

# God's Tool Box

## UPPER 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
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into various shapes (circles, squares, triangles, etc.) before the class.
- Set up a table with markers, crayons, scissors, glue, and stickers for decoration.

Do This:

1. Ask each child to pick a shape of colored paper. Explain that each shape represents a unique gift or talent given by the same Spirit.
2. Have them write or draw a gift or talent they think God has given them on their chosen shape. If they're unsure, encourage creativity (e.g., being a good friend, being helpful at home).
3. Once everyone is done, invite them to come forward and glue their shape onto a larger poster board, creating a mosaic of gifts. As they do, discuss how all these different gifts come from the same Spirit and how they can work together to serve God and others.
4. Display the completed mosaic in the classroom or church to remind the children of the diversity and unity of gifts from the Spirit.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A variety of craft supplies (construction paper, markers, glue, scissors, etc.)

- Index cards
- Pens or pencils
- A Bible or printed copies of 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Get Ready:

1. Write different talents or gifts (e.g., teaching, encouraging, giving, leadership, wisdom, knowledge, faith) on the index cards, one per card.
2. Set up a craft station with all the supplies neatly organized.
3. Create a "Gift Discovery" area where the index cards are placed face down.

Do this:

1. Begin with a group discussion about 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, emphasizing how different gifts come from the same Spirit, Lord, and God who works in all of us. Explain that today, they'll discover and think about their own gifts.
2. Direct each child to the "Gift Discovery" area and have them pick an index card without looking at the gifts listed. Once everyone has a card, they can turn it over and see what gift they've "received."
3. Move to the craft station and instruct the children to create a representation of the gift on their card using the craft supplies. It could be a poster, a 3D model, or any creative representation they can think of.
4. After crafting, each child presents their creation, explaining how they think this gift could be used in the church or community to serve God. Encourage them to think of specific, actionable ways they can use their gifts.
5. Conclude with a group prayer, asking God to help each child discover and use their gifts for the good of the church and the world.

**Snack Activity: Unity in Diversity Fruit Salad**

You'll Need:

- A variety of fruits (e.g., bananas, grapes, apples, oranges, berries)
- Cutting boards
- Child-safe knives
- Large mixing bowl
- Serving cups or bowls
- A Bible or printed verse of 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Get Ready: Wash all fruits and place them on a clean table. Make sure each child has access to a cutting board and a child-safe knife. Print or display the verse 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 prominently on the table.

Do this:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 aloud together. Discuss how the different fruits can represent different gifts given by the same Spirit, serving the same Lord, and working under the same God.
2. Assign each child a fruit to prepare. As they cut their fruit, encourage them to share a talent or gift they believe God has given them that contributes to their community or church.
3. Combine all the cut fruits into a large mixing bowl. Mix gently. As you do, emphasize how all the different fruits come together to make one delicious fruit salad, just as our different gifts come together to serve God's purpose.
4. Serve the fruit salad in cups or bowls. End with a prayer, thanking God for the variety of gifts He gives and asking for guidance to use them to serve Him and others.

## Game Activity: Spiritual Gifts Relay

You'll Need:

- A list of spiritual gifts (e.g., teaching, encouragement, giving, leadership, mercy, wisdom)
- Objects or pictures representing each gift (e.g., a book for teaching, a heart for mercy)
- Two baskets or boxes

Get Ready: Prepare two sets of objects or pictures representing the spiritual gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:4-6. Place each set in a basket or box at one end of the play area. Divide the children into two teams, and have each team line up at the opposite end of the play area from the baskets.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that just as there are different kinds of gifts, services, and activities, but the same Spirit, Lord, and God who empowers them all in everyone, they will participate in a relay to learn about the variety of gifts.
2. On 'Go,' the first child in each line races to the basket, chooses an object or picture, and races back to tag the next player in line.
3. The next player then races to the basket to choose a different object or picture, and so on, until all objects or pictures have been collected by each team.
4. Once all items are collected, gather the children and discuss each spiritual gift, how it serves the church, and how God empowers each of us with different gifts to serve Him and others.

## Craft Activity: Unity in Diversity: The Body of Christ

### Craft

You'll Need:

- Construction paper in various colors
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers or crayons
- A large poster board

Get Ready: Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 together as a class. Discuss the different gifts and services mentioned and how they relate to serving God in various ways but under the same faith.

Do this:

1. Have each child select a color of construction paper. On their paper, they should draw and cut out a unique shape that represents them or a gift they feel they have (e.g., a heart for love, a cross for faith, a book for teaching).
2. On their shape, they should write a service or gift they can offer to their church or community (e.g., helping others, singing in the choir, being a good friend).
3. Gather all the shapes and glue them onto the large poster board to create a mosaic. As you assemble the mosaic, discuss how each unique shape (gift) contributes to the overall beauty and function of the piece, just like each of our unique gifts contributes to the body of Christ and the church. Hang the completed mosaic in your classroom or church to remind everyone of the unity and diversity within the body of Christ.

## Prayer Activity: Unity in Diversity: Serving Together

You'll Need:

- A Bible or printed copies of 1 Corinthians 12:4-6
- Different colored pieces of construction paper
- Markers or crayons



- Scissors
- Glue or tape

Get Ready: Prepare small strips of the different colored construction paper before the class. Each color will represent a different gift or service mentioned in the scripture (e.g., teaching, helping others, leadership, kindness).

Do this:

1. Begin by reading 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 together as a class. Discuss the different gifts and services mentioned in the scripture and how they all come from the same Spirit, Lord, and God.
2. Give each student a few strips of the different colored construction paper. Ask them to write or draw on each strip a gift or service they feel they can offer to their church or community. Encourage creativity and reassure them that every contribution, no matter how small, is important.
3. Create a 'Unity in Diversity' mural by having each student glue or tape their strips onto a larger piece of paper or a bulletin board. As they add their strip, have them say a short prayer out loud or silently, dedicating their gift or service to God's work in the world. This visual representation will help them see how many different gifts and services are needed to serve God and support their community, emphasizing the message of unity in diversity.