

# Christ and His Congregation

*1 Corinthians 12:4-13; Colossians 1:18*

## Learning Objectives

1. The children will examine how each person has his or her place and responsibilities in the congregation.
2. The children will explore the importance of working together in the congregation.

**Memory Verse:** *“There are different kinds of gifts. But they are all given by the same Spirit.”*  
*--1 Corinthians 12:4*

## Getting Started

Hand out the following questionnaire:

Answer each question as simply as possible. You may want to use answers like: a sister, a brother, a priest, a deacon, my family, or come up with an answer that you think is best.

1. Who is supposed to decorate the altar? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who is supposed to shovel snow or mow the lawn? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who takes care of improvements around the church? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who is supposed to sing in the choir? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who is supposed to watch the door or be a greeter? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who is supposed to hold a Bible study? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who is supposed to teach Sunday school classes? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Who is supposed to visit families in our congregation? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Who is supposed to play in the orchestra? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Who is supposed to head up committees and meetings? \_\_\_\_\_

Talk about their answers and possibly tally them on a whiteboard. Then, ask if anyone read the Bible verses for the lesson today. See if your students can draw out the fact that anyone can do any of these things if they have the talent and the will to do them. For example, Sis. So-and-so (who is 90 yrs. old) COULD shovel snow but is that the best thing for her to do? Etc.

## Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

**Message:** *Use your gifts for the Lord!*

### ***1 Corinthians 12:4-13***

<sup>4</sup> There are different kinds of gifts. But they are all given by the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> There are different ways to serve. But they all come from the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are different ways to work. But the same God makes it possible for all of us to have all those different things.

<sup>7</sup> The Holy Spirit is given to each of us in a special way. That is for the good of all. <sup>8</sup> To some people the Spirit gives the message of wisdom. To others the same Spirit gives the message of knowledge. <sup>9</sup> To others the same Spirit gives faith. To others that one Spirit gives gifts of healing. <sup>10</sup> To others he gives the power to do miracles. To others he gives the ability to prophesy. To others he gives the ability to tell the spirits apart. To others he gives the ability to speak in different kinds of languages they had not known before.

## Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions – *continued*

And to still others he gives the ability to explain what was said in those languages.

<sup>11</sup> All of the gifts are produced by one and the same Spirit. He gives them to each person, just as he decides.

<sup>12</sup> There is one body. But it has many parts. Even though it has many parts, they make up one body. It is the same with Christ. <sup>13</sup> We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit into one body. It didn't matter whether we were Jews or Greeks, slaves or free people. We were all given the same Spirit to drink.

### **Colossians 1:18**

<sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, which is the church. He is the beginning. He is the first to be raised from the dead. That happened so that he would be far above everything.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What are some things that you can do well? (*Listen to answers*)
2. What would it be like if (name of an artist, musician, athlete – use something that would connect with your students.) never did what they were supposed to do? How would that sport, or music, or TV show/movie etc., be affected?
3. Read Matthew 25:14-30. The parable of the talents.
  - a. How many servants were there and how much money did he give each one? (*Three servants: 5 talents, 2 talents, 1 talent*)
  - b. What did the servants with 5 talents and 2 talents do? (*They doubled their money, in other words, they did something with what they had to help their master*).
  - c. What did the servant with one talent do? (*He hid his money so that he wouldn't lose it, in other words, he squandered what he had and made no attempt to help his master*).
  - d. What lesson could we learn from this parable? (*Make use of your talents to help everyone*).
4. According to the Bible passages, what is the ultimate source for all talents and gifts? (*the Holy Spirit = God*)
5. What are some of the Spirit given gifts listed in 1 Corinthians? (*Wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, perform miracles, prophecy, discerning spirits, speaking languages, interpreting languages.*)
6. Does the Holy Spirit give everybody every gift? (*No each person is imbued their own gifts.*)
7. If everyone is doing their part and giving freely and extensively of their gifts, is it possible for anyone to not benefit and grow spiritually? (*No, if all is doing their part the congregation can be labeled as "complete," "healthy."*)
8. Who is at the head of each congregation? (*Jesus Christ.*)

## **Application to Real Life**

### **Church Building Project**

See [www.teensundayschool.com](http://www.teensundayschool.com) → Activities → "Church Building Project"

You will need Lego blocks, a table or hard surface, and a stopwatch for this activity. Please see the above website for detailed instructions. Modify the activity as needed according to the number of students you have.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. What was the hardest, or easiest, part about this task for the team?
2. How difficult was it to complete this mission alone? Why?
3. What were the advantages for a team vs. doing it alone?
4. How does this relate to building God's Church using different Spiritual gifts or talents?

