

Lesson at a Glance

The Body

Lesson Objectives

- The children will tell how the church is like a body.
- The children will tell different ways that people serve God in the church.
- The children will state that every disciple in the church is important to God.

Lesson Text

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Scripture Memory Verse

Now you are the body of Christ,
and each one of you is a part of it.
1 Corinthians 12:27

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: One Body

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

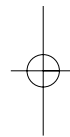
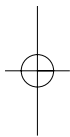
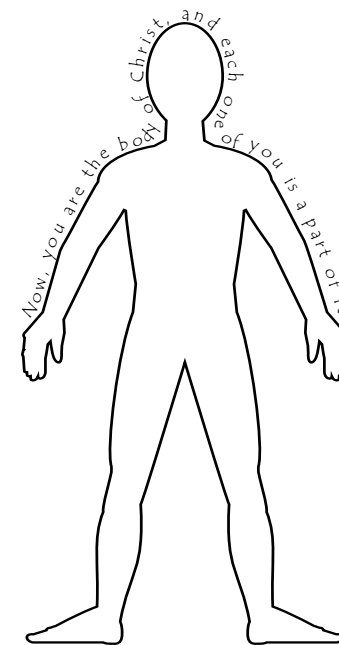
Bible Story: A Perfect Arrangement

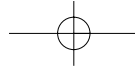
Craft: All for One

Scripture Memory: Words
and Pictures

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.

The Church Lesson 4



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The Body

One Body

The children will preview today's lesson as they make a picture of a body of people.

Materials

For each child:

- crayons or markers
- glue stick

For the teacher:

- magazines with pictures of different people
- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

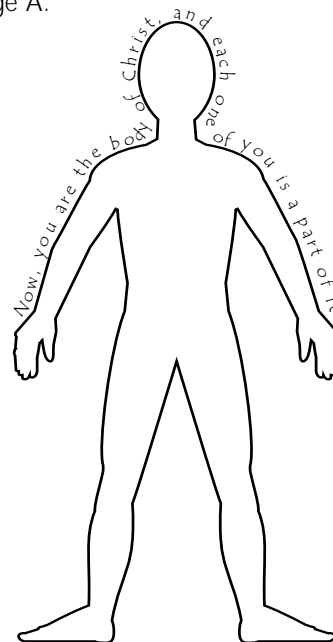
1. Cut out five magazine pictures of people's faces for each child.
2. Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page A.

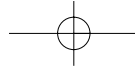
Instructions

1. Greet the children as they arrive. Tell them that today they will learn that the church is like a body—it is one group made up of many parts. Show the children your sample and explain that the picture shows that the church is like one body made up of many people.
2. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page A, faces from magazine, glue sticks, and crayons. Tell the children to glue or draw the faces inside the body on their page.
3. Circulate among the children to offer help and encouragement.

Teacher Tips

- If your facility permits, play Christian music in the background during this activity.





The Church Lesson 4

B The Body

S

A Perfect Arrangement

The children will participate in this felt board discussion about the church.

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Materials

For the teacher:

- felt board with dark background
- double-sided tape

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for the teacher
- Page C, 1 copy for the teacher

T

B

Preparation

1. Cut out all the different body parts from your copies of Reproducible Pages B and C.
2. Place a piece of double-sided tape on the back of each body part.
3. Practice presenting this Bible Story with excitement and humor.

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Introducing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to the book of 1 Corinthians. *Today we are going to learn about something that is very special about God's church. Our lesson comes from the book of 1 Corinthians, which was written by the apostle Paul. We are going to learn about how God uses different people to all work together to make up his church. I am going to need each of you to work together to help me teach this story.*

R

E

Presenting the Bible Story

Who wants to help me teach this lesson? Hand out one piece of the body to each volunteer. Keep the torso for yourself. Choose one child to stand next to you as a model. In the first letter the apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, he explained that we each have one body. It is made up of lots of parts, but they all go the same places together. See this hand. (Point to your model's hand.) It came with (child's name) to Bible class today. (child's name) didn't leave it at home. If (he/she) left (his/her) hand at home, (he/she) would miss it. You would notice if (child's name) came in without one of (his/her) hands, wouldn't you? Wouldn't you say to (him/her), "What happened to you? Where did your hand go?" (He/She) needs all (his/her) body parts to work together everywhere (he/she)

Y



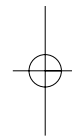
goes. All of (his/her) body parts belong to (him/her) and they are all important, no matter how small they are!

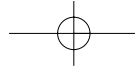
The Bible says that disciples belong to Christ in the same way. The church is the body of Christ. Everyone in the church is a part of Christ's body. Every person in God's church does things that help the church to move and grow. If any part is missing, we notice and we ask, "Where did they go?"

Let's see if we can arrange this body just the way it should be. Hold up the torso. Is this body complete? (No) Who has the arms? Have the children hold them up. Who has the head? Who has the legs? Have the children hold them up. Does this body need the head? arms? legs? (yes) OK, bring them here and let's arrange them the way they are supposed to be. Arrange the parts so everyone can see.

Every part of the body is important. Even the small parts like the ears are very important. Tell the children to point to their ears. They may not be the prettiest parts of the body, but we sure use them a lot! God arranged his church just like he arranged our bodies. Let me give you an example. Have you ever stubbed your toe? What did you do? Jump up and down? Wave your hands? Open your mouth and say, "ouch!" When you hurt one small part of your body, your whole body gets involved. That is how God arranged his church. If one part of his church is happy, other people in the church are happy. If one person in the church is sick, other people in the church pray for them, take them food, bring them cards, help them clean house, etc. Every part of the body of Christ gets involved!

Let's think about a Sunday church service. How many people are involved in a regular Sunday morning worship service? There are song leaders, ushers, preachers, people who lead prayer, pass around the Lord's Supper, count the contribution, set up equipment and help clean up. Ask the children if their parents help do any of these different jobs. Tell the children how glad you are that they are here with you today. There are also teachers for the children's ministry. Everyone in the church is just as important—whether they preach the Bible, count the money or clean up! God has arranged each part just as he wants it!





