

<p><u>Spiritual Gifts</u> Play do activity Help other with gifts worksheet Spiritual gift test – kids/adults http://mycupoverflows-johnson.blogspot.com/2017/02/spiritual-gifts-for-kids.html Do-votion Video list on email</p>	<p><u>Body of Christ</u> Body puzzle Puzzle piece What can each part do? Giant body puzzle Dr. Pepper</p>
<p><u>Love</u> Love rocks Love hands Science experiment 15 ways to show love</p>	<p><u>Better Together</u> Who is my neighbor? Devo Cards to members Gracious giving https://www.kcedventures.com/blog/30-service-projects-rak-s-for-families-to-do-together</p>

List of Recipients:

Week one – Spiritual Gifts

Activity 1:

Our reading is 1 Corinthians chapter 12. We are discussing spiritual gifts and the fact that we are all part of one body in Christ. I have enclosed a copy of the chapter.

"God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful." 1 Corinthians 12: 4-7 (The Message)

Everyone loves play dough. As you read through the chapter, make parts of the body with your play dough. If you are with multiple people, each person can make different parts and combine them into one body. People listen much better if their hands are busy with a simple task.

When you've finished, discuss or think about how each part is very special, but is missing something when it is off by itself. The parts couldn't accomplish much all alone. You couldn't tell the foot to go tell someone about Jesus. The foot doesn't have a mouth to speak. You can't tell a head to go somewhere, it needs the neck and other parts to move it there. Each part is important and necessary to achieve God's plan.

The body parts aren't as useful alone, BUT when we all put our parts together, it makes one body, just like we are one in Christ. We all bring different things to the world, but our goal is the same. We need each other. We each have different spiritual gifts that God has given us. They work best together, not separate. Together we can accomplish a lot for God.

Activity 2:

Take a spiritual gifts test.

There are tons on the internet, but I have attached a very simple one that even kids can do! Talk or think about how you can use these gifts in the church? In the community? In the world?

Activity 3:

"A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other."

1 Corinthians 12:7

The body parts aren't as useful alone, BUT when we all put our parts together, it makes one body, just like we are one in Christ. We all bring different things to the world, but our goal is the same. We need each other. We each have different spiritual gifts that God has given us. They work best together, not separate. Together we can accomplish a lot for God.

To illustrate the point a little further, I have attached a worksheet to fill out. There are arrows pointing to all different parts of the body. For each arrow, think of someone in the church or in other parts of your life who fills that part. Write down what that person's spiritual gift is on the arrow. God has given each of us a gift to be used for Him. It's a treasure that must be found.

They could be the feet, bringing the good news about Jesus to others, teaching what they know. They could be the nose, sniffing out good vs. evil. Having discernment is very important. They could be the hands, serving people who have needs. They could be the knees, bending down praying for others to be healed.

The list of parts goes on and on...

Activity 4:

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Use a marker to color your fingertip. Carefully roll your inked finger over a clean sheet of paper. If you are with others, compare your prints. If you are by yourself, notice the details in the print. We are all alike in many ways, but we are all very different as well. Just look – our fingerprints are all different. It's the same in God's family. We are similar because God loves us all and sent Jesus to save us. We all need forgiveness. We are different too. We each have different talents from God to help us spread His word. There are as many different ways to share God's love through our words and actions as there are different gifts from Him.

Name a few of the unique gifts God has given each of us. Thank God for making each of us unique. Ask God to help us use our talents to serve Him.

Week Two: The Body of Christ

Activity 1:

One (1) person needs to lead this lesson. Find the human jigsaw puzzle in advance. Intentionally leave out one part of the body.

If you are with your family, put the available pieces together to "complete" the puzzle

Ask the group, "What body part is missing from your puzzle?" Go through the deficiency for each puzzle ... "What can this child in the puzzle NOT do?"

READ - 1 Cor. 12:14 - Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body.

