

Every Part Matters

Ages 7–9 • 1 Corinthians 12:27



A children's ministry session on the body of Christ: every person has a place, and every part is needed. It includes a lesson, a memory verse with motions, a class heart-puzzle craft, a team-building game, verse cards, a family note, and a My Gifts page.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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FOR LEADERS

Before you teach

Seven- to nine-year-olds can grasp metaphors and love silly examples. The “what if the whole body were an eye?” picture Paul paints is perfect for this age.

3.21

World Down Syndrome Day is March 21. It stands for **three** copies of chromosome **21**.

47

Most people have 46 chromosomes. People with Down syndrome have 47. It happens naturally, in every kind of family.

Socks!

People around the world wear fun, mismatched socks on 3.21 to celebrate that different is good.

SESSION AT A GLANCE (ABOUT 50 MINUTES)

Welcome	Sock check + silly body warm-up. (5 min)
Lesson	1 Corinthians 12: one body, many parts. (12 min)
Verse	1 Corinthians 12:27 with motions. (5 min)
Craft	Our Church Heart Puzzle. (12 min)
Game	Body Builders team challenge. (10 min)
Pray & go	Prayer, verse card, and My Gifts page. (5 min)

WELCOMING EVERY CHILD

- Talk with parents ahead of time: what helps their child thrive? Any sensory, communication, or mobility needs?
- Offer a buddy (a trained teen or adult) to any child who'd benefit. Buddies are friends, not babysitters.
- Use visuals: a picture schedule, the verse with pictures, and show-then-tell instructions.
- Keep a calm corner with fidgets and headphones. Taking a break is always okay.
- Give every child a real role: handing out supplies, holding the Bible, leading a motion.
- Never single out a child with Down syndrome as the example. Today is about how God made **all of us**.

THE BIG IDEA

In God's family, every person belongs and every part matters.

God made each person different on purpose and gave each one gifts to share. The church needs all of us, including our friends with Down syndrome, to be whole.

ROCK YOUR SOCKS SUNDAY

Invite the whole church, kids, and leaders to wear fun, mismatched socks the Sunday closest to 3.21. **March 21, 2027 is itself a Sunday**, a perfect fit! Snap a feet photo (with permission) and share it with **#Celebrate321**.

Scripture quotations are from the Berean Standard Bible (BSB), public domain. Swap in your church's preferred translation anytime.



One Body, Many Parts

Paul says the church is like a body: lots of different parts, all needed, all belonging to each other.

12 MIN

LARGE GROUP

BODY-PART PICTURE CARDS (EYE, EAR, HAND, FOOT)

TEACH IT

1

Silly question

Hold up the eye card.

SAY

What if your whole body was just one giant EYE?
How would you hear? Walk? Eat pizza?!

2

Read Paul's words

Read 1 Corinthians 12:14–21.

SAY

Paul says the church is like a body. The foot can't say, "I'm not a hand, so I don't belong." Every part belongs!

3

God arranged it

Emphasize verse 18.

SAY

God put every part exactly where He wanted it.
Nobody is an accident. Nobody is extra.

4

Different gifts

Brainstorm gifts people bring: singing, helping, making people welcome, praying, building, being a good friend.

SAY

Everybody in our church brings something. Kids, grandparents, people with disabilities, people with Down syndrome. The body isn't complete without everyone.

5

Care for each other

Read verse 26.

SAY

When one part hurts, we all care. When one part is celebrated, we all cheer! That's what we're doing on 3.21: celebrating people with Down syndrome in God's family.

BIBLE PASSAGE

1 Corinthians 12:12–27

Read verses 14–21 aloud from your Bible, or have confident readers take turns.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What would happen if the body only had one part?
2. Why do you think God made everyone different?
3. What gift do you bring to your church family?
4. How can we make sure everyone at church knows they belong?

PRAY TOGETHER

*God, thank You for putting me in Your family.
Thank You that every person has a place. Help me use my gifts, and help me make sure everyone knows they belong. Amen.*

MEMORY VERSE

Hide it in your heart

Teach it with motions, then play a game to review it. By the end, kids should be able to say it with a partner.



“Now you are the body of Christ, and each of you is a member of it.”

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27 • BSB



ADD THE MOTIONS

Now you are	Point to a friend
the body of Christ,	Arms out wide, like a big circle
and each of you	Point around the room
is a member	Point to yourself
of it.	Link arms with the people next to you
1 Corinthians 12:27	Say it like a sports announcer!

VERSE GAMES

Body-part scramble

Write each phrase on an eye, ear, hand, foot, or heart card. Teams race to put the “body” back in order.