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The Body

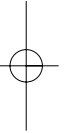
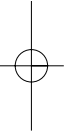
Share and Tell

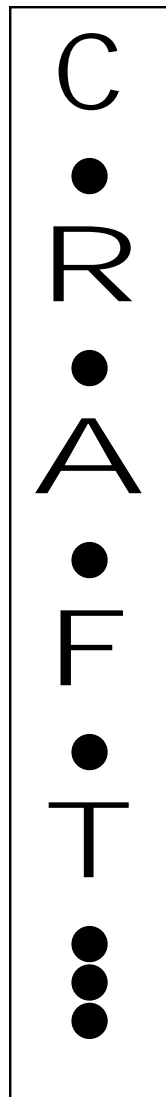
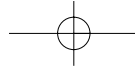
Ask the children to think about what jobs they would like to do when they become disciples. Encourage them that God has a special place for each one of them when they get baptized into the body of Christ. Ask the children who they want to share today's story with this week. Tell them who you will share it with this week. Close with a prayer thanking God for arranging the body so perfectly.

The Church Lesson 4

Teacher Tips

- This is an abstract concept. Keep the explanation simple. Go step by step and make sure the children are following. You must keep them engaged or your discussion could degenerate rapidly!





The Body

All for One

The children will make a craft to remind them that God has arranged all the parts of the body, the church.

Materials

For each child:

- 1 envelope
- 5 brass fasteners
- crayons
- glue stick

For the teacher:

- clear tape
- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. Cut out the parts of the body from the copies of Reproducible Page D. Place each set of body parts in an envelope for each child.
2. Make a sample body to show the children.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In your Bible Story today, you are learning that God has arranged the church just like a body. He has put different people in different positions to do different things so that everyone will grow and be more like Jesus. The Bible says that each disciple is a part of the church, and the church is just like a body. God loves each and every part of the body just the same.*
2. Show the children your sample craft. Tell them that this is a very simple example of what the Bible says about the church. Explain that our bodies have many parts and most of them are inside where we can't even see them, such as the heart, the lungs, bones, etc. All the parts are important but none of them can live alone—they must work together.
3. Distribute the envelopes you prepared and the brass fasteners. Tell the children that you will lead them as they put the parts of the body together, one part at a time.

The Church Lesson 4

4. Hold up the head and tell the children to hold up the same piece from their sets. *The Bible says that Jesus is the head of the church. This means that he is the leader and director of the church. He is the one in charge.*
5. Hold up the torso. Explain that the rest of the body or the church is made up of many parts including the arms, legs, hands, feet, and so much more. Tell the children to use their brass fasteners to attach the head to the torso. Next, have them attach the arms and finally the legs, as shown in Figure A.
6. Circulate among the children to place small pieces of tape over the fastener wings to keep them in place, as shown in Figure B.
7. Tell the children to follow along as you read the scriptures on their crafts.
8. For the time that remains, have the children color and decorate their crafts.

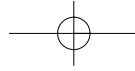
Conclusion

Ask the children how it makes them feel to know that God has a special plan and place for each one of them when they become disciples and join the body of Christ. Close with a prayer for the children to know that they are each very important to God and the church.

Teacher Tips

- Use clear tape to repair any tears that may occur when the children insert the brass fasteners.
- Some children may need extra help using the brass fasteners. Be sure to help them by letting them hold the parts in place as you push the fasteners through the holes.





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The Body

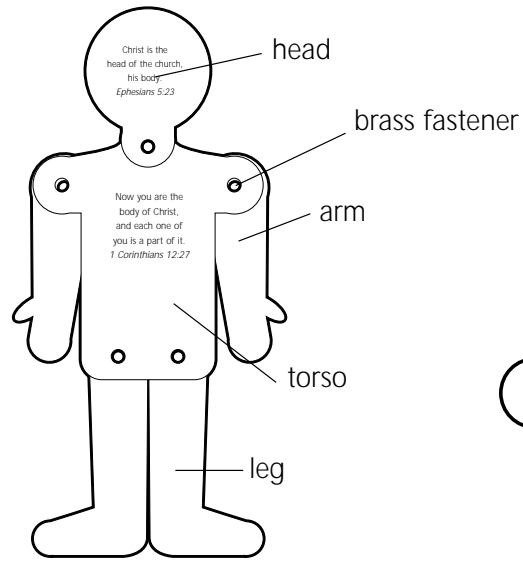


Figure A

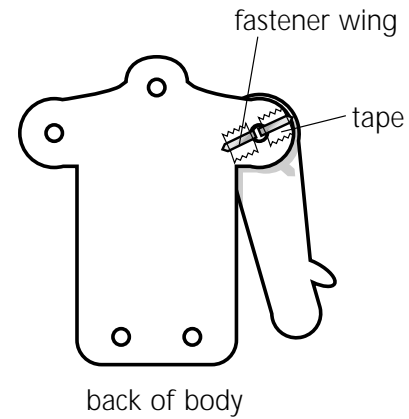
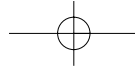


Figure B





SCRIPTURE MEMORY



Fall 2

The Body

Words and Pictures

The children will learn and memorize today's Scripture Memory Verse through words and pictures.

Scripture Memory Verse

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.
1 Corinthians 12:27

Materials

For each child:

- crayons
- pencil

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page E.
2. Memorize the Scripture Memory Verse.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *Today you are learning about how the church is the body of Christ. Each member of God's church is like a part of Christ's body. Jesus is the head and the disciples are like the arms, feet, etc. Jesus uses all the parts of the body to help people learn about God and to take care of the needs of the body. Each part of the body is important, from the evangelist that preaches in front of people, to the kids that pray for people when they are sick, to the ushers that help people find their seats.*
2. Show the children the Scripture Memory Verse on the back of this Lesson Card. Say it to the children three times, pointing to the words as you say them. Have the children say the verse with you three more times. Ask for volunteers to say it together with you.
3. Help the children each find a partner to work with. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page E and pencils. Explain that this is called a pictograph because it uses words and pictures to show the Scripture Memory Verse.

