



## LESSON 83

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Principle: We are to be united.

Bible Character: Paul

Scripture Reference: 1 Corinthians 1:10, 12:12-26



**PERSONAL PREPARATION:** Before this weekend, read through the scripture references, and think about the different parts of the body. How do they interact? Are all parts needed for the body to function well? How is the physical body related to the body of Christ? The body of Christ was designed by God. Everyone has the same purpose, to believe and trust in Jesus as Lord and to glorify God, however each member was also created uniquely by God with a role to play in the body of Christ. God created the body of Christ to work together with the same purpose, and, within that, to experience suffering and joy together. Have you recognized how God has uniquely created and gifted you for your role in the body of Christ? What influence are you providing? How are you impacted by others in the church? How can understanding that we each have a part to play change your responses to others? At the end of the lesson, we will encourage campers to pray for one another to encourage unity among them. Spend some time in prayer for your campers and for the body of Christ.

### PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

### Picture Match

Have the campers look at the different pictures and match up ones that are similar (hand and foot, doctor and teacher, etc.) Talk about how each pair is a part of something bigger (body, job, etc.), but each picture is also different and unique on its own.

\* Teachers, please clip the set of cards back together for the next session/storage.



### BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

## The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will look at how God created our physical body to operate, and how it reflects His design for the body of Christ to function. We will see that all believers have a unique role in the body of Christ, and are needed for the body to function as God designed it. We will also encourage the campers to pray for one another to encourage unity.

## Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

### Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group? What happened to the two staff members? (Neither had all of the correct ingredients, so they couldn't make their cake the right way.) What did they do? (They combined their ingredients to make one cake.) What did they learn about how God created Christians? (He created them all with different gifts and abilities to work together as one body.)

For the past couple of months, we have been reading through the book of Acts. We have read about different people who shared their faith with others, and experienced persecution because they talked about Jesus. How did each of these people respond to the persecution they experienced? (Each of them responded to persecution by continuing to praise God and share the Gospel with the world.) Paul was one of those people we read about. How did Paul live his life before he knew Jesus? (He arrested and killed believers.) What did God do in his life? (God changed the direction of his life.) Paul began to teach others about Jesus; he wrote many letters to the people who chose to believe in Jesus Christ. Many of the books in the New Testament were written by Paul to different groups of believers.

Today we are going to read from one of those letters, written to the people in the city of Corinth. Paul addressed the people there as "brothers and sisters" because they were believers, and they were his brothers and sisters in Christ. When you believe and trust in Jesus, you are joined with other believers in God's family, which we call the body of Christ. We are going to read about how God wants us to live together in harmony as the body of Christ.

Let's begin with 1 Corinthians 1:10 [NLT].

### 1 Corinthians 1:10

*10 I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.*

God desires for all who believe and trust in Jesus to live in harmony together. This means that all believers should have the same purpose in life: to trust and obey what God tells us to do, and to

follow the example that Jesus showed us as He lived His life. In order for believers to live in harmony together, we must have the same ultimate purpose. He wants us to work together by trusting and obeying Him.

Let's read from 1 Corinthians 12 to see how God uses Paul to explain how we can live in harmony with each other.

### 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

*12 The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. 13 Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, [a] some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.*

Let's look back at the activity we did before Big Group. We paired together different pictures to see that each pair was a part of something bigger, but each picture was also unique and different on its own. The hand and the foot are both part of the body, but each has its own function: the hand allows a person to hold things and pick things up, and the foot allows a person to walk. The doctor and the businessman are both jobs that a person can have, but each has its own role. Look at the other campers in your cabin. You are all human beings, but each of you is unique and different from one another. Some of you like to draw, some of you like to sing, and some of you like to play sports. One of you might have been born in a different state or country, or you might have a different color of skin. God created each of us in His own unique way, with special talents and gifts that make us different from one another. He also created us to live together as the body of Christ if we believe and trust in Jesus as Lord. Even though each of us are different and unique in our own way, God created us that way so we could work together as one body for His glory.

## Body Parts



The purpose is to review the different people (parts) needed in the body.

### Supplies:

Worksheet – person outline side (1 per camper)

Have campers color the person to look like them, reminding them that we are all made uniquely and differently. Then have them draw lines from the roles people play in the church to different body parts that might help people perform the roles (ear – worship leader, mouth/smile – greeter, hand – administrator, etc). Make sure to explain that these are not *all* of the roles in the church; they are just examples of *some* of the many roles in the church. Have the campers think of and add other roles to the worksheet.

## Tie It Together



For the body of Christ to function as God designed it to, there are many different roles for believers to fill. God gave everyone in the church a certain gift or talent to use for His glory. That gift could be teaching in one of the cabins, keeping the grounds beautiful, singing up front in the band, performing in the skits, making meals for families in need, or some other way to bring glory to God. Our physical body works best when all parts are healthy and working together. When your arm is

broken, it affects your whole body. It is the same with the church. All believers play a part, or a role. When one believer is not doing their part well, it affects the whole church. Let's continue reading.

