

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

God made us all unique, and he wants us all to work together in his service.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that we all have a place in God's family.

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Corinthians 12:12-27. The body of Christ.

MEMORY VERSE:

"The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day." - Proverbs 4:18 (NIV)

Give all the kids a Bible. Then after you read the verse, give them the reference and see who can find it first in their Bible.

SUMMARY:

In the game of chess, every game piece has a role to play. Some pieces are more powerful than others, but they all must work together to win the game. Paul describes the church in a similar way. We are the body of Christ. Each of us is different, but we all have a part to play. We must learn to work together if we want to succeed.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us discover our talents and gifts so we can play our role in the body of Christ!

In Jesus' name,

Amen

EASY AT HOME OBJECT LESSON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A CD by your favorite Christian artist

Begin the lesson by showing the CD to the kids. Ask if any of them have heard him or her. Share what your favorite song is, and why you like this artist. Ask if anyone knows any song by that artist, and see if you can coax someone into singing.

We're talking today about the church being the body of Christ, and how all of us have a part to play. Imagine for a second that everyone in church was the same. Imagine we were all exactly like this person. We'd all have the same talent for music. We'd all be just as good as he/she is. We'd all be just as good at writing music.

If we could all do what he/she does, how boring would that be? Not only that, if we were all the same person, how would we decide who preaches, who teaches Sunday School, who sets up the auditorium before church, who cleans up after, who runs sound and lights?

God didn't make us all alike. He gave some people special gifts and talents, like the artists we all enjoy on the radio. Their music touches us and inspires us, and God uses them to minister to us.

But God's work isn't limited to a few good singers and preachers. It takes all kinds of people to do the work of the Lord. Every person is important. Every job is important. That's why we all need to be willing to find our talents and put them to work.

The people on stage can't do their ministry without the ministry of those off the stage. God has a plan for you, a special role only you can fulfill.

FAMILY GAME TIME

TWO-MAN RUBICKS

ITEMS NEEDED:

- 1 XXL T-shirt
- 1 Rubicks Cube, 1 stopwatch

INSTRUCTIONS:

Scramble the Rubick Cube just slightly. Have 2 people get into the XXL Shirts, with each person using one arm hole.

Time the team to see how long it takes to solve the Rubicks Cube. Then repeat with a new team. Fastest time wins!

VARIATION:

For younger kids, you can have them build a 24 or 48 piece puzzle instead of the Rubicks Cube.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Puzzles require multiple parts of our body for us to solve - our minds, our eyes, and both our hands. If they don't work together, we will never solve them. We need to work together if we want to be the body of Christ.

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

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INTRO

There are two kinds of games you can play with the same board. Most of you probably know the game Checkers. It's a simple game with simple rules. Each player gets twelve identical playing pieces that move in exactly the same way. Jump all your opponents and you win the game. Simple, easy, fun.

How many of you thought chess was going to be as easy as checkers? Chess is a completely different game, and much more challenging. Chess involves sixteen pieces per side with six different types of game pieces.

To start with, you have eight pawns in the front row that move one step at a time - except they can move two spaces on their first turn. Pawns can take out opponent's game pieces by striking with a forward, diagonal move. And if a pawn reaches the other end of the board, they can transform into another game piece - a rook, a bishop, a knight, or a queen!

Rooks are the castles. They can move forward, backward, left and right, as many spaces as you want. Bishops can move as far as you want, forwards and backwards, but they move diagonally. Queens are the most powerful pieces on the board. They can move forward, backward, left, right, and diagonally. Kings can move in any direction too, but they can only move one step at a time. And Knights are completely different because when they move, they move in a sort of "L" shaped pattern.

Confused?

Chess is a difficult game that takes years to master, but it's a great exercise in strategy and critical thinking. Use your pieces wisely and effectively, and you can capture your opponent's king - or as they say in chess, put him in checkmate - and win the game.

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

Chess is also a perfect parallel to an illustration Paul gives us about God's church. In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul wanted to show the Corinthians that they were not intended to all be exactly alike. God made each of us unique, and he wants us all to work together.