The Church Lesson 4

4. Have the children stand, one pair at a time, and say the verse using their pictographs. After all the children have had a turn, invite individual children to stand and try to say it from memory.
5. If time permits, have the children sit in a circle and say the Scripture Memory Verse one word at a time going around the circle. Have them see how fast they can do it. Change directions and start with different children to make it even more challenging.

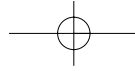
Conclusion

Encourage the children to show their pictographs to their parents or older brothers and sisters to see if they can figure out the verse. Close with a prayer thanking God for the church and for all the different people that make up the church.

Teacher Tips

- Be sensitive to children who are beginning readers and who may need extra encouragement.





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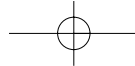
The Body

The Church
Lesson 4

Now you are the body of
Christ, and each one of
you is a part of it.

1 Corinthians 12:27





The Body

Lesson at a Glance supplement

Lesson Objectives

- The children will tell how the church is like a body.
- The children will tell different ways that people serve God in the church.
- The children will state that every disciple in the church is important to God.

Lesson Text

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Scripture Memory Verse

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

1 Corinthians 12:27

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Pizza Party

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: VIPs

Game: It's Your Serve!

Bible Skills: Scripture Hunt

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.

Pizza Party

The children will review this week's lesson as they do this fun activity.

Materials

For each child:

- glue stick
- crayons

For the teacher:

- large cardboard circle, 14", 1 for every 8 children
- construction paper—red, yellow, green, brown, black
- gray or brown pompoms (optional)
- utility knife

Preparation

1. Cut the circle into eight equal pieces.
2. Cut out "pizza toppings" from the construction paper. Be creative with assorted shapes and colors. Make enough for

- each child to have plenty.
3. Decorate a slice to show the children. Write your name on the edge or "crust."
4. Organize the "toppings" for easy distribution.

Instructions

1. Greet the children as they arrive. Remind them that the church is full of many people who make up one body—the body of Christ. Explain that this activity will help them understand how the church fits together.
2. Distribute the cardboard slices and toppings you prepared, glue sticks and crayons. Tell the children to decorate their slices any way they want and put their names on the crust.

3. As each child finishes, put the pieces together to form a complete pizza. Tell the children that this is an example of how God places all the parts together to form a whole body. Let the children take home their pieces as a reminder of this week's lesson.

Party Ideas

With the parents' permission, arrange to have pizza (real or dessert) available for a Preclass snack. Create a festive party atmosphere to set the stage for the class.

Teacher Tips

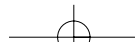
- You can get large cardboard discs from a local pizza restaurant.

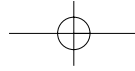
1st and 2nd Grades

SEEDS OF FAITH

pre class

ACTIVITY





supplement

LIFE APPLICATION



Fall 2

VIPs

The children will review this week's lesson as they state that each disciple in the church is very important to God.

Materials

For each child:

- self-sticking name tag

For the teacher:

- small ball
- jump rope
- cassette or CD player
- music with a familiar song
- perfume
- pen

Preparation

1. Make a list of names of people who serve the church and the different ways they serve.
2. Neatly print "VIP" on each name tag.

Reviewing the Bible Story

As the children arrive, greet them very enthusiastically, shaking their hands and telling them how excited you are to see them today. Offer them a seat. Give each one of them a name tag and tell them that VIP stands for "Very Important Person."

Open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 12. *In our Bible lesson this week, we learned something special about God's church. God said that the church is like a body, because all the parts of the church work together—just like our body works together. The Bible says that the church is the body of Christ—and each part is very important to God. Let's think about how the body of Christ works together. First, we'll look at our physical bodies.*

Life Application

Do the following exercises with the children. After each exercise, ask: *What part(s) of your body did you use?*

- Call one child's name, toss the ball to him and have him return it to you. Do this with several children. (uses: ears, eyes, hands, feet)
- Ask one child to jump rope a few times and then hand it to another child to do the same. (uses: hands, eyes, feet)

The Body

The Church Lesson 4

- Turn on the music and have them listen to it for a minute and sing along. (uses: ears, mouth)
- Pass around the perfume and ask them each to smell it. (uses: eyes, nose)

Explain to the children that all the parts of our body—hands, feet, ears, nose, etc.—help us every day. *What if we didn't have one of these parts? What would life be like?*

Ask a child to catch the ball with only one hand. *What would it be like to have only one hand? The hand is very important, isn't it?* Ask another to jump rope with only one foot. *What would it be like to have only one foot? The foot is very important, isn't it?* Have the children put their fingers in their ears, not talk, and listen to the silence. *We really miss sounds, don't we? The ears are really important, too, aren't they?* Have one child hold her nose while you hold the perfume in front of her. *It would be unfortunate to be unable to smell such lovely things. See how important our noses are?*

Read 1 Corinthians 12:21. *Each part of the body is of equal importance. The body of Christ is the same way. Each disciple is a part of the body of Christ, and each one is important.*

We saw why different parts of the body are important because of the different things that they do for the body. Let's think of how different members of the church are important because of what they do in the body of Christ. Read the list you prepared of people in your ministry and talk about the different roles they fulfill. Talk about how each role can be thought of as something your body does. For example: a person who teaches the Bible could be like a "mouth", etc.

Have the children sit in a circle around you. Toss the ball to the children in random order and have them say, "Each part of the body is important to God!"

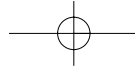
Conclusion

Ask the children how it makes them feel to know that God considers every disciple in the church to be a VIP? Close with a prayer thanking God for loving each person the same.

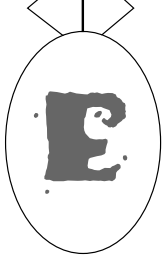
Teacher Tips

- Be sensitive to those children who have physical challenges. Find a way to make them feel extra special during this activity.





supplement



Fall 2

It's Your Serve!

The children will review important ideas from this week's lesson as they play a matching game.

