



01.01.10/ Romans 12:3-5

Materials Needed

2 ballpoint pens, ingredients for chocolate chip cookies (see recipe)

Opening Activity

Before everyone arrives, disassemble one of the pens into individual parts. Take the spring out of the other pen, and then put it back together without the spring. Let children look at the separate parts of the first pen and guess which is the most important part of the pen (most will probably say the ink). Then let children try to write with the second pen and see if they can guess what is wrong with it. (Some might suggest that it is out of ink, others might suggest taking apart the pen to see if part of the pen is missing.) After this discussion, reveal the missing spring and put it back in the pen, and let children test to see that the pen is now working.

Discussion

Tell the children that we are going to learn about unity tonight – how we are all members of one body as followers of Christ. Just like the parts of the pen each had a different job to do but came together to make the pen work, we are all unique people with different talents and gifts given to us by God to spread the gospel and tell others about Jesus. All parts of the pen were equally important for the pen to do its job – if we judged the parts by what seemed most important in our eyes, the pen would not have worked.

Read Romans 12:3-5

“For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them; if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”

Question 1

Many times the world places importance on ideals and values that are different than what Scripture places importance on. What makes a person successful according to the world’s standards? *Possible answers may include – having a lot of nice things (toys, TVs, cars), living in a big house, going on cool vacations, having lots of money, being popular at school, etc.*

Question 2

Paul cautioned the Romans about being too prideful in their opinions of themselves. These same words can speak to us today. Are there ways that you think of yourself “more highly than you ought to think?” *Examples could be – thinking you are better than someone b/c you got a new game for Christmas that not everyone else got, looking down on someone b/c their house is smaller than yours, thinking you are better than someone because you are very athletic, etc.*

Discussion

Paul is trying to foster unity among Christians by encouraging an attitude of humility and respect towards one another. When we recognize that God has made us all unique and has given us different gifts, comparing ourselves to others doesn’t seem to make any sense – its like comparing apples to oranges – they are not the same at all! God gave different types of gifts to different people, so that when we work together, we make up one body with one purpose – to bring glory to Christ.

Activity #2



Let children function as “one body” to achieve a common goal – yummy chocolate chip cookies! Assign different ingredients/parts of the recipe to each of the children, and together make some cookies! Either finish the rest of the questions while the cookies are baking, or wait until finished before baking the cookies.

COOKIE INGREDIENTS:

1 cup white sugar	1 cup butter	3 eggs
1 cup brown sugar	2 tsp baking soda	1 tsp salt
1 tsp vanilla	3 ¾ cup flour	1 cup chocolate chips

Directions: Mix together in a large bowl. Bake on greased sheet pans on 350 for about 10 minutes.

Question 3

How did you have to work as one body to make the recipe work? What would have happened to the cookies if someone didn't do their job? *Let the children answer for themselves. . . everyone had to cooperate and share materials, each person had to do their job at the right time, etc. If the person in charge of sugar forgot their job, the cookies wouldn't be sweet, if the person in charge of baking didn't do their job well, the cookies could have gotten burnt, etc.*

Discussion

Scripture tells us that we each have been given gifts that differ according to the grace God has given us. What are some ways that God has gifted you? Discuss specific ways that we can glorify God with the gifts that He has given us.

Wrap Up

Scripture warns us to not be prideful and compare ourselves to others, but to find our identity and value solely in Christ and to be unified as one body. As you go through life this week, ask God to make you aware of times when you might be thinking more highly of yourself than you should. Ask God make you open to opportunities to use the gifts that He has given you for His glory.