

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 38

MEMORIZE

1 Corinthians 12:18 – But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

1 Corinthians 12:27 – Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

READ

Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-27.

For last week's family worship we learned that the Spirit does not work to create division but, rather, 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. This gifting has been designed by God to benefit both individuals and the corporate body. Some gifts are more easily recognizable than others and some are more celebrated than others. However, all the gifts are important to the whole body and are necessary. Therefore, gifts should be sought and encouraged in ourselves and in those around us.

Questions:

Why does God give His people spiritual gifts?

Why are each person's gifts important to the body of Christ?

How do spiritual gifts help grow and mature the body of Christ?

Bottom Line: God sovereignly assigns spiritual gifts to mature Christ's body according to His plan.

SING

While members of the church receive a wide variety of gifts, we are profoundly unified through the gospel. We don't seek to exercise our gifts in isolation but for the good of the body of Christ. So as we continue in worship, let's celebrate the ways that God empowers and equips His church as we sing "O Church Arise". Written in 2005 by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, this modern hymn calls for the church to engage the world in the power of Christ. The first verse reads:

*O Church arise and put your armor on
Hear the call of Christ our Captain
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given*

In the strength of Christ, let's use our gifts for His glory in all of the world!

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 12:27.
- Read the verse to your preschooler.
- Ask your child, "What is the best gift you have ever received?" (*Allow your child time to respond*). Talk about a gift they would like to receive (look in magazines or on the computer for photos). Imagine if you got one of these gifts for your next birthday. Wouldn't that be great?
- God has given each of us gifts. His gifts are different for each person. Each of us has different talents and abilities and these are some of the best gifts you will ever receive. You may think that you are only good at one thing, perhaps running, music, reading, singing, drawing etc. When you get older you will find other gifts that God has already given you.

You may have the gift of teaching, looking after small children, preaching, making friends, listening to others or helping sick people or people in need.

- All these gifts, and many more, can be used to serve God and the gifts are part of His plan for your life. One of the most exciting things about growing up is to discover what special gifts, talents and abilities you have and then to use them to serve God.
- Conclude your family time by praying and thanking God for His many gifts.

Children

- Prepare: grab a piece of paper and crayons or markers.
- Ask your child to draw a picture of a person's face that had 5 eyes but no mouth, nose, or ears. Next draw a person that had only hands coming out of its body but no head, arms, or legs. Keep going with this illustration, creating several different bodies with just one body part.
- Together with your child read 1 Corinthians 12:14-27
- Ask your child to look back at their drawings and tell you what it would be like to have a face or a body like the ones in the drawings. It obviously would not be good to only have eyes but no mouth, nose, or ears; or to only have hands but no head, arms, or legs.
- Re-read verses 14-20. Ask your child what these verses say about the importance of each part of the body.
- Re-read verse 27. Point out that just like the body has different parts that each play their own important role, the church is made up of different people that each play their own important role as well.
- Ask your child to help list all the types of roles that need to be done by people in the church. These might include obvious roles like preaching, teaching, and leading music. But also help them to see all the "behind the scene" roles that need to be done in the church (e.g. running the sound for the worship services, making copies of activity pages for children, buying supplies, cleaning bathrooms, etc.).
- Ask your child how important these roles are. What would church be like if everyone wanted to preach? What would church be like if no one wanted to clean the bathrooms? Help them understand that although some roles are more visible than others, all roles are equally important.
- Ask your child what ways they hope to serve in the church when they get older. Ask them if there are any ways they can serve even now as children.
- Pray and ask God to help your child see the different ways He has gifted them and to help your child understand how important they are to His kingdom work.

Students

- For this week's family worship time find a simple jigsaw puzzle or something similar that contains pieces that you must use to complete a final objective (i.e. the picture). Before you start your time together as a family, and without anyone knowing, remove a piece from the puzzle. You will want to begin your time together by letting everyone know that you are going to compete to see who can complete the puzzle the fastest. Let your most competitive family member go first, and offer a piece of motivation (e.g. one week off for the winner from their most dreaded chore). Obviously, they will not be able to complete the puzzle and therefore there cannot be a winner. Let them point out how frustrating it is not to have all of the pieces, and then transition by saying that there is something far more frustrating and much more critical we face when it comes to not having all of the pieces.
- Read I Corinthians 12:14-27 together.
- Begin by pointing out that Paul is referencing all followers of Christ in the Church at Corinth. The implication is that any and every believer would be included regarding their importance to the Body of Christ. So, in like manner it would be really difficult if people were not serving in their role as a part of the Body of Christ. Ask them why they think God created the church to function like this. Ask what happens when believers do not fulfill their role in the Body.
- The point is that you want them to feel the weight and importance of functioning and leading out as a part of the church in the here and now. Students need to realize that they are created to fulfill their role within their faith family today, not just when they graduate or become adults. There is literally a piece of the body missing when they do not serve in their role.
- Talk through what serving could look like for them in the coming days, weeks, and months if they are not already doing so. A helpful tool might be to access the spiritual gifts inventory and descriptions that are a part of the Church at Brook Hills Impact class. These resources can be found by going to www.brookhills.org/new/impact. The spiritual gifts inventory is a part of "Assignment #2." For those students who are not yet followers of Christ, parents can use this opportunity to talk about what God is inviting them to be a part of when they turn and trust Christ as Lord and Savior.