Materials

For the teacher:

- scissors
- glue sticks
- 10 index cards, 3" x 5"
- pen
- paper

Reproducible Pages:

- Page F, 2 copies for the teacher

Preparation

1. Cut the index cards in half, making twenty cards.
2. Cut out the game squares from your copies of Reproducible Page F.
3. Glue each game square to an index card.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *Today we are going to play a game to help us learn the different ways people serve in the church.* Show the children your sample cards. Read and explain each card to familiarize the children with the different roles and responsibilities.
2. Shuffle the cards and place them in front of the children face down in four rows of five. Divide the children into two teams. Be careful to balance the older children with the younger ones on both teams. Choose one team to begin by turning over two cards. Help them read what is on each one. If they find a match, they receive two points. If not, they return the cards.
3. If the team can name a person in the church who serves in the same role as the matching cards, they will receive two more points. Encourage the teams to work together.
4. Continue playing until all the matches are found. Total each team's points.

The Body

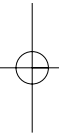
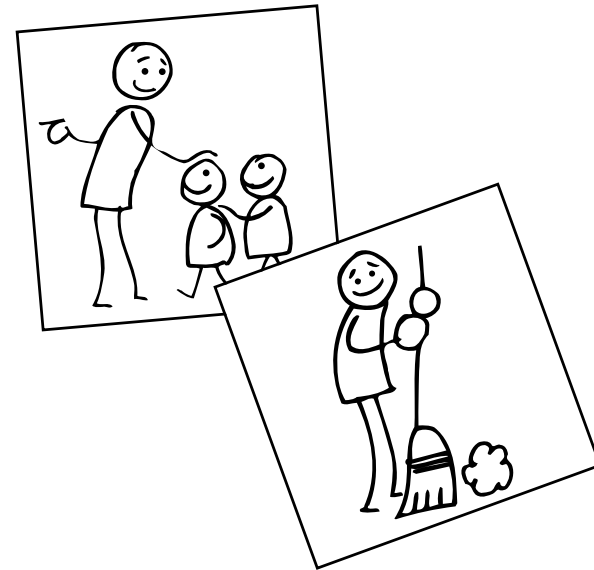
The Church
Lesson 4

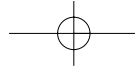
Conclusion

Close with a prayer thanking God for his plan to have all the members of Christ's body serve together in his church.

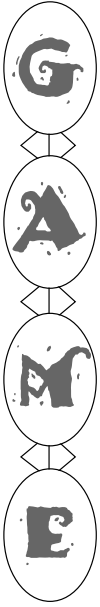
Teacher Tips

- Look for ways to make the younger or quieter children feel special throughout this activity.



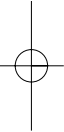
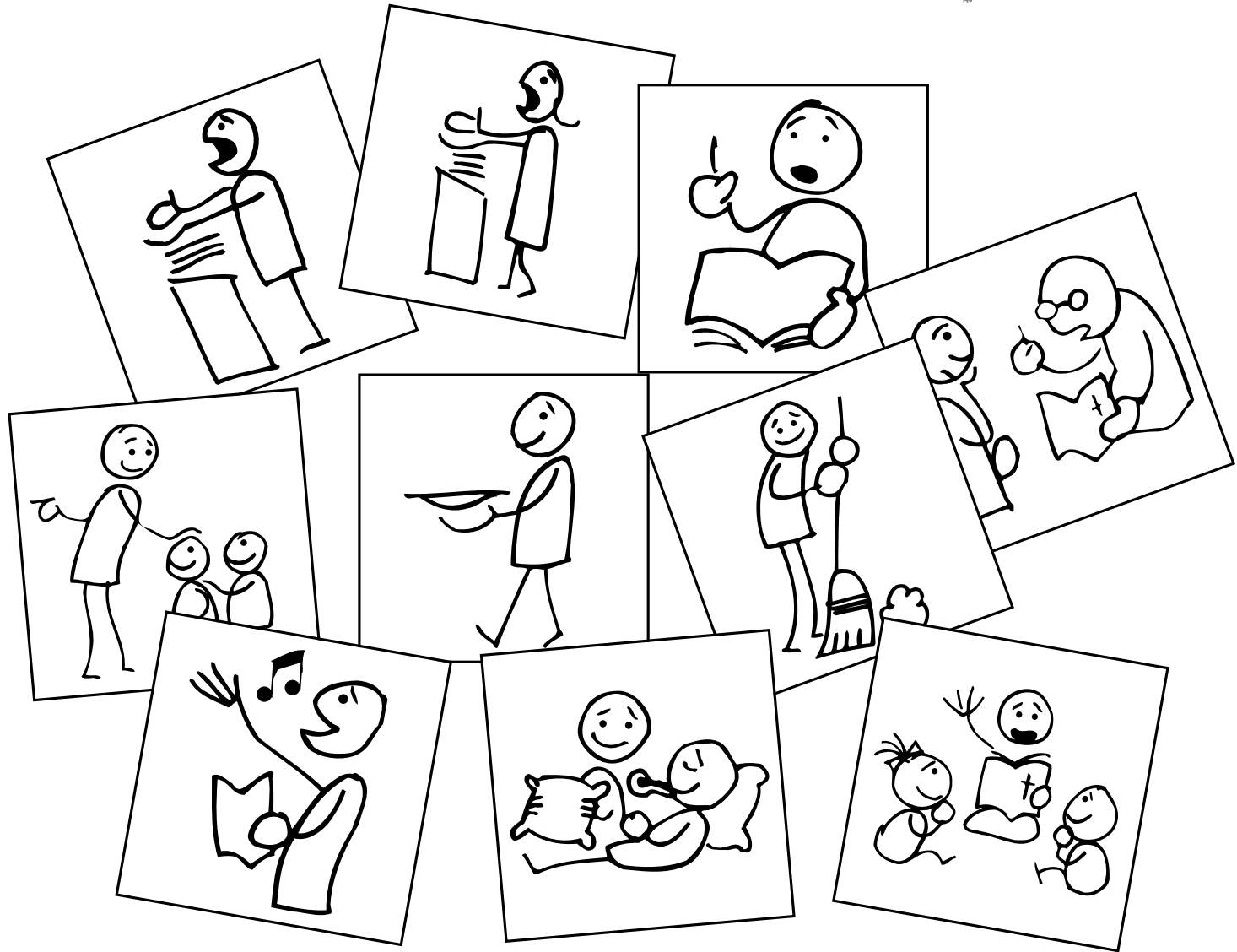


