



1.16.11/1 Corinthians 12:4-7 and 12-20

Materials Needed

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

Activity #1

Before everyone arrives, dissect 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 dissected 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, the pen would not have worked.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 and 12-20

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. . . . For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.”

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 1

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, the cookies could have gotten burnt, etc.

Question 2

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 use the gifts that God has given us in ways to glorify Him in our everyday lives.

Discussion

What are some ways that you can use the talents God has given you to serve other people in the body of Christ?

Reflection

Paul doesn't want us just to recognize our own gifts and use them individually. 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 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. How can your Community Group unite together to bring the light of Jesus to your city? *Get creative and use the resources within your group, possible examples: have a yard sale or bake sale with proceeds going to a local homeless shelter, adopt a family in need (maybe someone is sick, just had a baby, renovating a house, or out of a job. . .) and provide them with assistance, etc. Let the kids come up with ideas. They'll probably be things you never thought of!*

Wrap Up

Scripture warns us to not be prideful and compare ourselves to others, but to find our identity in Christ, and to be unified as one body. As you go throughout this week, ask God to not only open your heart to opportunities to use the gifts that He has given you for Him, but also to show encouragement to those around you to use their gifts in the same way. If you are just now believing in Jesus, please tell your parents so that we can celebrate with you! If you don't believe in Jesus, what questions do you have about Him?