Pass it on

Each kid says one word of the verse around the circle. Try to go faster each round!

Missing member

Remove one card and say it. Everyone has to fill in the missing part. Every part matters!



Our Church Heart Puzzle

Each child decorates one puzzle piece to show their gifts. When the pieces come together, they make one big heart, just like the body of Christ.

12 MIN

TABLES IN GROUPS OF 4

MESS: MEDIUM

GET READY

- ☐ Print the **heart puzzle template** on cardstock, one per group of 4.
- ☐ Cut each heart into its 4 pieces ahead of time.
- ☐ Write a number on the back of each piece so groups can reassemble.
- ☐ Tape a big sheet of paper to the wall to display finished hearts.

MATERIALS

- Heart puzzle pieces (cardstock)
- Markers, crayons, and colored pencils
- Stickers
- Tape or glue + display paper

MAKE IT WORK FOR EVERY CHILD

- Kids can draw a symbol of their gift instead of writing.
- Pair any child who needs support with a buddy. They work together on both pieces.
- Offer stencils for kids who prefer structure.

STEP BY STEP

1

Get a piece

Each child gets one puzzle piece.

SAY

Right now, this is just one piece. It doesn't look like much by itself...

2

Show your gifts

On their piece, kids draw or write their name and one gift God gave them.

3

Put it together

Groups assemble their heart and tape it to the display paper.

4

Step back

Look at all the hearts.

SAY

Every piece is different, and every piece is needed. Without one, the heart has a hole. That's the body of Christ!

TALK WHILE YOU MAKE IT

- "What gift did you put on your piece?"
- "What would happen if one piece was missing?"
- "What gift do you see in the friend next to you?"