READ 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

MAIN POINT

Stop and think for a moment how your body is laid out. Your mouth is on your face, at the top of your body. When you chew and swallow food, it goes down through the digestive system until it reaches the end. If it were reversed, your body would be pushing food up through your body against gravity and have to work twice as hard.

Your eyes are up top to give you the best view. Your ears are also placed in the perfect place to hear. Your hands are more toward the middle, able to reach down to your toes and over your heart. Your heart is right in the center of your body, pumping blood to all parts of the body. Your lungs are right next to the heart, providing oxygen to the bloodstream. Every piece, every part is perfectly designed and perfectly placed to make your body run as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

Jesus himself described the church as his body, and Paul took that illustration further to show us how we need to work together. He wanted the Corinthians to see that God doesn't want a church full of robots, each one exactly alike in every way. We are all different. We all have different skills. We all have a part to play in serving the Lord.

DRIVE IT HOME

I want to take a moment to show you what this looks like. Think about a typical church service and all the people who help out to make the service possible.

[Take a moment to point out all the people and list the things that they have done to help make a service happen.]

Who is running sound? Who is running lights? Who led worship? Who played in the band? Who acted in the skit? Who directed the skit? Who ran the game? Who gathered all the props needed for the game and other parts of the service? Give the kids a real visual of how your ministry functions - one team, but many parts.

Every other ministry in this church operates the same way. Everyone has different gifts, but everyone has a part to play, from the pastor in the pulpit to the unseen hands that clean the church after service. The Bible tells us that even in Heaven, we will all have a role to play in God's kingdom. So the service we do here is really just practice for what we'll do there!

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

So how about you guys? Some of you have already begun to discover your talents. Some of you may already be using them here and in other ministries. Some of you probably have no clue what your gift is.

God will reveal his plan for you in time. When he does, I encourage you to find your place in the church and put those talents to work. It doesn't matter if you're the next great pastor or the next great parking lot traffic director, God has a place for you in the body of Christ.

There's a story told about a shoe salesman who taught Sunday school in church. That shoe salesman shared the gospel with a young man named D.L. Moody. D.L. Moody may not be a familiar name to you, but at one time he was the greatest evangelist in America. But that never would have happened if that lowly shoe salesman had not been willing to play his part in the body of Christ.

God has a place for you in the body of Christ, his church. It may be big. It may not seem to be exciting. But you don't have to be a bishop or a queen or a rook to be a hero of the faith. Sometimes even a pawn can put the king in checkmate.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Help us discover our talents and gifts so we can play our role in the body of Christ!

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

LESSON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER

Have you ever played chess? Do you think it's easy or hard?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-28

Have any of you played on a team sport where you had to learn different positions?

Why is it so important that everyone play their position and only their position? What would happen if someone wandered off and tried to do someone else's job?

How does Paul describe the church?

What are some of the parts of the body he talks about?

Why can't our body parts say to one another, "I don't need you"?

Why do we need to work together to serve God?

Think about our church for a moment. Who are some of the people who serve here every week that you notice?

Have any of you discovered some of your gifts or talents?

How have you put those gifts to use in church?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for the many gifts you have given us. Help us to discover those gifts and show us how we can put them to use for you.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

LESSON REVIEW GAME

Multiple Choice

1. Our eyes were made to see, but what other function can they do?
 - A. Taste
 - B. Smell
 - C. None of the above*
2. If we lose the use of a part of the body,
 - A. We lose nothing because other parts can do the job
 - B. We lose whatever ability that body part had*
 - C. We can easily replace it with another part
3. Paul describes the church as
 - A. A bunch of people exactly the same
 - B. People with the same gifts and talents
 - C. A body with many parts*
4. If the people in the church did not have different talents, we would
 - A. Be an even better church
 - B. Not be able to function as one body*
 - C. Not argue and bicker amongst ourselves
5. God has given each of us
 - A. A unique calling and unique talents*
 - B. The same calling
 - C. The same talents

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids draw, cut out, and paste the parts of the face together using construction paper. Create a model they can follow with a head, eyes, nose, mouth, ears, and, hair. See if they can create one of their own face!