The foot and the ear are comparing themselves to the hand and the eye, and in their own mind think they are less important than the hand and the eye and concluded that they do not belong to the body.

"Do you think the missing body part (i.e., foot or ear) is correct in what it said? Why or why not?"

Ask, "What will happen to the body if the missing body part continues to be missing?"

OR "What will happen to the body when a body part stops working?"

Answer: The whole body suffers!

Relate, "You may think you are not like the others or that you are not useful but the truth is that (a) we all are different

(b) you are special/unique - nobody can do what you can do

(c) you are needed in the body of Christ."

If you don't know what body part you are then you don't know what you are supposed to be doing. And if you are not doing your part, then the body is disabled!

Maybe you are hands that serve or comfort others. Maybe you are the feet that bring others to where Jesus wants the whole body to go. Maybe you are the mouth that sings or talks to encourage others.

Look back at your spiritual gifts test from last week and see how these gifts fit into this.

Activity 2:

Paint or color your puzzle piece. You can be as creative as you like. Think about how you are one piece of God's giant puzzle.

A jigsaw puzzle is set of numerous interlocking pieces which are assembled together to produce a complete picture, often of nature, landscapes, or a recognizable piece of art. Each piece is unique. When fit together, each piece contributes to the entire puzzle.

A jigsaw puzzle is a great illustration of the Body of Christ. Each of us represents a unique piece of a puzzle. When our strengths are combined, we make a whole.

God creates the Body of Christ to be like interlocking puzzle pieces. Each of us is given unique strengths. When members of the Body find their strengths, use their strengths, and value strengths in one another, we interconnect with each other to form a whole. Together we are

stronger and can withstand changeable movements that are part of growth. We're designed to fit together to reflect the character of Jesus ... and for our connections to remain strong.

Puzzlers study sorted pieces to ascertain where one, then another, fit together. Sections in interlocking puzzles come together piece by piece, as one joins with another. A correctly-placed puzzle piece paves the way for more puzzle pieces to be added.

Likewise, the people in Body of Christ are assembled one at a time. It begins when just one person is willing to be used where God places him.

That willingness is win-win. As you begin to lead from your strengths and become willing to interlock with another, you not only connect with the whole. You also create a means for others to do so, too. As you interconnect, you show others that their strengths are needed.

It takes just one person to start the interlocking-puzzle-piece process at home, at work, in the community, or in ministry – by discovering your strengths, using your strengths, and valuing the strengths in others.

You can be that person.

Activity 3:

Set a five minute timer and sketch a figure from head to waist. Say: "Write down what each of the parts of the body might do to serve the church and others."

For example, what can your hands do? Fix something broken before mom sees it. As the five minutes goes on, add in other body parts as you think of other items (i.e., heart, eyes, etc.)

When all is said and done you should see connections between different gifts people might have. The person who is good at listening and hears about the person in need of a new house, may not have the skill. But the person with the hands may not catch the need, but has the skill to build it.

The person with the skill to write and create amazing songs, may not be good at actually singing them, or an effective teacher. But another person might be.

This is why the body of Christ works best together, with each person working together to show off their skills.

How will you contribute to the church?

Activity 4:

We can also talk about each of us having a purpose.

Trace your or your child's body. Cut it out and cut it up into all different parts to make it like a body puzzle.

Talk about how important every piece is and how all our body parts have a different purpose. We talked about the purpose of each part as we pieced it back together. I then related to the Bible passage found in 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. This passage talks about the important purpose of everyone in the body of Christ. It shows how each individual has certain gifts and abilities that help the body function as a whole. Each part is important.

Activity 5:

I love Dr Pepper. And it has to be the real stuff. No other brand is the same. I always say the difference between Dr Pepper and Mr Pibb is that Dr Pepper went to school for longer, and so must have learned more about how to taste good.

Then one day, I got curious and looked up what the 23 flavors were, and it's the craziest combination of anything you could imagine. For fun, think for a second about what a few of them might be.

