



Faith Adventures for Children Together



*Committed to URC Children Together:
enabling everyone to grow more like Jesus
together in the home, church and beyond.*

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children and families, please use this link:
<https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/FACT-how-to-sheet.pdf>

1 Corinthians 12: 27-31 Body of Christ

Theme: God has a plan for each person, each plan different

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Introduction: What would be helpful to know in my planning?

Corinthians: Introduction

In this week's passage, Paul is writing to the early church in Corinth (Greece). He has become aware that the believers are struggling with keeping God's word and staying true to Jesus in a city where the exact opposite was normal - and rewarded. He reminded them that God had given each of them gifts that they could use, that they should use, as part of the body of Christ.

When we look at the roles Paul described, it can be easy to think only of adult roles or jobs: Doctor, nurse, teacher and so on. It may be helpful to encourage your group to think about how they might fill those roles as children. A comforting word can be healing, showing a friend how to do something can be teaching.

Paul's letter suggests that we can be given different gifts – no one person has them all – and that we should work together to make things better.

It is also worth thinking about how you would respond to questions such as "Does that mean I have to become a nurse/teacher?" Maybe the gifts we are given are for a particular time or situation – and we must always remember that one of God's greatest gifts is free will, to do, or not do, as we choose. But if we can use our God-given gifts to make things better for someone, why wouldn't we?



Together

How do I help my group to come together and get started with the theme?

Gathering prayer

Jesus, our friend

(use alternate index fingers to point and tap the middle of opposite palms)

Be with us today

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move up and down twice)

As we share together,

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move one forward and one back and alternate twice)

Pray together,

(hands together, palm against palm, as though praying)

Play together,

(hands to each side, palms up, make two small circles outwards)

And get to know you better,

(point up with one hand)

As children together in your family

(one hand out, palm down in front of you, move it sideways and up in three 'steps' as though to indicate children of three different heights)

AMEN

(Two thumbs up, and bring fists slowly together to meet in front of you)

OR

Thank you, God, for bringing us together today.

Help us to grow closer to you in all we do.

Help us to speak and to listen, to learn and to grow together,

Adventuring together with you wherever we may go.

Amen

In-person Game - Captain's coming

The group walk or jog around the space and wait for the leader to call out an instruction. When they hear an instruction, they must stop what they are doing and act out that instruction. You can play the game for a set amount of time or, with older groups, until there is only one player remaining. (The last person to complete each instruction, or anyone acting out the wrong action, can be out.)

Here are a selection of instructions but, if you have played the game before, there may be others to add that your group particularly enjoy:

Captain's coming! – Stand still and salute

Climb the rigging! – Mime climbing a ladder

Scrub the decks! – Mime scrubbing the floor

Sharks! – Run to safety at the edge of the room (with optional screaming)

Submarine – Lie down with one leg in the air

Port – Run to one end of the room

Starboard – Run to the opposite end of the room



As this is a popular game, your group may have played it before in different settings. It is worth spending time at the beginning of the game, clarifying the actions for the instructions that you will be using.

Alternative game - Charades

Write a variety of jobs onto pieces of paper, fold them and place them in a tub or hat. (If your group has very young children or those who find reading difficult, you could print out pictures of different jobs and put those in the hat instead.)

Members of the group take it in turns to pick a job out of the hat.

They must act out the job for the rest of the group, they are not allowed to name the job or the tasks a person does in that job. The rest of the group must guess the job.

The group have three guesses, if they don't guess correctly, the job is revealed and another player can have a turn at acting out a job.

Experience

For this story we recommend using the Contemporary English Version

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+12%3A+27-31&version=CEV>

Where can I find the story online?

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV) <https://youtu.be/odz2bWofhn0>

All ages: The Church: One Body With Many Parts

<https://youtu.be/evRQUxzn8qA?si=Z47ZILNQOGczUnC0>

Songs to support the story

Memory Verse song: You Are the Body of Christ <https://youtu.be/Th7yEV0qLF4>

Under fives: Our God is a great big God <https://youtu.be/0K3TUFFpmhA>

Five to elevens: Nick & Becky Drake - God Is Good <https://youtu.be/5VQI0mk3EkA>

Explore

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

A way to explore the story

Talk together about your ambitions or your dream jobs – what would you like to do in the future? Then share this prose poem, maybe using two voices.

