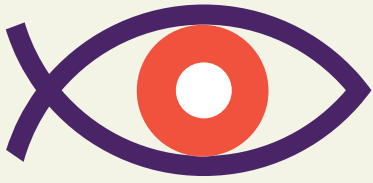


**SEEING
THROUGH
THE EYES OF
JESUS**

**CHILDREN'S
CURRICULUM
SESSION 8**

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SEEING THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS

Calling us back to
the central focus of
our Christian faith:
**The Risen and
Living Jesus!**

SESSION AUTHOR:
Kristen Pope

CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM

SESSION 8

BEING PART OF THE BODY

SCRIPTURE:

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

CENTRAL MESSAGE:

We should think of the Church as a body with many parts. The fact that we are all so different makes us stronger because we all serve different purposes in the body but are united in Christ.



EARLY ARRIVER ACTIVITY

Materials: Heavy paper, card stock or poster board; Ziploc bags

In preparation for this lesson, write the words of 1 Corinthians 12:12 on several

sheets of paper and cut each sheet into various puzzle shapes. Put each puzzle in a different Ziploc bag. Give children the bags to put together the puzzle as they arrive.



GATHERING TIME

Share Highs and Lows (See Session 5 for explanation.)

Take prayer requests (See Session 5 for explanation.)

Prayer: Today, we are going to do our prayer a little differently. I am going to give each of you the name of someone in our church to pray for. Today, we are talking about what it means to be part of the body of Christ. A big part of that is knowing that everyone in our church has a role to play.

Give each child the name of someone to pray for, and let them pray silently for 20-30 seconds.

****The following is written as a script but you are encouraged to adapt it appropriately.***

We are going to play a game called “Give It Up.” I am going to name two body parts. You then must choose which of those body parts you would give up if you had to. I will tell you which side of the room to stand on to indicate your choice. As each pair is read and children make their choices, ask a few of them to share why they made the decision that they did.

- Nose or ears
- Hair or pinky toe
- One eye or all the fingers on one hand
- One arm or one foot
- Tongue or teeth
- All your eyelashes or one front tooth
- All your teeth or all your fingers
- Your big toes or your thumbs

If children are enjoying the game and you have time, ask them to make up a few of their own.

Say: We played this game because in today’s Scripture, the Apostle Paul talks about how each of us is part of the body of Christ. We will learn more about this in our small groups, but one of the important points he makes is that we are all different on purpose, because we all have different jobs as part of the body. This means that it is very important that we all work together because any body or church needs each part of the body for it to work

We are now going to break up into small groups and rotate through our different stations.

Use your best judgment to decide how to divide children into small groups for rotations based on your age range and number of children. I recommend groups of six-to-eight children. You will need one adult to facilitate each rotation, so this may determine how many groups you will have rotating at a time.



ACTIVITIES/ROTATIONS

1: Bible Explorers

Have all children locate 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 in their Bibles. To incorporate Bible skills into this time, ask children to share how they locate a particular book or verse in the Bible. Do they look to the table of contents? Do they run through all the books in their head? Do they just flip through until they think they see it? Encourage them to help each other locate the verses.

If you have several children willing to read, let each child read two or three verses aloud.

Ask them the following questions:

- What would the world be like if everyone were exactly the same?
- Why is it sometimes difficult that everyone is so different?
- What gift or skill do you think you bring to the body of Christ?
- Can you think of an example of a time when you had a task you could not do by yourself, but needed others to help you accomplish it?

God's Kingdom is like that. It isn't something any single person could ever accomplish by themselves; it was meant to be a group project!

Have you ever done a group project at school? What's good about a group project? What can be difficult?

Examples: A good thing about working as a group is that if you work together, the load is lighter; each person brings their unique gifts to the table; each person brings their own good ideas and problem-solving. A hard thing about working as a group is that one person might do all the work and someone gets left out; people have different ideas of how to get things done; someone has a bad attitude.

Those are some of the same reasons that seeing God's Kingdom as a group project is both easier and more difficult!

2: This Body Can Do...

Materials: A large sheet of butcher paper for each child; markers

Have children trace one another's bodies on large sheets of butcher paper. The following is written as a script but can be adapted as needed.

Today's Scripture told us we are all part of the same body of Christ, but we all have different purposes, just like every part of our body has a different purpose. On the outline of your body, write down what each part helps you do. For example, your hands help you write, your feet help you walk, your brain helps you think, etc.

Allow children to do this for as many parts of the body as they can think of.

Next, we are going to look at those same parts of the body and think of how we can use them to do the work of Jesus in the world. I'll give you a few examples to get you started, but I want you to think creatively!

- Use your hands to give hugs or do service projects
- Use your mouth to speak kind words or stand up for someone
- Use your feet to take food to the hungry
- Use your ears to listen to people when they are sad

When children are through writing on their body outlines, ask them to share some of their ideas.



CLOSING

Bring children back together in the same space you had your Gathering.

Since today's Scripture is all about the body, let's see what those bodies can do! We are going to play *Jesus Says*, which is just like *Simon Says*, if you have played that. I will go first, giving you several instructions to follow, but you follow them only if I start the sentence with "Jesus says..." If I don't say that and you still do what I tell you to, you're out and you have to sit down.

Examples of things to say:

- Hop on one foot
- Close one eye
- Touch your left ear
- Spin in a circle

Allow children to take turns being the leader.

Ask someone to close your time in prayer before parents arrive. If children are reluctant to pray, write this simple prayer on a dry erase board and say it aloud together:

God, thank you for this time together with our church family and friends. Help us to practice all that we learned about being your followers. Amen.