A good many of these might surprise you:

Amaretto, Almond, Blackberry, Black Licorice, Carrot, Clove, Cherry, Caramel, Cola, Ginger, Juniper, Lemon, Molasses, Nutmeg, Orange, Prune, Plum, Pepper, Root Beer, Rum, Raspberry, Tomato, & Vanilla.

Seriously. who would have thought to put all these random things together and see if they'd taste good? Who knew that person would be right?

I kept looking at that list, and just couldn't wrap my mind around all of them possibly being so perfect together. especially when I don't like so many of them by themselves (tomato, pepper, prune, licorice...). Then I thought: God does that all the time. Think of the kinds of groups he sticks together to do his work.

The disciples - 12 guys from different walks of life. Fishermen and tax collectors, Jews and Gentiles, and, by what we can gather from Scripture and what we know about human nature, all different personalities and gifts.

Churches - Few people would say that their congregation is made up of all completely like-minded people who instantly appear to work perfectly together, and I think anyone who would doesn't know their church very well.

Mission teams - Somewhat opposite of the case in a church, here you have a group of people with the same or similar visions but different views of how to carry it out.

No matter what the situation, God works through unexpected people all the time. It may take us a while to remember, but he put us together in the first place; why would he do that if he wasn't going to accomplish anything through it?

For me, I see this play out every summer at my camp. LOTS of kids all thrown together for a week, all with different personalities, different passions, different points of view. There are always one or two that don't seem like they'll work out. But soon as other campers come, everything gets mixed up perfectly. When you see everyone working together, you realize that when he mixed all these "flavors", God knew what he was doing. Just like whoever it was that made Dr Pepper.

Week Three - Love

At the very end of the chapter Paul writes that Love is the best way of all.

Activity 1;

Love hands – Take a piece of paper and fold it in half. Trace your hand with the tip of your thumb & forefinger over the folded edge. Cut along the line. Unfold your paper. Write the verse above the heart “Love is the best way of all” and decorate.



Paul wrote 1 Corinthians 12 to explain to the church in Corinth that love was the most important of the spiritual gifts that God had given His people.

Paul wanted the people to know that God gave His people gifts in order for them to encourage other people and not to puff themselves up. Paul explained this by saying things like if I speak in the tongues of men and angels by have not love I am like a clanging cymbal. No matter what the people did, they needed to do it with love.

Paul then gave them a list describing what love is like. As we read through this list, we should realize that no one can love like that. The only one who can love perfectly, patiently, selflessly, kindly, etc. is God Himself.

Finally, love is the one thing that will last forever. One day everything else will fade away...there will be no more prophecy or teaching or anything else because God's people will be in God's presence forever...but there will always be love.

Pray that ALL would come to know the love of God more and more and that they would remember that all of us are sinners who need to be saved. Pray that they would remember the greatest act of love ever and thank God that Jesus laid down His life for His people to save us from our sin.

Activity 2:

Love rocks – paint a rock (if you have paint). If you don't have paint, try melted crayon rock art. What you'll need: crayons, Smooth, round rocks, Baking sheet lined with tinfoil, Oven mitts and/or hot pads, Newspaper to keep your work surface clean, Your oven

How to make Melted Crayon Rock Art

1. Gather some smooth, medium size rocks to use.
 2. Give the rocks a quick wash.
 3. Line a cookie sheet with tinfoil, place the rocks on it and put in the oven at 350 degrees for 10-15 min.
 4. While your rocks are baking take a minute to peel your crayons.
 5. Once your rocks are done carefully remove them from the oven and place on a covered, heat-proof work surface using an oven mitt. You could do it outside on the sidewalk!
- Caution: make sure children understand NOT to touch the rocks. They are very hot! This is an activity that requires adult supervision.
6. Now comes the fun! Use your peeled crayons to draw on the hot rocks.
 7. Once you're done creating your little works of art let the rocks cool completely before handling.

