

God's Tool Box

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: The church, service to God.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Memory Verse: There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.

- 1 Corinthians 12:4

The Children's Sermon

If I needed to tighten a screw in my glasses, would this hammer help? Would this great big screwdriver help? No, I would need this little tiny screwdriver. You see, it doesn't matter what your talent is and it doesn't matter if you are big or small. What does matter is that when God has a job for you to do, you need to be right there in His toolbox, ready and willing for Him to use you.

Look around you. See this house of worship? It is God's toolbox. Look at all the people in this room. They are God's tools. Each one ready and willing for God to use them to do his work in this community.

Lord, we thank you that you have given each of us special abilities to do things for you. We pray that when you need us, we will be ready and willing to do what you need for us to do. Amen.

Now, let's think about those special abilities, or as we can call them, "Spiritual Gifts and Service." Imagine if you had a superpower that could help people feel better, make someone smile, or even help someone learn something new. That's kind of what

spiritual gifts are like. They are special skills God gives us to help others and show His love in the world.

For example, maybe you are really good at drawing or painting. You could use that gift to make cards for people who are sick or sad. That's using your Spiritual Gifts and Service. Or perhaps you are good at sports and can teach a younger kid how to play basketball or soccer. That's another way to use your gifts to serve others.

It's like being a superhero for God. But instead of wearing a cape and flying, you are using what you are good at to help people and make the world a better place. And the cool thing is, everyone has something they are good at. God made sure of that. So, no one is left out. Everyone can be a part of God's team.

Now, you might be wondering, "How do I know what my spiritual gifts are?" Well, sometimes you just know because it's something you love to do and are good at. Other times, you might need to try different things to see what fits. It's like trying on shoes to see which pair is the most comfortable. And it's okay to ask for help. You can talk to your family, friends, or people at church to help you discover your gifts.

Once you know your gifts, it's important to use them. Remember, God's toolbox? Well, a tool can't help if it's not used. It's the same with us. We can't help if we don't use our gifts. And when we use our gifts, we are saying "Yes" to God. We are telling Him that we want to be part of His big plan to spread love and kindness in the world.

But sometimes, we might feel a little shy or scared to use our gifts. That's okay. Even superheroes get scared sometimes. The important thing is to try. God is always with us, giving us the courage and strength we need. And when we do use our gifts, we

might be surprised at how happy it makes us feel. It's like getting a big, warm hug from God, saying, "Good job!"

So, let's all be superheroes for God. Let's look for ways to use our Spiritual Gifts and Service every day. Maybe it's helping a friend, doing something nice for our family, or even doing something kind for someone we don't know. Every little bit helps, and every act of kindness is important to God.

Remember, no gift is too small in God's eyes. Just like the tiny screwdriver was the perfect tool for fixing glasses, your gift is the perfect tool for doing God's work. And when we all work together, using our gifts, we can do amazing things. We can spread so much love and joy in the world.

So, let's pray together: Dear God, thank you for giving us special gifts to help others. Help us to find our gifts and use them to do good things. Remind us to be brave and kind, and to always be ready to serve You with our whole hearts. Amen.

And remember, kids, you are never too young to start using your Spiritual Gifts and Service. You are a vital part of God's toolbox, and He is excited to work with you every day. So, let's go out there and be the best tools we can be, helping to fix the world with love, one act of kindness at a time.

Bible Memory Verse

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. - 1 Corinthians 12:4

You Will Need:

- Colored paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Glue sticks
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into various shapes like stars, hearts, and circles before the class.
- Set up a table with markers, crayons, glue, and the pre-cut shapes.

Do This:

1. Ask each child to choose a shape from the pre-cut colored paper. Explain that each shape represents a unique gift or talent God gives us.
2. Have the children use markers or crayons to decorate their shape. They can write their name or draw something that represents a gift they think God has given them (like kindness, helping others, singing, etc.).
3. Once everyone is done, let them use glue to stick their shapes onto a larger poster board. As they do, discuss how all these different gifts come from the same Spirit and how they can use their gifts to serve God and others in the church.
4. Display the poster in the classroom as a reminder of the lesson.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Colorful construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors

- Glue sticks
- Pictures of different church activities (e.g., singing, teaching, helping)
- Bible verse cards with 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 written on them

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into large puzzle piece shapes, one for each child.
- Write or print the Bible verse (1 Corinthians 12:4-6) on separate cards.
- Prepare the pictures of church activities by either printing them out or cutting them from magazines.