Remind the children how important it is not only to use our individual gifts for the Lord, but also to work together as a congregation and a team for the same purpose. Review the message statement and memory verse.

## **Application to Real Life - continued**

### **Building up the Body of Christ**

While we are not all the same, we are all called to serve God in the unique way He designed us. Paul teaches that the “people” are the temple, or the church, of God (1 Corinthians 3:16). Later, he instructs them: ...since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel (1 Corinthians 14:12). Finally, Paul exhorts the congregation that spiritual gifts are given to edify the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-12). God has given us many spiritual gifts for many purposes. However, the most important thing we can do with our gifts and talents is to bring glory to God. We bring to glory to God when we use our gifts to edify, or build-up others.

Every Christian, every child of God, is invited to serve the Lord, to help Him, to commit himself, to become a disciple of the Lord Jesus in daily life. – CA Schneider

## **Memory Work Suggestions**

*5 minutes*

1. Recite the memory verse.
2. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in their Bible!
3. Play a game to review an article of faith.
4. Allow a volunteer (child) to lead the class in an opening/closing prayer.

## **Activity Ideas**

*Choose One Activity*

### **Strength in Numbers**

See: [www.teensundayschool.com](http://www.teensundayschool.com) → Activities → “Strength in Numbers”

Many hands make light work. Try this activity to demonstrate the importance of everyone helping along. This is suitable for a larger class. Modify it as needed to make the same point, according to the number of students you have.

Ask for about 8 to 10 volunteers to help with this challenge. You will lie flat on the floor, and then ask the volunteers one by one to try to pick you up off the floor. It is okay if it causes a laugh or two, but none of them should be able to lift you up. You also may want to stop after three or four attempts. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What does this teach us about teamwork? About partnerships? (*We need to come together as a unit both literally and figuratively to lift each other up, in the same way Paul had a partnership with the Philippians.*)
2. What situations are you commonly faced with that require teamwork?
3. What happens when teamwork or a partnership breaks down?
4. How might the breaking down of teamwork affect our congregation?

Remind the children how important it is not only to use our individual gifts for the Lord, but also to work together as a congregation and a team for the same purpose.

**The Right Stuff**

You need the right stuff even to make a batch of Kool-Aide. For this activity, you will need water, a pitcher, a large spoon, unsweetened Kool-Aide envelope, and sugar. The main idea here is that a great pitcher of Kool-Aide requires all the ingredients and tools. The ingredients must be added in the required amounts and the tools must be used properly. Propose different amounts of something like 10 cups of sugar – how will it taste? Not good because there is too much of one ingredient. Or what if the Kool-Aide packet was left out? Or what if the spoon wasn't used? Etc. This activity should show the students that everything is needed in the right amounts to make the congregation run smoothly. Too much of one thing, not enough of another, or missing something can be detrimental.

**Journal***Choose One*

At a young age you might not completely realize your talents, but there are things that you like to do. Look around the congregation and see what people do or what might need to be done. What might you like to do to help your congregation? Write about it.

What do you like better, the explanation that Jesus is at the head of the congregation or at the center of the congregation? Explain.

**Homework Ideas**

- Review at home with a grownup the lesson titled: **Bible Skill Review**.
- Learn the memory verse: "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true." --2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT)
- Work on memorizing Article of Faith # \_\_\_\_.
- Practice saying the books of the Bible in order. See how many you can memorize before class.

## Take Home Page: Christ and His Congregation

### Today I learned...

Today your child was reminded that we should **use our gifts for the Lord** and His work. The children examined how each person has their own “place” and “responsibilities” in the congregation. They also explored the importance of working together in the congregation as the body of Christ.

### Help me learn my memory verse...

*“There are different kinds of gifts. But they are all given by the same Spirit.”*

*--1 Corinthians 12:4*

### Ask me...

1. What are some things that you can do well?
2. How might you use your talents to benefit your congregation? Your community?

### Live Your Faith...

*Gather together and spend some time quietly thinking about (or writing down) things you love and/or appreciate about each member of your family. Then go around the room, focusing on one person at a time. Let everyone else take a turn telling that family member what they love and/or appreciate about them. Practice building each other up, just as we are to build each other up in the body of Christ.*

