

The Race You Can't Win Alone

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: Pentecost Sunday

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-22

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:14 - 'For the body is not one member, but many.'

The Children's Sermon

You'll need:

- Fogged glasses, mitts for hands, leg splints, earplugs, or sound-resistant earmuffs, rope to tie legs of each other together.

Does anyone know what day it is today in the Church? - answers

Today is Pentecost. That is the day we celebrate God the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is a day we remember the Holy Spirit coming down from heaven like tongs or pieces of flames on the Apostles. When the Holy Spirit came to the Apostles, God gave them all sorts of gifts that Jesus had to help them show everyone Jesus' love.

I have a game for us to play this morning. It is a race to see who can get to the back of the church first but, we have some strange rules. I am going to make it just a little harder than just running to the back of the church. The first rule is no one can win unless everyone wins.

(Handing out props)

- You (give fogged glasses) can't see where you are going
- You (leg splints) can't walk
- You (ear plugs) can't hear
- You two (rope) have to use each others legs
- You (no prop) have to tell everyone how to do it but you can't talk
- You (mitts) can't use your hands to help

Do you think you can make it? (answers)

The bible tells us how we can do it. (Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-22 out loud to the kids)

Today we're going to learn about how we all need to work together, like a big team, to do great things. This idea is called Unity in the Body of Christ.

The Bible tells us that just like our bodies have many parts – like eyes, ears, hands, and feet – Christians are all parts of one big body, which is the Body of Christ. Even though we're all different, we belong together and need each other.

So, let's think about our bodies for a minute. Imagine if your feet decided they didn't want to be part of your body anymore because they weren't hands. That sounds silly, right? Your feet help you run, jump, and walk. Every part of your body has a special job, and it's the same with us in the church. We all have our own special jobs to do. That's Unity in the Body of Christ.

Now, imagine if the whole body was just an eye. How would you hear your favorite song or smell fresh cookies? It wouldn't work very well. God made our bodies to have different parts for a reason, and He made us all different for a reason too. We all have

our own special skills and gifts that we can use to help each other. That's what makes us strong. That's Unity in the Body of Christ.

Sometimes, we might think that some jobs or gifts are more important than others. But that's not true. The Bible tells us that every part of the body is important, even the parts that seem small or weak. We can't say to someone, "I don't need you!" because we all need each other. That's how we work best. That's Unity in the Body of Christ.

Let's think about a puzzle. Each piece is different, right? Some are edge pieces, some have funny shapes, and some might seem really small. But to complete the puzzle, we need every single piece. If even one piece is missing, the puzzle isn't complete. We are like those puzzle pieces in the Body of Christ. We all fit together to make something beautiful. That's Unity in the Body of Christ.

So, what can we do to make sure we're working together in unity? First, we can be kind and listen to each other. We can also be willing to help, even with small things, because every little bit helps. And we can celebrate each other's gifts, cheering each other on, because when one of us does well, we all do well. That's Unity in the Body of Christ.

Now, let's pray together. Dear God, thank you for making each of us special and giving us gifts to share. Help us to work together in unity, to be kind, and to help each other. Please show us how we can use our gifts to make our church and our world a better place. We love you, God. Amen.

Bible Memory Verse

1 Corinthians 12:14 - 'For the body is not one member, but many.'

You Will Need:

- Construction paper in various colors
- Scissors
- Glue

Get Ready:

- Cut out different body part shapes from the construction paper (e.g., hands, feet, ears, eyes).
- Prepare a large piece of poster board to assemble the body parts on.

Do This:

1. Explain to the children that just like our bodies have many parts, the church is made up of many people with different gifts.
2. Ask each child to choose a paper body part.
3. Have them glue their chosen part onto the poster board to create a big, colorful body. Discuss how each part is important and how we all work together in God's family.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Red, orange, and yellow tissue paper
- Glue sticks
- Paper plates
- Construction paper (various colors)
- Scissors (for teacher use only)
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready:

- Cut the tissue paper into flame shapes beforehand.
- Cut out simple body part shapes (e.g., hand, foot, ear, eye) from the construction paper.