Leave your rock for someone special or just somewhere when you're out and about.

Activity 3:

God's Love – a science experiment to demonstrate how God's love fills our hearts or how are hearts are empty without God.

What you need: a paper towel, a ball point pen, a red marker, a cup with a small amount of water.

First draw a heart towards the bottom of the paper towel. Talk about how without God, our hearts are empty.

Then fill in the heart with red marker. Talk about how, when we accept Jesus into our hearts, He fills us.

Then draw some hearts above the first heart. Talk about how there are other hearts in the world, in need of love. Talk about how God wants us to share the love He gave us with others.

Then place the bottom of the paper towel in the water. Talk about how the water is God, and when we are in Him, we are able to share love.

As the water is absorbed, you should see the red marker shifting up to the other hearts, filling them. Talk about how we can share love. Mention some practical ways, but emphasize that it must be through being saturated with God, not of our own strength.

Activity 4:

15 ways to show your family you love them:

1. Admit when you are wrong. It's important for family members, especially your kids, to know you are OK with owning it when you've made a mistake and wish to make it right.
2. Smile at your kids when they walk in the room, simply because you're happy to see them.
3. Catch your child (and partner) doing something good and praise them in public for it.
4. Be sure and share as many family meals together as possible throughout the week. Maybe it can't always be dinner, but kicking off the day together by enjoying breakfast as a family is equally as important.
5. Don't compare your child to others. Every child is a unique individual and needs to know that you support them for who they are, not for who they are not.
6. Tell your child you love them each and every day.
7. Give your kids and family members a hug every day.
8. Be as involved as your schedule permits with your child's school including going to PTO meetings, attending parent teacher conferences, and supporting school and sporting functions that are school related.
9. Insist on teaching your child manners, especially the magic words!
10. Learn to become a better listener when your kids and spouse want to share their feelings.
11. Schedule regular dates with each of your children throughout the month as well as your partner.
12. Routinely send your kids and spouse love notes and whimsical cards of appreciation.
13. Be kind to yourself. Showing your family that you value taking care of yourself is extremely important in sending a message of how valuable self-love is for the better good of the rest of the family.
14. Routinely surprise your loved ones with their favorite sweet treats or meals.
15. Let your child decide what's for dinner one night of the week.

Activity 5:

Finding Ways to Love

One of the ways that loving your neighbors can become second nature is through being deliberate and intentional. We should be constantly in tune with others and aware of their possible needs.

Ask your kids or yourself about ways to show God's love to people they meet and see on a day-to-day basis, as well as ways that you can show God's love to others as a family.

Write these things down and make the list prominent in your home. As these things become a priority in your family, they might even become second nature! Through your family, many people will have the opportunity to experience the love of God.

Week Four - Better Together

How can we be better together? Who is we?

Activity 1:

Who is My Neighbor?

Reinforce to your kids that your neighbor can be anyone around you who needs help, needs a friend, or needs you to pray for them. This can be at school, at home, at church, etc. This is important to emphasize since Christian parenting doesn't stop at the church door or with family devotionals. It's important to help your kids understand that their "Good Samaritan" story may not include someone lying on the side of the road, but it could be anyone they encounter. Ask them to think back over the past week. Did they encounter any situations where they could have shown love?

Some examples might include:

- Helping a friend with a problem.
- Helping someone carry in a load of items into church or their home.
- Praying for someone who is going through a difficult time and making sure they know you are there for them.
- Sending a card or letter to someone (activity 3)

The amount of ways we can show love to others is endless.

Pray: Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us and coming to rescue us. Please show us how to love our neighbors and friends. Help us to be more aware of others and their needs. We don't want to be like those in the Good Samaritan story who passed up an opportunity to show love. Help us be like the Good Samaritan – and to be like You. Amen.

