Where would you enjoy serving in our church? Why?

Say: God wants us to do the jobs he has prepared for us to do. Thankfully, ► **GOD GIVES US GIFTS TO SERVE HIM.** Keep your eyes open, because God will give you many opportunities and just the right place to serve him.

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

Daily Challenges  
Supplies

Bible Buzz

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Let's think about how we can remember this week that ► **GOD GIVES US GIFTS TO SERVE HIM.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their Bible Buzz pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- If you know what your spiritual gifts are, think of one way you can use them this week. Serve someone else; encourage someone; give of the resources you have for someone else's sake.
- If you *don't* know what your spiritual gifts are, talk about it with your pastor, teacher, or other Christian adult you trust. Also, ask your Christian friends, “What kinds of gifts do you see in me?” You might be pleasantly surprised to discover how God is already using you.
- We're all more gifted in certain areas than in others, but God commands us to do many things we're not automatically “gifted” at. Stretch yourself this week. Do for God something that you're not entirely comfortable with but you know would please God. Maybe God has a gift he's waiting for you to discover. Either way, you'll serve God and others and discover more about what God has really created you for.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. 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, place, and other ideas.**

Say: ► **GOD GIVES US GIFTS TO SERVE HIM, and we can use those gifts as we follow through with our Daily Challenges this week.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids. Have kids ask God to show them where they can use their gifts for him.



# Equiptionary



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