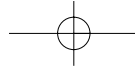
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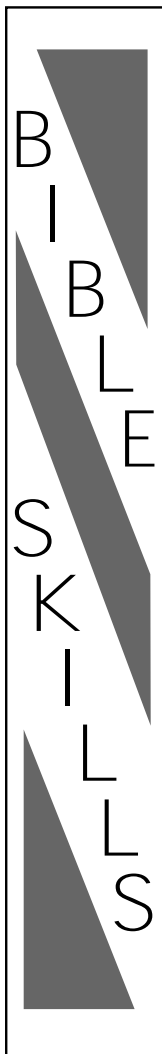
The Body

The Church
Lesson 4





supplement



Fall 2

Scripture Hunt

The children will practice finding different books in the Bible.

Materials

For each child:

- pencil

For the teacher:

- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 1 copy for each child

Special Advanced Preparation

Make arrangements in advance to collect the children's Bibles as the children arrive. This will give you extra time to prepare each Bible for today's activity.

Preparation

1. Cut out the body parts from each copy of Reproducible Page D.
2. Place each set of five body parts in each child's Bible. Place the following part in the books listed below:
Head—Ephesians
Torso—1 Corinthians
Arms—Hebrews, Matthew
Legs—John, Luke
Place the body parts inside the Bibles so that the children cannot see them sticking out. They will be looking for them during this activity.
3. Place the Bibles out on a table or on the floor so that the children can easily find their own Bibles.
4. Keep the body parts from your copy of Reproducible Page D out to show the children.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In your lesson this week, you are learning that God has arranged the parts of the body—the church—just as he wants them. The Bible is full of verses that tell us about the church! In your activity today, you are going to do a scripture hunt in which you look for five different books of the New Testament.*

The Body

The Church
Lesson 4

2. Show the children the five body parts from your copy of Reproducible Page D. Explain that two parts—the head and the torso—have words on them. Read the verses and their references to the children. Tell the children that in each of their Bibles there are five body parts just like these and the object is for them to search through their Bibles to find them. When they find each body part, they should write the name of the book of the New Testament on the paper. For example: the children will write "Hebrews" on the arm they find in that book. For the pieces that already have words on them, have the children write on the back of them.
3. Help each child find a partner. Once the children are paired up, tell them to go and find their Bibles and begin their hunt. Encourage the children to work together and help each other. Remind them to use the Bible to help them spell the book names.
4. Circulate among the children to offer help and encouragement.

Challenging Variations

Try the following for a more challenging activity:

- Time the children to see who can be the first to find and label all the body parts correctly.
- Instead of placing the body parts in the Bible yourself, have the children place the body parts in the five books of the Bible, using the previous list; or
- Have the children place the body parts anywhere in the Bible (Old and New Testament) and then switch Bibles with their partner to find and label all the body parts.

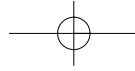
Conclusion

Ask the children what they remember from these different books. Ask them what Scripture Memory Verses they remember. Close with a prayer thanking God for all the verses in the Bible that teach us about the church.

Teacher Tips

- Work with new or visiting children—let them be your partner!
- Ask an assistant or parent to help you with the cutting portion of the preparation for this activity.



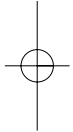
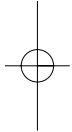
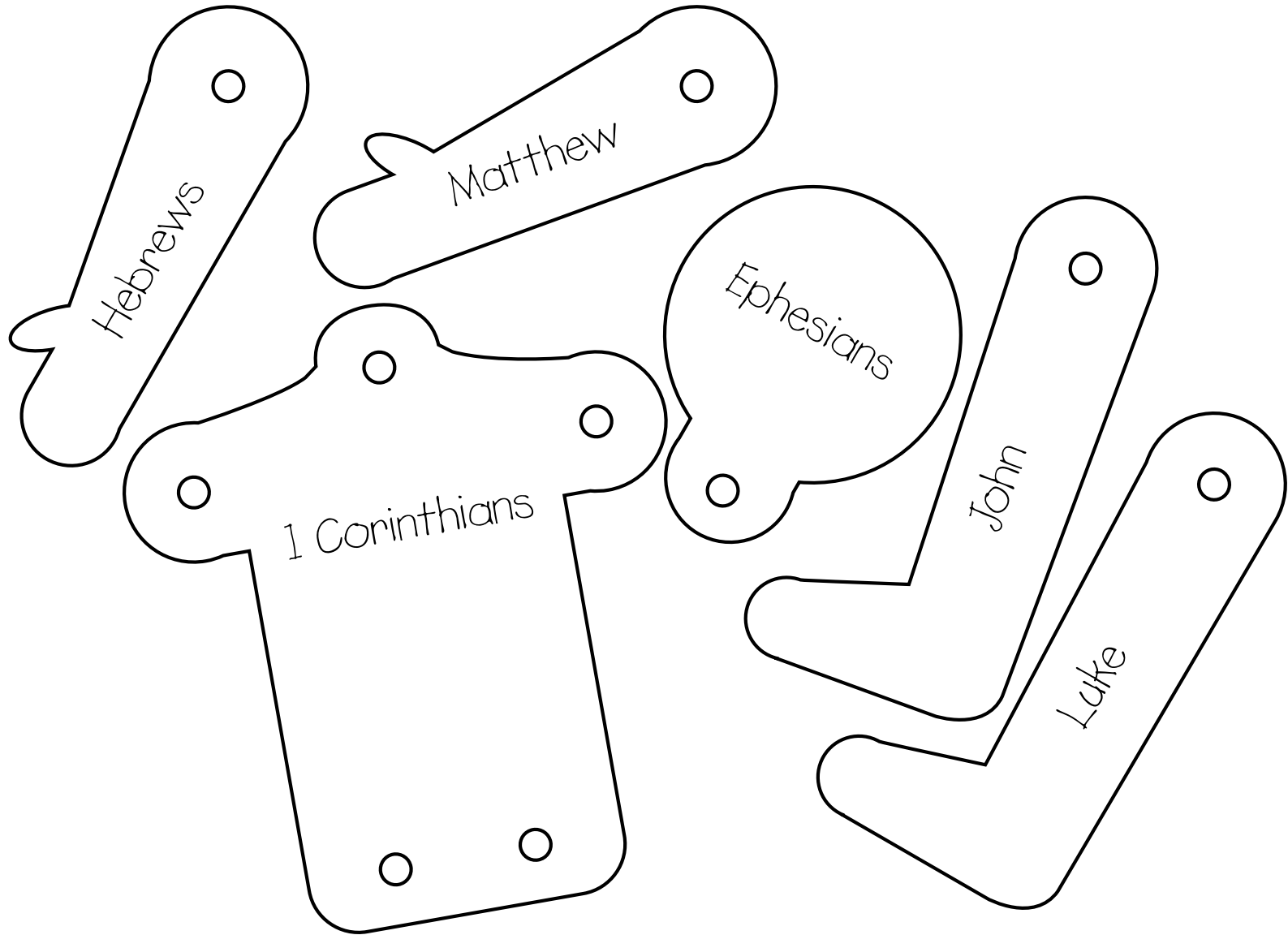