I'm going to be a doctor, I want to be a doctor

With a long white coat and a stethoscope and pad to write prescriptions.

You may become a doctor, child, but you're already a healer,

You make me feel so much better with a cup of tea and a smile.

I'm going to be a teacher, I want to be a teacher

With a smartboard and a register and a briefcase full of marking.

You may become a teacher, child, but you already teach others,

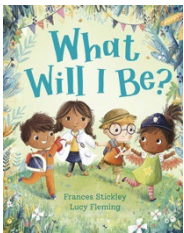


You show them how to play, to love, to sing, to dance, to pray.
 I'm going to be a solicitor, I want to be a solicitor
 With an office and a notepad and a shelf of big fat law books.
 You may become a lawyer, child, but you already support others
 When you whisper words of wisdom and help them when they're down.
 I'm going to be a scientist, I want to be a scientist
 With a microscope or telescope or test tubes in a lab.
 You may become a scientist, child, but you already explore God's creation
 With your curiosity and questions and joy in what you find.
 There are so many choices.. Tell me what the future holds
 How will I decide what career I am going to follow?
 One day you'll make decisions, explore your strengths and your ambitions,
 Opportunities may come and you may find the right career.
 But God has given you a gifting, a way of serving, a way of being.
 You don't need to study for it, have an interview, get equipment.
 God has plans for you, can use you. You can make a difference here and now.

What is the difference between a career and a gifting? Which ones might be useful as part of the body of Christ?

Modern parables

Jesus used stories to help people understand the things of God, even though they weren't necessarily overtly Christian stories. Lots of children's books can be used in a similar way as a conversation starter on the week's theme. Examples are shared here but you may think of others too.



'What Will I Be?' By Frances Stickley and Lucy Fleming

https://youtu.be/oxysnD_fSsI?si=90gBLvgOXDLPW5nd

Talking together: How might we talk about the story together?

- Who fulfils these roles today? Who are prophets today? Who are apostles? What do these mean for us today? Who do you know who matches any of these roles? Do they have to be grown up?
- What roles are there that haven't been mentioned which are important to society? Do you think they count to God?
- What do you think Paul means when he says "the best gifts"? In another Bible translation it says "the most helpful gifts". Which do you think is the most appropriate? I wonder what he means by "the better way"?

Wondering together: suggested questions to use during activities

- I wonder what you want to be? I wonder what skills God has given you?
- I wonder how someone else would describe you?
- I wonder how God would describe you?



What's in the box (for under fives)

Use the special box or bag and sing "what's in the box/bag? What's in the box/bag? Let's see, let's see, what's in the box/bag" (to the tune of The Farmer's in the Dell). You could tap the top of the box twice after the word 'box'. Pull out the things one by one and then let the children play with them, talking about the theme or the story in simple terms.

This week's box could include:

- Some images of a carer, police officer, firefighter, recycling operative – talk to the children about the different jobs people do
- A play figure – ask the children what this figure could be, exploring with them the potential within all of us to be anything we want
- A set of plans – talk to the children about the plans we have, what do we want to be?
- A wrapped present – talk about gifts and that everyone is different and we all will grow up to have different gifts
- A simple jigsaw puzzle – all our different gifts fit together to create a whole picture
- A set of play people to act out the story or random shapes/bits you can move around to make pictures from the story as you tell it (e.g. stones, felt, twigs etc)

Express

Praying together: how can you involve the children actively in prayer?

Picture prayers

Print or draw different pictures of various roles representing the different gifts represented in the passage. Try to include things that children in the group will relate to. Here are a few ideas:

- People who help in various ways eg. firefighter, ambulance, doctor, lollipop person, teacher
- Things the children might aspire to be e.g. sports person, dancer, writer etc
- Things that represent everyday actions like a smile, a cup of tea, a plaster, a tissue, friends playing.

