

Ears: (Angrily) "I am only an ear!"
"I would rather be the eye!" (Leave the circle.)

Hands: "I am a hand, the most important of all!"
"I do not need the rest of you!" (Leave.)

Eyes: "I am the eye! I do not need you, nose!"
"I see well without you." (Leave.)

Teacher: Explain verses 22-26. Then say, "Hear what the Holy Spirit says."

God's Voice: "All of you, come back to the circle. God uses every one of you!"

Feet, Hands, Eyes and Ears: Join the circle and make it rotate again one time around.

Teacher or older child: **Thank** everyone who helped with **the drama**.
If the children present this story to the adults, let them ask the adults the questions above.

Discussion. Ask the children and adults to tell about ways that we serve one another with our different spiritual gifts.

Draw a simple picture of a hand and let the children copy it. Let them show their pictures to the adults at the next worship time and explain that this illustrates how God gives to us different abilities so that we can all serve one another like the different parts of a body.

Memorization. Let smaller children learn Galatians 5:13, older ones, Ephesians 4:15-16.

Poem: Let five children each recite one of the verses from Psalm 100.

Let older children write poems or songs about how we work together as a body. They might do this during the week.

Prayer: "Dear Lord, thank you for giving to each of us a job to do in our group. Help us to serve one another. Keep us from thinking that we are more important than other people. Help us to remember that each believer is important to you."

God's People Work Together like a Body

Prayer. "Dear Lord, use this study to help the children to serve one another doing what each one can do, working closely together like the different parts of a person's body."

Choose any of these children's learning activities that fit their ages and the time available.



Put together a **picture puzzle**.

- Draw a simple outline of a child's body on a large piece of paper (the larger the better). Show it to the children.

- Cut it into pieces and give each child at least one piece. Let the children put the puzzle together, joining the pieces where they fit. Let the older children help the younger.
- If the group is small, you might cut and hide the pieces around the room beforetime. Let the children seek and find them.
- If the group is large, then cut several pictures into pieces beforetime and keep them separate. Let the children form several groups. Give a picture to each group.
- Let each child say something that God wants them to do when they add their piece of paper to the picture. Mention examples: Obey parents, Trust God, Love God, Love people, Forgive enemies, Serve one another, Give, Tell folks about Jesus, Worship, Pray, Study the Bible, etc
- Let the older children help the younger think of something that God wants them to do.

Older child or teacher: Explain the example of the Body in 1 Corinthians 12:4-26.

- We call our congregation a 'body', because we all belong to our Lord Jesus Christ. He is our Head, and we are His body.
- God gives people in His congregation special jobs to do to serve one another.
- These people with special jobs are like the parts of our bodies which work together.

Ask questions about how we work as a body. *[Answers appear after each question.]*

- What are some of the jobs that people can have in the congregation? *[See verse 8-10]*
- Who gives to everyone their spiritual gifts? *[Verse 11]*
- Into what does the Holy Spirit baptize believers in Christ? *[Verses 12-14]*
- What would be lacking if the whole body were an eye? *[Verse 17]*

- What do we do when a person in the body suffers or receives honour? *[Verse 26]*

Let the children show how the body acts when people do not work with each other:

- Explain that the feet are people who take the good news about God to other places. Then say, "Show us how the body would walk if one of these feet did not do its job." (Let the children hop.)
- Do the same for the eyes (people who see what God wants us to do).

Dramatize parts of 1 Corinthians 12.

Arrange with the leader of the main worship time for the children to show this brief drama to the adults. You might use only parts of it. Let older children help prepare it.

- Let an older child speak God's Voice.
- Let a teacher or an older child who can teach well play the part of Teacher.
- Let the other children play Feet, Hands, Eyes and Ears.

Teacher: Explain verses 4-13. Then say, "Hear what the Spirit of God says."

God's Voice: "Come. Be part of the Body. When I baptize you, I bring you into the Body of Christ and I give to each of you a different job to do. I give you abilities to do these jobs. Use these spiritual gifts to serve one another."

Feet, Hands, Eyes and Ears: Join hands in a circle. Rotate one time around. If the group is big, then form circles within larger circles.

Teacher: Explain verses 14-21. Then say, "Hear what two lazy Feet say."

Feet: Leave the circle. Shout, "No one cares about us feet. We will leave the group!"
"I cannot serve if I am not a hand! I want to be a hand!"
(Those in the circle fall down.)