supplement



The Body

The Church
Lesson 4

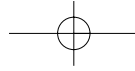


Fall 2

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The Church 14-4-14

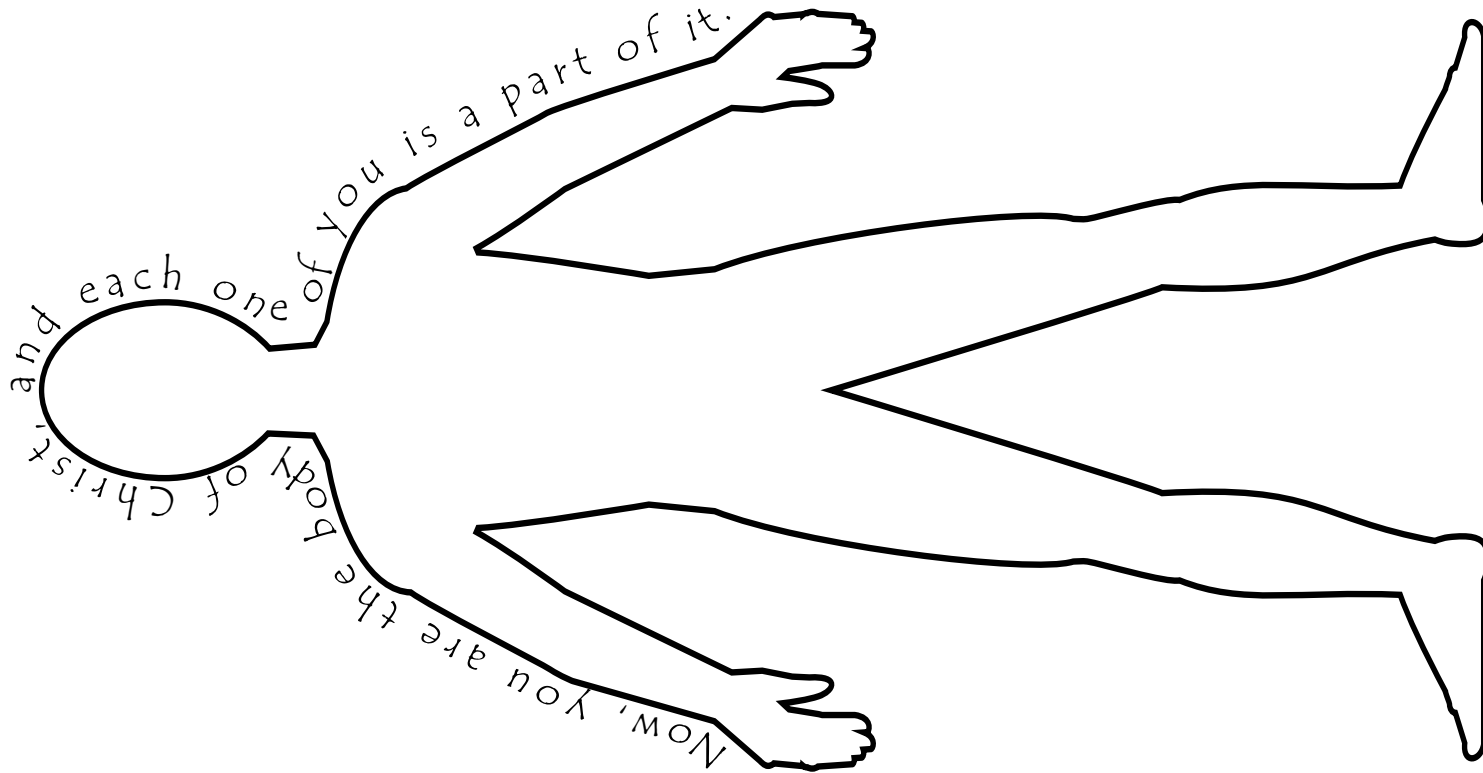




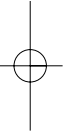
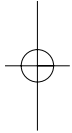
Core/Preclass
1 copy for each child

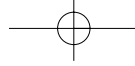
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1 Corinthians 12:27