Do this:

1. Talk briefly about Pentecost, explaining that it's when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples, and we can think of it like a birthday for the church. Mention that just like parts of our body work together, people in the church work together with the help of the Holy Spirit.
2. Give each child a paper plate and let them choose tissue paper "flames" to glue around the edge of the plate to represent the Holy Spirit's coming at Pentecost.
3. Have the children pick different construction paper body parts and glue them onto the center of their plate. While they do this, explain how each part of the body is important just like each person in the church is important.
4. Encourage the children to use markers or crayons to add faces or decorations to their plates, turning them into "Pentecost Plates" that show how we all are part of the body of Christ and have the Holy Spirit with us.
5. Finish by gathering the children and saying a simple prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help them work together and be kind to each other like the parts of a body work together.

Snack Activity: Pentecost Fire Cupcakes

You'll Need:

- Cupcakes (pre-baked, any flavor)
- Red, orange, and yellow frosting
- Plastic knives or small spatulas for spreading frosting
- Small bowls for the frosting

Get Ready: Divide the frosting into three bowls and color each one with the red, orange, and yellow food coloring to represent the flames of the Holy Spirit that appeared during Pentecost.

Do this:

1. Give each child a pre-baked cupcake and a plastic knife or spatula.
2. Show the children how to spread the frosting on their cupcakes, starting with yellow at the base, then orange, and finally red at the top to make it look like flames.
3. Explain that just like the different colors come together to make a beautiful flame, we, as different parts of the body of Christ, come together to serve and glorify God, as taught in 1 Corinthians 12:12-22. This teaches them the importance of unity and diversity within the church, symbolized by the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

Game Activity: Pentecost Puzzle Race

You'll Need:

- Large puzzle pieces (can be made from cardboard) with parts of the body drawn on them (e.g., hand, foot, eye, ear)
- Basket or box to hold the puzzle pieces
- Large play area

Get Ready: Before the game, draw and cut out large puzzle pieces from cardboard, each representing a different part of the body as mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:12-22. Make sure there are enough pieces for each child to have one. Place all the puzzle pieces in a basket or box.

Do this:

1. Spread the children out in the play area and explain that just like each part of our body is important, every person is important in the church. Tell them that today they will work together to build a big body to celebrate Pentecost, showing we are all one in the Spirit.
2. Have each child pick one puzzle piece from the basket without looking. Once everyone has a piece, ask them to find the other children whose pieces are part of the same body part (e.g., all the hand pieces find each other).
3. Once all the groups have found each other, work together to assemble the puzzle on the floor, discussing how each part is necessary, just like every person is necessary in the church. Celebrate their teamwork with a cheer or a song about unity.

Craft Activity: Pentecost Wind Twirlers

You'll Need:

- Red, orange, and yellow construction paper
- Scissors
- String
- Hole punch

Get Ready: Cut the construction paper into strips about 1 inch wide and 6 inches long.

Do this:

1. Talk to the children about Pentecost and how the Holy Spirit came like a mighty wind. Explain that we're going to make something that moves with the wind to help us remember this special day.
2. Let each child choose several strips of paper in red, orange, and yellow to represent the flames of the Holy Spirit.

3. Show the children how to loop the strips and attach them together end-to-end with a little bit of glue or by stapling them, creating a chain. If using glue, allow some time for it to dry.
4. Once the chain is complete, punch a hole in one end and tie a string through it. Hang the twirlers outside or near a window and watch them move with the wind, reminding the children of the Holy Spirit's presence on Pentecost.

Prayer Activity: Pentecost Prayer Puzzle

You'll Need:

- Puzzle pieces (1 per child, big enough to draw on)
- Markers or crayons
- A large piece of construction paper or poster board

Get Ready: Before class, write one word of 1 Corinthians 12:12-22 on each puzzle piece. Make sure you have enough pieces so each child gets one. On the large piece of construction paper or poster board, draw an outline of a body to represent the body of Christ.

Do this:

1. Give each child a puzzle piece and markers or crayons. Explain that just like each piece is different, each of us is different and special to God. Have them decorate their piece with their name and simple drawings.
2. Help the children find where their piece fits into the body outline on the large paper. As they place their piece, talk about how each of us, like the puzzle pieces, helps make up the body of Christ and how we all fit together to do God's work.

3. Once all the pieces are placed, say a simple prayer together thanking God for making us all unique and for bringing us together to be part of His big family. Ask for God's help to work together and love one another.