Activity 2:

Devotional

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! –Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

There's a phrase used in churches that I really love: "We are better together." Better together is a fantastic slogan. It simply means that when other people are in our lives, we'll thrive. It's a great idea (and biblical)!

Better together also means that God has created and called us into relationships. Not only has He summoned us into a personal relationship with Himself, but He invites us to have significant relationships with other humans. Apart from entering into those kinds of deep, real relationships, we cannot live the lives of abundance that God intended. But when we do have real, connecting relationships in our lives, we can: Know and be known; love and be loved; celebrate and be celebrated; and serve and be served...that's God's invitation to us today. Isn't that what you really want?

When I think of friendship, three images come to mind:

Friendship is sometimes like a lump of unformed clay. It just sits there like a big gray blob of muck. It's undeveloped; it's not good for much...but it has potential. It's just going to take some work to shape it.

Friendship is sometimes like a lump of clay that's being formed. Time and intention have been put into it. Maybe it's developing the shape of a bowl or an urn or mug. The friendship is nice, it could be functional, but it isn't yet all it's meant to be.

But friendship is occasionally like a beautiful vase. Here, the clay that started as a lump has been formed and put through the fire. When it comes out the other side, it's complete. It's functional, and it's all it's meant to be. It's a thing of beauty.

That's always God's invitation with friendships: to let them be all they can be.

These types of relationships are always within our grasp. God brings them our way, and He invites our cooperation in their forming. If you've been holding back, drowning in a pool of isolation, the good news is that you can change! Don't wait. Find someone. Connect. Cultivate. And commit to cherish your newfound friendship. Seize the day! Because, remember, we're always better together!

GOING DEEPER:

1. When you hear "better together," who in your life do you think about?
2. Think about your life and a few people you might be able to reach out and connect with. Who are these people? How can you take the first steps?

Activity 3:

Create a card or picture for a member of our congregation. Use supplies given or things around the house to make a card to let someone know you are thinking of them. An address has been supplied.

Activity 4:

Make a list of things you intend to do.

Use the 30 Acts of Gratitude & Giving to brainstorm what you'd like to do as a family and then record them on the Gracious Giving printable which you can hang on the fridge or in another prominent place (maybe bring to the dinner table each night?!).

Have your kids place a sticker in each box once you've completed the service activity and be sure to discuss which have brought some joy to both others and your family!

Week one - Spiritual Gifts

Our reading is 1 Corinthians chapter 12. We are discussing spiritual gifts and the fact that we are all part of one body in Christ. I have enclosed a copy of the chapter.
Activity 1:
"God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere, but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is. Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people. The variety is wonderful." 1 Corinthians 12: 4-7 (The Message)
Everyone loves play dough. As you read through the chapter, make parts of the body with your hands. If you are with multiple people, each person can make different parts and combine them into one body. People learn much better if their hands are busy with a simple task.
When you've finished, discuss or think about how each part is very special, but is missing something when it is off by itself. The parts couldn't accomplish much all alone. You couldn't tell the foot to go left someone about Jesus. The foot doesn't have a mouth to speak. You can't tell a head to go somewhere, it needs the neck and other parts to move it there. Each part is important and necessary to achieve God's plan.
The body parts aren't as useful alone. BUT when we all put our parts together, it makes one body, just like we are one in Christ. We all bring different things to the world, but our goal is the same. We need each other. We each have different spiritual gifts that God has given us. They work best together, not separate. Together we can accomplish a lot for God.

Activity 2:
Take a spiritual gifts test.
There are tons on the internet, but I have attached a copy of the church's. In the community? In the world? Talk or think about how you can use these gifts in the church?

Activity 3:
A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.
1 Corinthians 12:7
The body parts aren't as useful alone. BUT when we all put our parts together, it makes one body, just like we are one in Christ. We all bring different things to the world, but our goal is the same. We need each other. We each have different spiritual gifts that God has given us. They work best together, not separate. Together we can accomplish a lot for God.