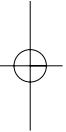
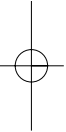
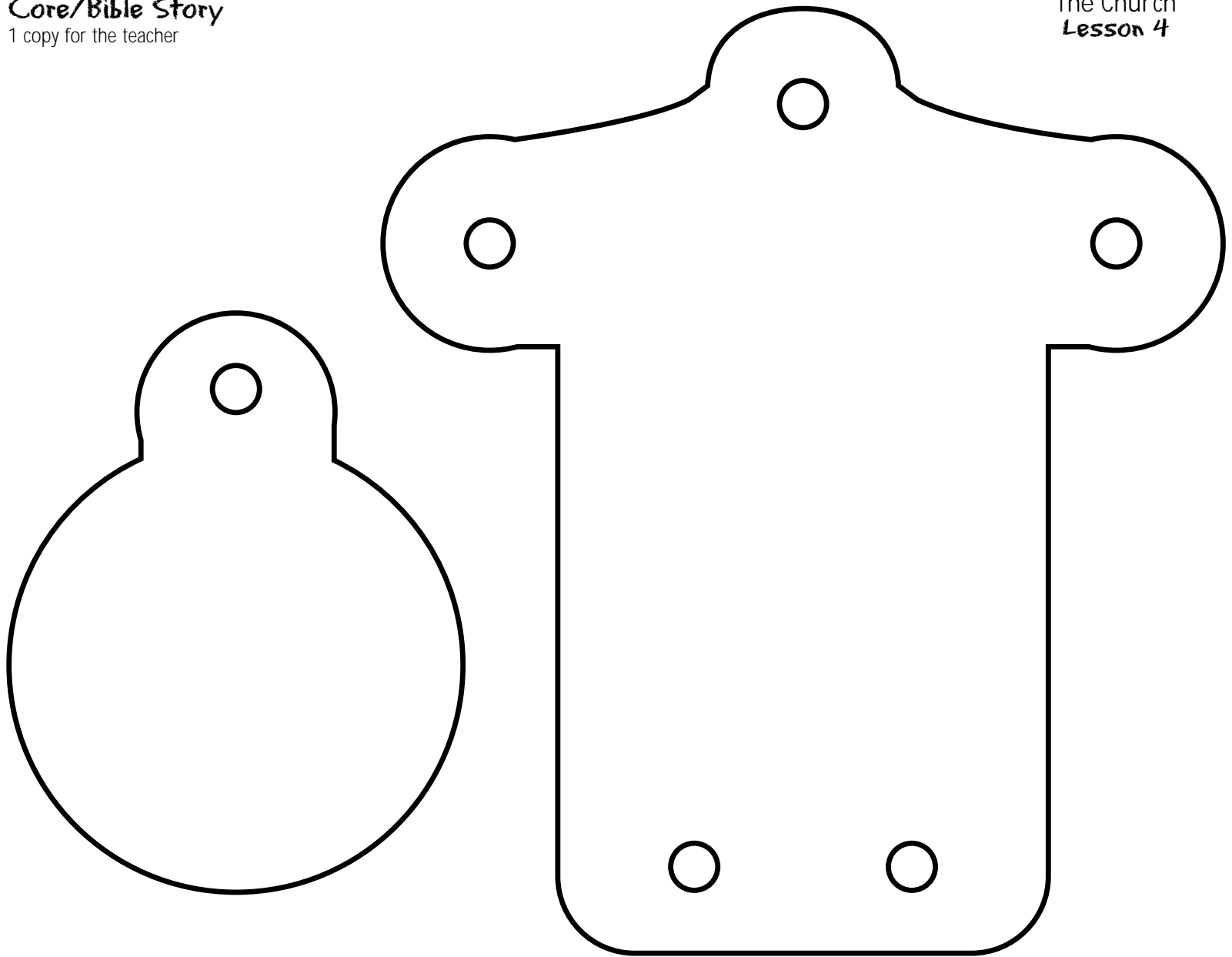


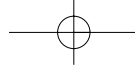


The Church
Lesson 4

Core/Bible Story
1 copy for the teacher

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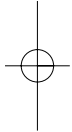
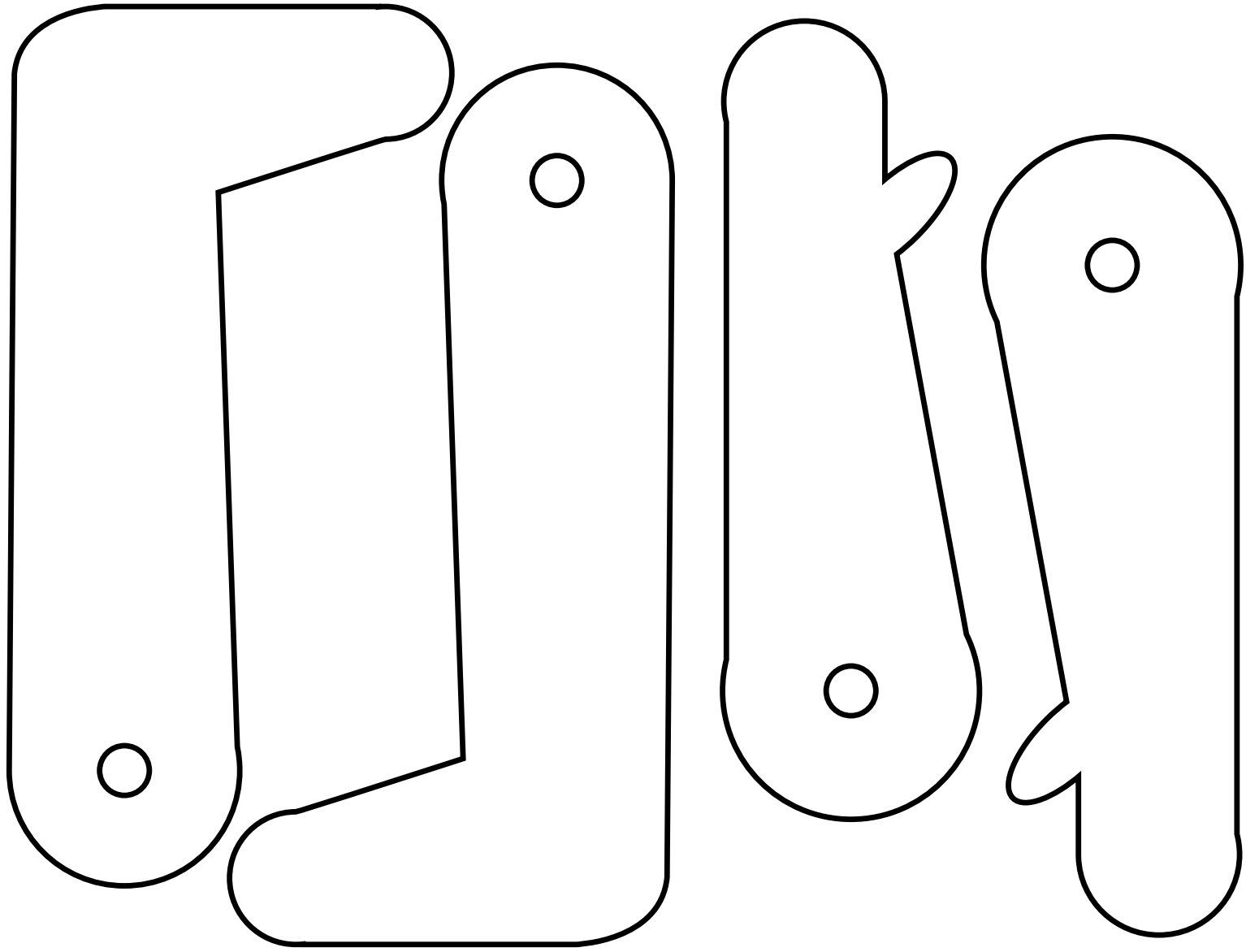