Make all the images you have selected into a set of cards of the same size. Lay the cards out on a table or the floor with the pictures face down and then encourage each person in turn to reveal a card and suggest what they might like to pray for. These could be prayers of blessing, thanks or asking for help. If someone does not want to speak, then remind everyone that we can pray silently, just hold the card and say the prayer quietly to yourself. Continue until all the cards have been turned over.

At the end you could ask 'I wonder if there is a different picture you would like to include?'

Dear God, thank you for loving each of us.
We thank you all for all our gifts and roles that you have given us.
Help us to work together in your church and show your love to others.
Amen





Spoken prayer

Dear God,
Like a tiny detail in a spot the difference picture,
Help me to spot the talents you have given me,
Help me to notice the things I am good at.

Like a seed that needs sunlight and water,
Help me to look after the gifts you have given me,
Help me to care for them as they grow.

Like a precious jar of prized possessions,
Remind me not to hide my skills away,
But show me how to use them to help others.

Amen

Responding together

Here are some suggested crafts and activities, and there is a colouring sheet at the end of this resource. You could also use small play toys and/or have a basket of resources available so children can choose their own way to respond. [See here for more suggestions.](#)

With an online group, plan whether to deliver any resources in advance or how you will encourage them to use what they've got to hand in their response.

However you do it, it is good for the adults to engage in the response too, and all chat together.



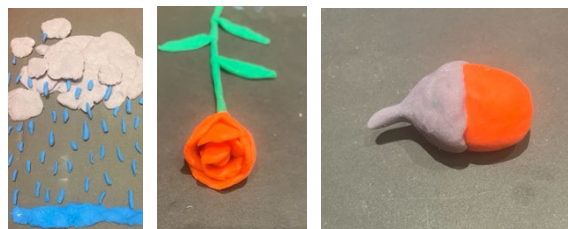
Playdough modelling

You will need: Playdough

Here is a simple no-cook playdough recipe. Mix together one cup of salt (288g), two cups of plain flour (250g) and four teaspoons of cream of tartar in a bowl. Add two tablespoons of cooking oil and two cups of boiling water (230ml) and mix well together. You could add a few drops of food colouring if you choose. This recipe is simple enough for children to do if you have time.

What do you do: Give the children some playdough each and talk to them about the fact that it has the potential to be anything, but the person modelling it has a plan – what is your plan, what are you going to make?

Allow the children time to hold the playdough to make a plan for their model, and then create their model using the playdough. Talk about how each person has different plans for their playdough.





Cause and effect machine



You will need:

Some junk modelling materials

What you do:

Invite the children to create a cause-and-effect machine. They will need to plan what it's going to do - how can they involve everyone? Then they can create it.

Maybe they want to make a launcher, or a stuff and pull scarf machine, or a push me pull me machine. They can research what a cause-and-effect machine is and then create something unique. An alternative to doing this with junk modelling is to do it with people in their group. Which piece of the machinery might each person be, what action will they need to do and what sound might their machine part make? Have fun with this one.

Everyday with Jesus – Walking the Way

What could we do this week to carry on what we've learned? Maybe members of the group could come up with a suggestion. If not, get them to choose from these two challenges:

- As just one part of God's body, you can't do everything, but you can do one thing at least. Maybe you're a preacher – you could tell someone else about Jesus. Maybe you're a healer – you could take care of someone who is sick. Maybe you're a do-er – you could mend something or carry out a chore for someone. Maybe you're a listener – you could sit and encourage a lonely person to talk.
 - This week, when you bathe or shower, as you wash your hands and your feet and your face, ask God to show you how you can use your hands, feet, mouth, eyes and ears to do something for God and other people.
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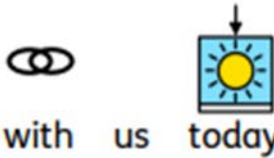
We hope you enjoyed exploring the story from **Corinthians** with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing lorrainewebb@urc.org.uk

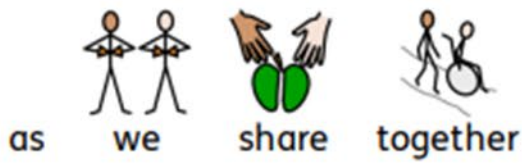
Why not have a look at next week's resource on **The Last Supper**