Week 1, Activity 2

Spiritual Gifts Survey for Kids

This check list is created to help elementary age children discover their spiritual gifts as presented in Romans 12: 6-8 of God's Word.

Parents - Read the following 49 questions to your child and ask him to answer by choosing one of the five following responses:

Never (1), Seldom (2), Sometimes (3), Often (4), and Always (5)

1. I see things as being either right or wrong, good or evil
2. I love to work with my hands, and I'm good at it
3. I find great joy in learning
4. I love to talk almost all the time
5. Giving to others makes me joyful
6. I get great joy from accomplishing something
7. I get sad and angry when bad things happen to people
8. I am frank and outspoken
9. I find great joy in helping others
10. I love teaching people about things
11. I am very happy and have a balanced personality
12. I do everything with all my heart
13. I thrive on competition; I always want to be 1st or best
14. I look for the good in people and ignore the bad
15. I tend to be a little negative
16. I am usually shy and easily embarrassed
17. It's easy for me to speak and to express my thoughts clearly
18. I like to tell people "good job"
19. I am very imaginative
20. It's very important that my friends are loyal to me
21. I get great joy in showing love to someone who is hurting
22. I am right most of the time
23. I help others before I help myself
24. I have a positive outlook on life
25. I have a few best friends
26. I tell others what I think and I'm obedient
27. I break the rules and get away with it
28. I am very neat
29. I tell people what I think and I tell them
30. I speak in class

A SPIRITUAL GIFT is given to each of us so we can help each other.
1 Corinthians 12:7



Gateway

Gifts from the Holy Spirit

12 Now, brothers, I want you to understand about spiritual gifts. You remember the lives you lived before you were believers. You let yourselves be influenced and led away to worship idols—things that have no life. So I tell you that no one who is speaking with the help of God's Spirit says, "Jesus be cursed." And no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," without the help of the Holy Spirit.

4 There are different kinds of gifts; but they are all from the same Spirit. 5 There are different ways to serve; but all these ways are from the same Lord. 6 And there are different ways that God works in us all in everything we do. 7 Something from the Spirit can be seen in each person, to help everyone. 8 The Spirit gives another the ability to speak with wisdom. And the same Spirit gives another the ability to speak with knowledge. 9 The same Spirit gives faith to one person. And that one Spirit gives another gifts of healings to another person. And that one Spirit gives another the power to do miracles, to another prophesying. And he gives to another the ability to know the things between good and evil spirits. The Spirit gives one person the ability to speak in different kinds of languages. 11 One Spirit, the same Spirit, does what he will. He decides what to give each person.

The Body of Christ

12 A person's body is made of many parts, but all these parts belong to one body.



Week Two: The Body of Christ

Activity 1:
 One (1) person needs to lead this lesson. Find the human jigsaw puzzle intentionally leave out one part of the body.

If you are with your family, put the available pieces together to "complete" each puzzle ... "What body part is missing from your puzzle?" Go through the puzzle. READ: 1 Cor. 12:14 - Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the hand says, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an ear, I do not belong to the body," it would not be part of the body. The foot and the ear are comparing themselves to the hand and the eye, and in their own minds think they are less important than the hand and the eye, and in their own minds "Do you think the missing body part (i.e., foot or ear) is correct in what it said? Why or why not?"

OR "What will happen to the body if the missing body part continues to be missing?"
 Answer: The whole body suffers!

Relate: "You may think you are not like the others or that you are not useful but the truth is that (a) we all are different (b) you are special/unique - nobody can do what you can do (c) you are needed in the body of Christ." If you don't know what body part you are then you don't know what you are supposed to be doing. And if you are not doing your part, then the body is disabled!

Maybe you are hands that serve or comfort others. Maybe you are the feet that bring others to where Jesus wants the whole body to go. Maybe you are the mouth that sings or talks to encourage others. Look back at your spiritual gifts test from last week and see how these gifts fit into this.