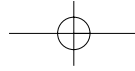


The Church
Lesson 4

Core/Bible Story
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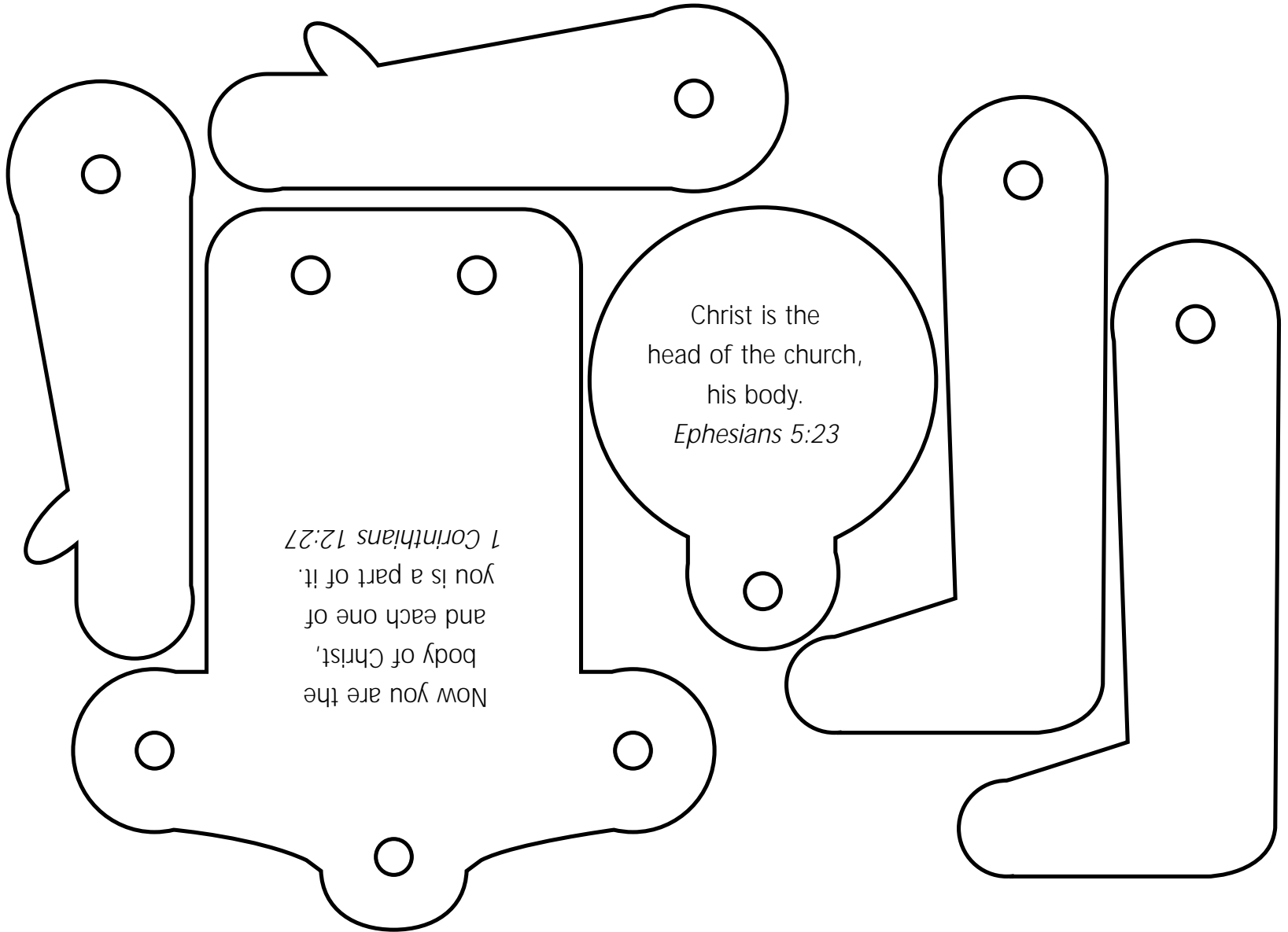
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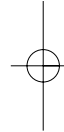
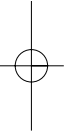
Core/Craft/ 1 copy for each child
Supplement/Bible Skills/ 1 copy for each child

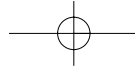
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Now you are the
body of Christ,
and each one of
you is a part of it.
1 Corinthians 12:27

Christ is the
head of the church,
his body.
Ephesians 5:23








Core/Scripture Memory
1 copy for each child

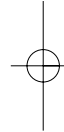
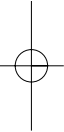
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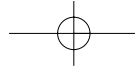
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is a (p + ) of it.

1 Corinthians 12:27





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Supplement/Game
2 copies for the teacher

The Church
Lesson 4

