



PAUL'S LETTERS TO US

Spiritual Gifts

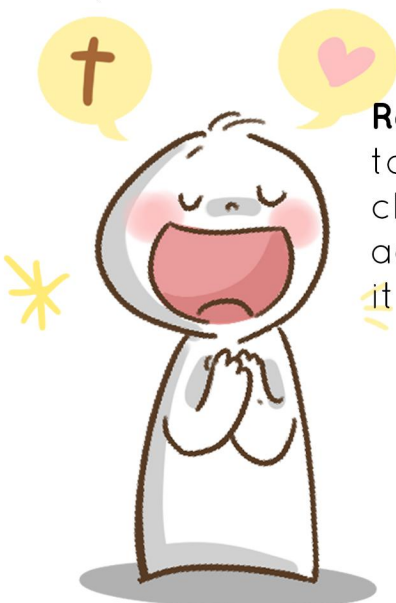
Supplies Needed: candle, lighter



TEACHING INSTRUCTIONS

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 together. Read it to the children or have them take turns reading. (See student handout)

Say, “Paul wrote a long letter to the Church in Corinth that he had planted, and he had many important things to teach them. He wanted them to understand spiritual gifts. First, you can test if someone is speaking from the Holy Spirit based on what they say about Jesus. Only those with the Spirit can say, ‘Jesus is Lord’, which means they say Jesus is the Master of all things. Then, Paul talks about the variety of gifts and how they are all meant for the good of the Church. Even though the gifts are very different, they all come from the same Holy Spirit, and the Spirit gives them to believers as He wants to. Let’s talk about some more interesting points from this passage.”



Read the “Did You Know?” points together. Read it to the children or have them take turns. Help the children look up the Scriptures mentioned. For added fun, have them say “amen!” when they find it. (See student handout)

Say, “Before Paul talked about spiritual gifts, he talked about disunity. In 1 Corinthians 11:18, he mentioned “divisions” among them. After talking about spiritual gifts, he compared believers to different parts of the same body, working together (12:12-26). It seems like some Corinthian believers were given special treatment over others. Some believers may have more or stronger gifts than others, but that doesn’t mean they’re more important in the Body of Christ. We should all humble ourselves and understand that our gifts come from God. They were given to us so we could bless each other and glorify our Father in heaven.”



OBJECT LESSON

Let Your Gift Shine

Items: candle, lighter

Hold the candle in your hand for the audience to see. **Say**, “Can this candle give light to a room by itself? No, it has to be lit first.” Light the candle with the lighter. **Say**, “Now, it can give light to the whole room. Is the candle the source of the light, or is it just keeping the light going?” Wait for a response. **Say**, “Right, it just shines the light that was given to it. A believer with a gift from the Holy Spirit is like this candle. The follower of Jesus cannot take credit for his or her gift. You cannot take credit for your gift. You’re just using what the Lord has given you. This is why the Lord reminds us through Paul that we are all gifted differently, and we are all part of the same body. We should humbly remember that we need each other, and most importantly we need the Holy Spirit. That way, our light can shine for the whole world to see.”

GAMES

Make the Shape



We are all part of the Body! Divide players into two teams. Write letters or names of animals on slips of paper and put them in a hat or bowl. Each team selects one slip of paper. When you say, "Go!" each team has one minute to make the shape of their letter or animal as a team. For example, if a team is making a fish, one student can stretch out his arms to be the fins, another can stretch out his legs to be the tail, and another can open his arms to be the mouth. After one minute, you act as judge and decide which team wins.

**** Optional Memory Verse Game ****

Bible Verse Catch 1 Corinthians 12:27

All you need for this game is a ball, which can be a paper ball. Have children stand in a circle. Say the first word of the verse and toss the ball to a random child in the circle. The child who catches the ball says the next word and tosses to a different kid, who says the next word and tosses it. This continues around the circle until the whole verse is said and everyone has said a word, which means you may need to say the verse twice for a big group. Once they get good at the verse, you can speed up to make it more challenging.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 What is the first spiritual gift listed in today's passage? (verse 8)
- 2 What is the purpose of all the various gifts?
- 3 Which spiritual gift would you like to learn more about and why?