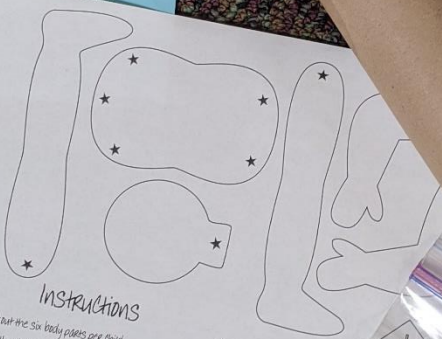
Activity 2:
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A jigsaw puzzle is set of numerous interlocking pieces which are assembled together to produce a complete picture, often of nature, landscapes, or a recognizable piece of art. Each piece is unique. When fit together, each piece contributes to the entire puzzle.

A jigsaw puzzle is a great illustration of the Body of Christ. Each member is a unique piece of the puzzle. When our strengths are combined, we can create the Body of Christ to be like Jesus. When members of the Body of Christ are not doing their part, the Body of Christ is disabled!

Week 2, Activity 1

WF-2 #1
 Brads

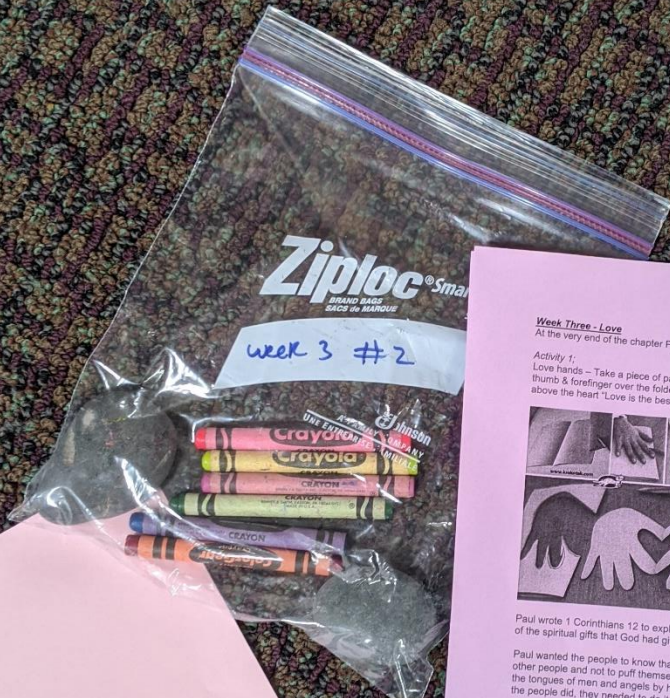


Instructions

Get out one six body pieces per child.
 Get the children to draw names on their human figure.
 Use push pins to attach together using the slots as guides.


You will need...
 x 5 Six body pieces per body
 A pair of scissors
 Some coloring pens or pencils





Week Three - Love
At the very end of the chapter Paul writes that Love is the best way of all.

Activity 1:
Love hands - Take a piece of paper and fold it in half. Trace your hand with the tip of your thumb & forefinger over the folded edge. But along the line. Unfold your paper. Write the verse above the heart "Love is the best way of all" and decorate.



Paul wrote 1 Corinthians 12 to explain to the church in Corinth that love was the most important of the spiritual gifts that God had given His people.

Paul wanted the people to know that God gave His people gifts in order for them to encourage other people and not to puff themselves up. Paul explained this by saying things like "I speak in the tongues of men and angels by have not love I am like a clanging cymbal. No matter what the people did, they needed to do it with love.

Paul then gave them a list describing what love is like. As we read through this list, we should realize that no one can love like that. The only one who can love perfectly, patiently, selflessly, kindly, etc. is God Himself.

Finally, love is the one thing that will last forever. One day everything else will fade away... there will be no more prophecy or teaching or anything else because God's people will be in God's presence forever... but there will always be love.