Do this:

1. **Introduction to the Theme:** Start by reading 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 to the children. Explain that just like our bodies have many parts, the church has many different jobs and everyone has their own special job to serve God. Emphasize that all these jobs are important and help the church work together as a team.
2. **Puzzle Activity:** Give each child a puzzle piece of construction paper and markers or crayons. Ask them to draw or write about one way they can serve or help in the church based on the pictures of church activities you've shown. It could be singing, helping to clean, being kind to others, or praying. While they work, play some soft music in the background.
3. **Bringing it Together:** Once everyone is done, gather all the puzzle pieces and work together as a class to fit them into a big puzzle on a table or the floor. As you place each piece, have the child who created it explain how their piece shows a way to serve in the church. Once the puzzle is complete, show them how beautiful and complete the church looks when everyone uses their gifts to serve God. Conclude by

reading the Bible verse again and reminding them that God gives us all different gifts to serve the church and Him.

Snack Activity: Body of Christ Sandwiches

You'll Need:

- Different kinds of bread (white, wheat, rye, etc.)
- Various sandwich fillings (ham, cheese, peanut butter, jelly, etc.)
- Cookie cutters in various shapes (heart, star, circle, etc.)

Get Ready: Prepare all the sandwich ingredients on a large table, making sure there's enough variety for the children to choose from. Have the cookie cutters and plates ready for each child.

Do this:

1. Talk about 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, explaining that just like there are different kinds of gifts, services, and activities, but the same God who empowers them all in everyone, our sandwiches will show how different parts can come together to serve one purpose.
2. Let each child choose their bread and fillings to make their sandwich. Encourage them to think about how each ingredient might represent a different gift or service in the church.
3. Use the cookie cutters to shape the sandwiches into fun shapes, symbolizing how we all fit into God's plan in unique and special ways. As they eat, remind them that though we are all different, we all are part of one body in Christ and serve to glorify God.

Game Activity: Gifts of Service Relay

You'll Need:

- A list of simple tasks or 'services' written on pieces of paper (e.g., sing a song, draw a picture, recite a memory verse, pretend to teach a class, etc.)
- A box or basket to hold the pieces of paper
- A designated 'service station' area

Get Ready: Write down different simple tasks on pieces of paper that can be considered acts of service or gifts, and place them in the box or basket. Set up a 'service station' at one end of your play area where the children will perform the task they draw.

Do this:

1. Divide the children into two teams. Line them up at the starting line, opposite the 'service station.'
2. The first child from each team runs to the box or basket, draws a piece of paper, and performs the task at the service station. Tasks should be simple and quick to perform.
3. After completing the task, the child runs back and tags the next team member, who then does the same. This continues until all team members have completed a service.
4. The first team to finish all tasks wins. After the game, discuss how each task represents different gifts and services we can offer to God and the church, just like in 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, emphasizing that we all have different gifts to serve God and help others.

Craft Activity: God's Garden of Gifts

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Markers or crayons

- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Seeds (optional for decoration)

Get Ready: Cut out flower shapes from different colors of construction paper. Each flower will represent a different gift or service mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:4-6.

Do this:

1. On one flower, write 'Gifts' at the center. On the petals, have the children write or draw different gifts they think God gives us, like kindness, teaching, helping, or singing.
2. On another flower, write 'Services' in the center. On the petals, children can write or draw different ways we can serve others in the church or community, like helping a friend, cleaning, or sharing.
3. On the last flower, write 'Activities' in the center. Here, children can think of activities they can do to show God's love, like praying for someone, joining church activities, or reading the Bible.
4. Once all the flowers are filled out, glue them onto a larger piece of construction paper to create a garden. Decorate around the flowers with drawn or glued-on seeds to represent the growth that comes from using our gifts and serving God.

Prayer Activity: God's Garden of Gifts

You'll Need:

- A large poster board or paper
- Markers or crayons
- Sticky notes or small pieces of paper

Get Ready: Before the class, draw a large tree on the poster board, leaving the branches empty. Write 'God's Garden of Gifts' at the top.

Do this:

1. Start by reading 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 to the children, explaining that just like there are different kinds of plants and flowers in a garden, God gives us different gifts to serve Him and the church.
2. Ask each child to think about a gift or talent they have that can help others or serve God. It could be anything from being a good listener, sharing, helping at home, praying for others, to being a good friend.
3. Have each child write or draw their gift on a sticky note or piece of paper. Then, let them come up one by one to stick their 'gift' onto the tree branches. As they do, encourage them to say a short prayer, asking God to help them use their gift to serve Him and the church.
4. Once everyone has added their gift to the tree, lead the children in a prayer, thanking God for making each of them unique and for the variety of gifts He gives us to serve Him and each other in the church.