TIE IT BACK

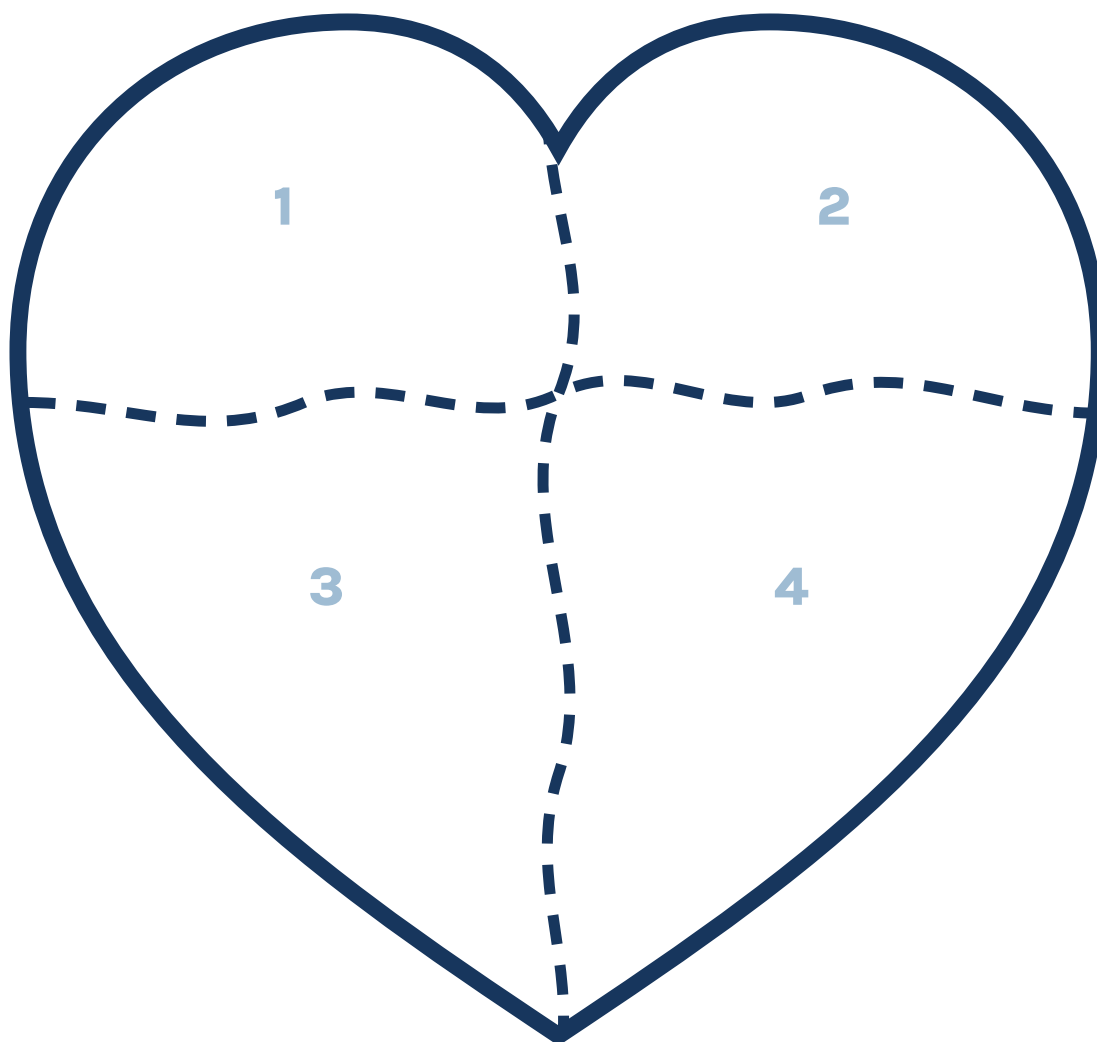


In God's family, every person belongs and every part matters. "Now you are the body of Christ, and each of you is a member of it." (1 Corinthians 12:27)

CRAFT TEMPLATE

Our Church Heart Puzzle: template

Print on cardstock and cut on the dashed lines to make 4 puzzle pieces. Each child decorates one piece, then the group puts their heart back together.



We are the body of Christ!

1 Corinthians 12:27

GAME
2

Body Builders

Teams build a cup tower, but each player can only use one “body part” power. Nobody can do it alone. Everyone’s needed!

10 MIN

TEAMS OF 4

TABLES

MESS: LOW

GET READY

- ☐ Stack 10–15 plastic cups per team.
- ☐ Write role cards: EYES (only one who can see; everyone else closes eyes or wears a blindfold, optional), MOUTH (only one who can talk), HANDS (only ones who can touch cups), HEART (encourager: cheers everyone on).

MATERIALS

- Plastic cups (10–15 per team)
- Role cards
- Timer
- Optional: blindfolds

MAKE IT WORK FOR EVERY CHILD

- Blindfolds are optional. Closing eyes or turning around works too.
- Let kids pick a role they’re comfortable with.
- Any child can be the HEART. Every team needs one!

STEP BY STEP

1

Assign roles

Each team member draws a role card and explains their power.

2

Build!

Teams have 3 minutes to build the tallest tower using only their powers.

3

Switch

Swap roles and play again.

4

Debrief

Gather together.

SAY

Could the HANDS build it without the EYES? Could anyone do it alone? That’s the church. We need every part!

TALK ABOUT IT

- “Which role was hardest? Which was most important?”
- “Trick question: they were ALL needed! How is that like our church?”

TIE IT BACK



In God’s family, every person belongs and every part matters. “Now you are the body of Christ, and each of you is a member of it.” (1 Corinthians 12:27)

TAKE-HOME

Memory verse cards & family note



**"Now you are the body of Christ,
and each of you is a member of it."**

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27

Celebrate 3.21 · #Celebrate321

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FOR FAMILIES

Today we learned: every part matters



Today your child learned from 1 Corinthians 12 that the church is like a body: many different parts, all needed, all belonging to each other. We celebrated that God's family includes everyone, including people with Down syndrome. World Down Syndrome Day is March 21 (3/21), for three copies of chromosome 21.

ASK YOUR CHILD

"What would happen if the whole body was an eye?" and "What gift do you bring to God's family?"

TRY AT HOME

At dinner, have each person name a gift they see in someone else at the table. Work on the My Gifts page together.

PRAY TOGETHER AT HOME

God, thank You for putting me in Your family. Thank You that every person has a place. Help me use my gifts, and help me make sure everyone knows they belong. Amen.

Wear fun, mismatched socks on 3.21 and share a feet photo with [#Celebrate321](https://www.instagram.com/Celebrate321). More free family resources at Celebrate321.org.

TAKE-HOME PAGE

My Gifts for God's Family

God made you on purpose and gave you gifts to share. Fill in this page, and ask your family to help!

This is me!

Things I'm good at

Things I love to do

A gift my family sees in me

A gift I see in a friend at church

CIRCLE THE GIFTS YOU HAVE (YOU CAN HAVE LOTS!)

Helping

Singing

Making people laugh

Praying

Drawing

Welcoming new friends

Sharing

Building

Listening

Cheering others on

Being kind

Serving

Reading

Sports

Music

This week I'll use my gift at church or at home by...

A prayer for my church family

Dear God, thank You for making me part of Your family. Help me...

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