Pray that ALL would come to know the love of God more and more and that they would remember that all of us are sinners who need to be saved. Pray that they would remember the greatest act of love ever and thank God that Jesus laid down His life for His people to save us from our sin.

Week Four - Better Together
How can we be better together? Who is we?

Activity 1:
Who is My Neighbor?
Reinforce to your kids that your neighbor can be anyone around you who needs help, needs a friend, or needs you to pray for them. This can be at school, at home, at church, etc. This is important to emphasize since Christian parenting doesn't stop at the church door or with family devotionals. It's important to help your kids understand that their "Good Samaritan" story may not include someone lying on the side of the road, but it could be anyone they encounter. Ask them to think back over the past week. Did they encounter any situations where they could have shown love?

- Some examples might include:
- Helping a friend with a problem.
 - Helping someone carry in a load of items into church or their home.
 - Praying for someone who is going through a difficult time and making sure they know you are there for them.
 - Sending a card or letter to someone (activity 3).
- The amount of ways we can show love to others is endless.

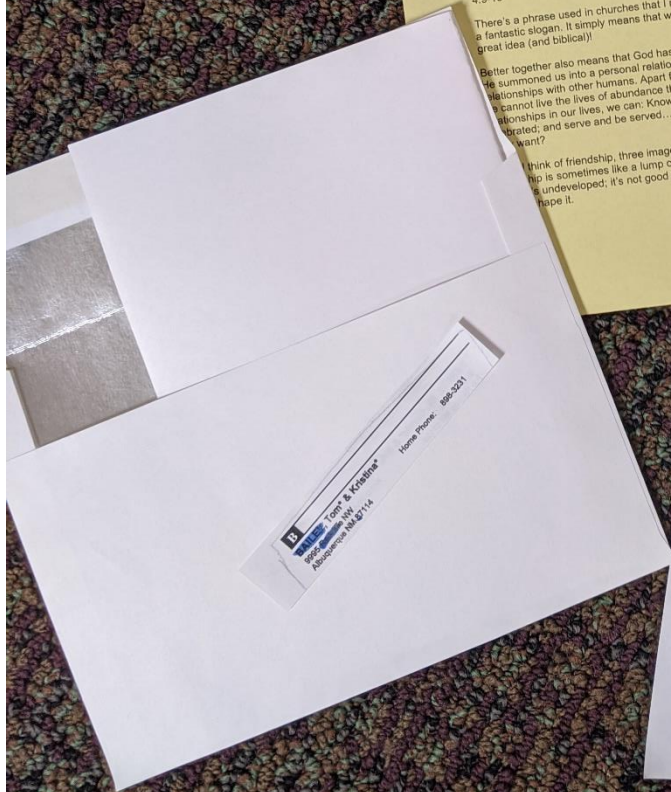
Pray: Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us and coming to rescue us. Please show us how to love our neighbors and friends. Help us to be more aware of others and their needs. We don't want to be like those in the Good Samaritan story who passed up an opportunity to show love. Help us be like the Good Samaritan – and to be like You. Amen.

Activity 2:
Devotional
Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! –Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

There's a phrase used in churches that I really love: "We are better together." Better together is a fantastic slogan. It simply means that when other people have a great idea (and biblical)!

Better together also means that God has created and ordered us to be summoned into a personal relationship with Him and other humans. Apart from entering into relationships with other humans, we cannot live the lives of abundance that God intends for us. In our relationships in our lives, we can: Know and be known; love and be loved; create and be created; and serve and be served... that's God's plan, isn't it?

Think of friendship, three images come to mind. Friendship is sometimes like a lump of unformed clay. If it's undeveloped, it's not good for much... but if you shape it.



Week 4 - Acti

ous Giving

#1 #2 #3 #4 #5 #6 #7 #8 #9 #10

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."
~ Aesop's Fables

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