

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 37

MEMORIZE

1 Corinthians 12:7 – To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:12 – For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

READ

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-13.

Misunderstanding about the person and role of the Holy Spirit can open the door for division, immorality, stunted spiritual growth, and confusion in the Christian church. God's Word teaches that one important part of the work of His Spirit involves the endowment of spiritual gifts to believers for the purposes of edifying Christ's body and advancing His gospel. The Spirit does not work to create division. Rather, He seeks just the opposite, to unite the body of Christ together and to build her up through the empowerment of the individuals of the church with gifts to edify the church. The list of gifts in these verses is not meant to be exhaustive or ranked in any kind of order of priority. The point is instead to show that there are a variety of gifts, yet each of them are vitally important to the life of the church and are good gifts from God.

Questions:

What is a spiritual gift?

What are some of the spiritual gifts?

How do these gifts help the church?

Bottom Line: The Holy Spirit empowers God's people with gifts so they might edify one another resulting in unity.

SING

This week let your hearts cry out to God as you sing, "Reign in Us". The lyrics remind us how much we depend on God's Holy Spirit to sanctify us, purify us, guide us, and define us. It is only by His power that we are gifted in ways that glorify His name and build up His church. Praise You, Father, that You were gracious enough to redeem us for Your purpose!

Visit our website for a link to this song: www.brookhills.org/gathering/this_week.html.

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

Preschool

- Before you begin open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 12:12 and use a "Mr. Potato Head" to help illustrate the verse. You can use a similar toy or even a photo of one if needed.
- Read the verse to your preschooler.
- Paul describes the early church as the body of Christ. Every part of the body is different, but all parts are important and are needed. We are all one body of Christ.
- Use the toy and place the arm where the ear should go, mouth where the feet should go and continue to mix up the body parts.
- Point out that it is silly to think that a foot or a hand or a mouth can work if it's in the wrong place or without the rest of the body.
- Bodies work best when all the parts work together and function the way God intended them to function. Jesus wants the Church to work together like our arms, legs, eyes, ears, mouth, etc. work together on our body.
- Everyone has a part in the Church. God made each of us the way we are for a reason. God knows what each one of us can do. Now place all the body parts in the correct place on the toy.

- God knows what each one of us can do. Look at your body. You have hands, feet, eyes, ears, mouth, and nose. What would happen if the eye said to the hand, 'I don't need you.' Or if the head said to the foot, 'I don't need you.' All the parts of the body are needed. This is true in the Church. All the people are needed. Each person has something to do for the Church.
- Pray together as a family and thank God for our talents and for our church.

Children

- Prepare: grab two random toys or items that belong to your child. Place each of them in a separate gift bag.
- Sit down with your child and read through 1 Corinthians 12:4-13.
- Ask your child if they know what kind of gifts these verses are referring to.
- Ask your child if they can tell you what a spiritual gift is and let them explain. Make sure they understand that spiritual gifts are special gifts that God gives to His children and Christians can use these gifts to build up and serve the church.
- Place the two gift bags in front of your child and have them open each separately. Spend some time discussing the differences between the two gifts. Discuss the various uses of each one.
- Re-read verse 11 and emphasize that just as these two gifts are different and have different purposes, God gives spiritual gifts that are different with different purposes. Emphasize that different doesn't make one better than the other.
- Re-read verses 12-13 and point out that Christians are part of the body of Christ, and as part of that body, we all have different ways to serve the body. Just like different body parts have different jobs, Christians have different jobs to do as part of the church. Everyone can't do the same job.
- Discuss with your child different spiritual gifts from this passage and elsewhere in the Bible. Talk about ways that people can use their gifts to serve the church. For example, people with wisdom can offer guidance and counsel; people with knowledge can lead others; people who have the ability to teach can teach in a small group, etc.
- Share with your child about the gift that God has given you and how you are using that gift to serve the church. If they have already accepted Christ, talk with them about how God has gifted them.
- Remind your child that God gives different gifts that have different purposes, but they are all useful and they all help to build up the body of Christ.

Students

- Have each family member bring 3 or 4 items from their rooms to the dinner table. Before they arrive lay out duck tape, pipe cleaners, rubber bands, and old shipping boxes. Once they arrive divide your family into 2 teams. Use the items provided to design and build two new products. When finished, have each team describe their design, listing each function, and detailing how each part serves to complete its purpose.
- Your products had many parts that served the goals of the designer. Without all of the parts, the design would have been incomplete. Similarly the Lord has designed the Church to function as Christ's body. Christ uses the parts of His body together for the sake of His name and glory throughout the entire world.
- With what gifts has the Lord blessed you?
- How have you seen the Lord use your gifts and abilities?
- How might the church use your gifts to accomplish its purposes?