## 1 Corinthians 12:14-21

*14 Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. 15 If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?*

*18 But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. 19 How strange a body would be if it had only one part! 20 Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. 21 The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."*

The body has many parts, each unique and different. Each part is needed for the body to function as God designed it. Just as the body has different parts that are unique and different, the body of Christ is made up of people who are unique and different. If you believe and trust in Jesus, then God has given you an important role with specific gifts. When each member is obeying God's will for their life (to bring God glory), the body of Christ functions as God designed it. When one or more members of the body of Christ is not living to glorify God, then the body cannot function as well as it was created to. Everyone who believes and trusts in Jesus has a role in the body of Christ.

## Rope Stand



The purpose is to see how each part is critical to the whole.

### Supplies:

Long rope with ends tied together to make a big loop (1 per bin)

Have the campers sit in a circle holding onto a rope placed in front of their feet. The ends of the rope are tied together to make a huge loop. If everyone pulls at the same time, the entire group should be able to come to a standing position. Try standing with everyone holding onto the rope the first time. Next, try it again when one camper steps away and does not help. Keep taking away campers, and have the group try to stand.

## Tie It Together



What did we need to do to be able to stand up? (Allow responses.) Work together! When everyone pulled on the rope at the same time, the whole group was able to stand. Everyone had a role in achieving the goal. What happened when one camper stepped away? Was it easier or harder to stand as a group? (Allow responses.) It was harder because there was one less person helping to achieve the goal of the group. The group could not function as well when one or more campers were not helping. This is how the body of Christ works. Each member in the body of Christ has specific gifts to use, and we should encourage one another to use our gifts so that the body of Christ can work as God designed it: to bring Him glory! When one or more members are not living to bring God glory,

then the whole body cannot function as well as it was created to. It is only when all members are working together for the same purpose that God can receive the glory.

Let's continue reading.

### I Corinthians 12:22-26

*22 In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. 23 And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, 24 while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. 25 This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. 26 If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.*

God created all members of the body of Christ to fit together so that each one serves a purpose and is essential to the whole body. Some members may seem to have a less important gift than others, but God designed the body of Christ to honor those that may seem less important because the body could not function without them. We should not look down on anyone who has a gift or talent that seems less important, or be jealous of those who seem to have more important gifts or talents. Every gift is equally important. Think about our camp competitions in Big Group. Some camp competitions only require one person to perform. But if that one person wins, then the whole cabin wins. Other camp competitions involve the whole cabin to work together as a team to try to win. This is how the body of Christ works. Even if one person's gift or talent appears more important, or does not seem important at all, the body of Christ is most effective when we honor one another and encourage each other to use our gifts and talents.

We also sympathize with one another in suffering as well. If you break your arm, then other members in the body of Christ will be there to help you: your mom will help you get dressed, your friend will help you carry your books at school, your Camp Counselor and cabin friends will pray for you. When one member of the body is in pain, everyone in the body feels that pain and helps the one suffering through the pain. The body of Christ suffers together, and experiences joy together, because that is how God created it to be.

## Talents



The purpose is to see what spiritual gifts God has given them.

### Supplies:

Gifts and Talents worksheet (1 per camper)

Give out the worksheets and have campers complete the "Gifts and Talents" side by putting a check mark or X beside the statement or statements that describe them. When they are finished, you can share with them what gifts and talents they have based on the symbols key on the back of the worksheet. Go over different ways they can use their gifts and talents in every day life. Let them come up with other examples (and have them write them on the sheet).

### Tie It Together



God has given each of us talents that He wants us to use for His glory. What talents has God given you? It may be creativity; you can use art or musical instruments to bring glory to God. Your talent could be encouragement; you might be someone who likes to encourage others who are having a hard time. At this point you might not be able to tell what talents God has given you, and that's ok. Some of us have one or two very clear talents that we can see in ourselves, and some of us have several different talents. We need to learn how we can use our talents in the best way for God. As you get older, you will be able to see more clearly what talents God has given you, and you will learn how to use those talents effectively to glorify God. You will also begin to see how your role fits in with the body of Christ! Ask God how to use your talents, or ask Him to show you what talents you have.

## Prayer Pocket



The purpose is to increase unity between the campers in their cabin.

### Supplies:

Worksheet – Prayer Pocket side (1 per camper)

Prayer Pocket cutout (1 per camper)

Scissors

Glue

Have the campers spread glue along the dotted lines of the Prayer Pocket side of the worksheet. (Only glue on the dotted lines.) Then give each camper a Prayer Pocket cutout and have him or her place it on the glued area, leaving the top of the pocket open/unglued. As they color the pocket, ask for prayer requests, and write them down on the white board so the campers can copy them on scraps of paper and put them in their prayer pocket. Leave time to pray together as a class.

## Tie It Together



As a member of the body of Christ, God wants us to encourage one another and pray for one another. We learned that the body of Christ suffers together and experiences joy together. You can pray for those who are suffering to help them through the pain, and you can also praise God through prayer for the joys that others (and you!) experience. Use the prayer pocket as a reminder to pray for other members of the body of Christ.