Jesus our friend,



be with us today



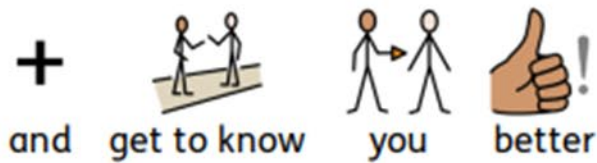
as we share together



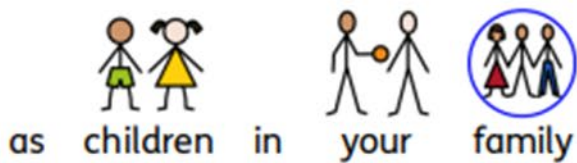
pray together



play together



and get to know you better



as children in your family



Amen



Right middle finger touches centre of other palm, repeat with left hand



Alternate hands back and forth



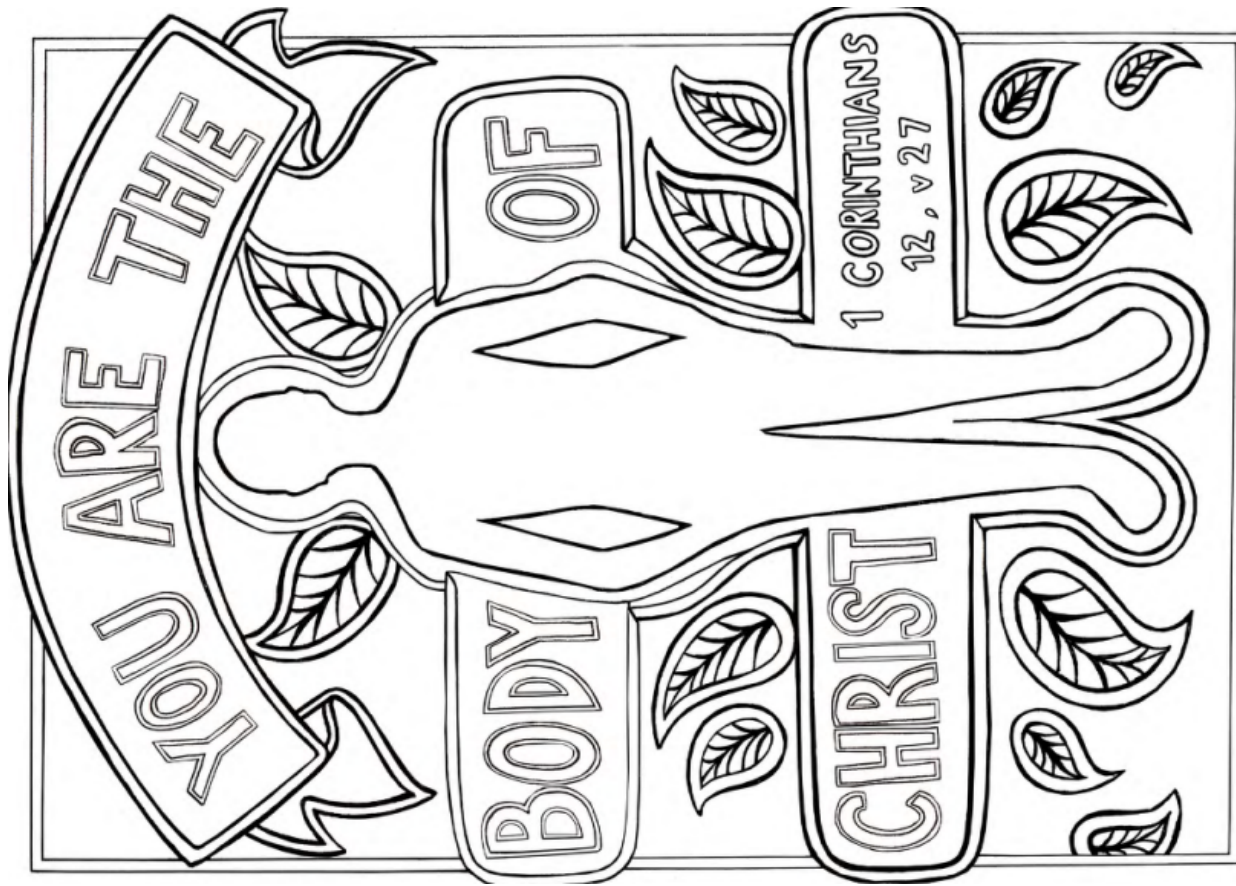


Illustration by Samara Andrews

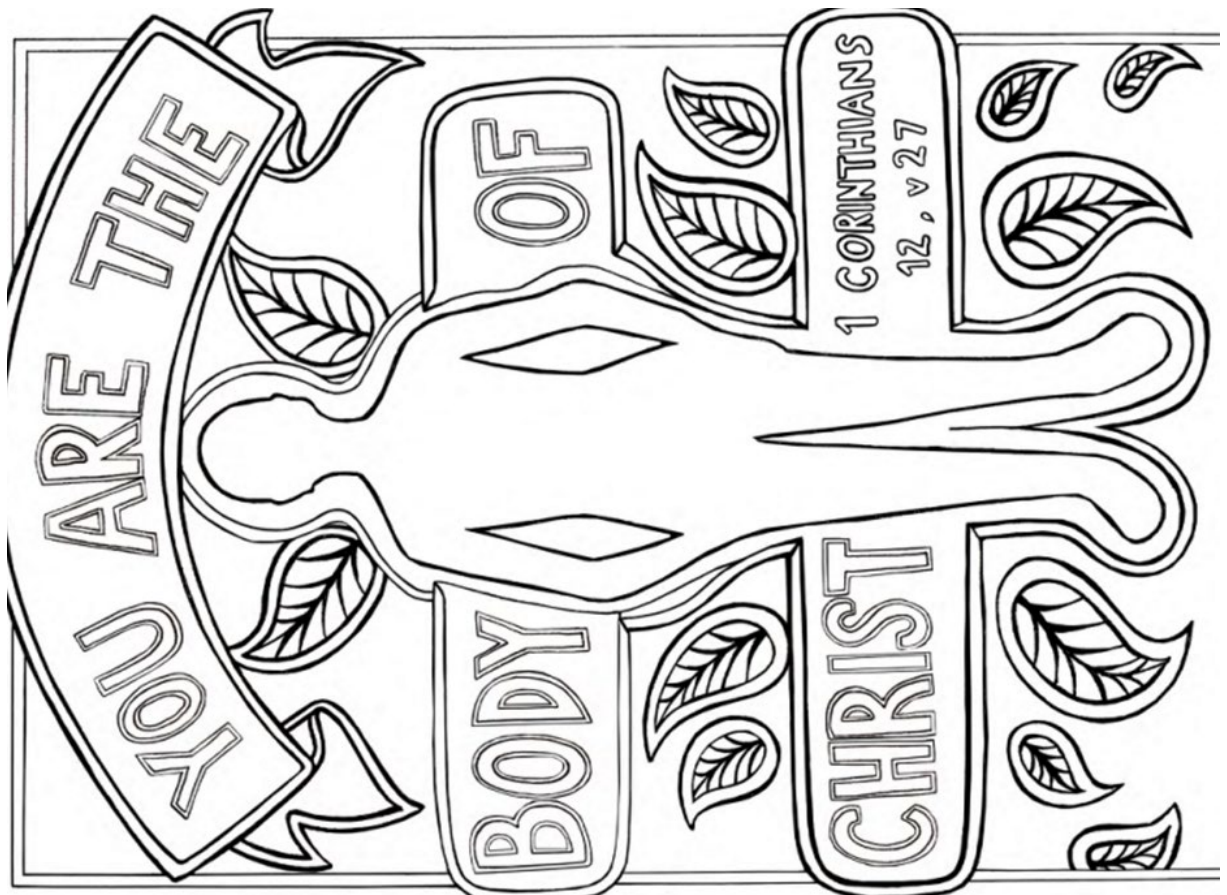




Illustration by Samara Andrews

