



## Family Lesson 83

**Principle:** We are to be united.

**Bible Character(s):** Paul

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

**1. Worship** - Choose your favorite songs from the [Spotify playlist](#) found on the curriculum resource page. Have fun, sing loudly, and follow along with the motions!

**2. Bible Lesson** - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

### Bible Lesson

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 letters 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 addresses the people there as “brothers and sisters” because they are believers, and they are 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**

*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 wants 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. He wants us all to work together by trusting and obeying him.**

**God designed our bodies in a way that each part is connected and has to work together for the body to operate as God intended it to. Each part has a different role to play. When one part is not working in the way God designed it to work, the rest of the body has a harder time functioning. God designed all of the parts of the body to live in harmony with each other, and this reflects how he designed the body of Christ to function.**

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**

*<sup>12</sup> The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. <sup>13</sup> Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, 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.*

**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. Being a doctor and a teacher are both jobs that a person can have, but each has its own role: doctors help people to be healthy, and teachers help people learn.**

**Look at the other members in your family. 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. Some of you may have been born in a different state or country. God created each of us in His own unique way, with special talents and gifts that make us different from one another. If you believe and trust in Jesus as Savior, you are a part of the body of Christ. You live with the same purpose as every other believer, but you were created uniquely by God to have a unique role to play in helping the body of Christ function as God designed it to.**

**For the church, the body of Christ, to function as God designed it, we need people filling many different roles. 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.

### **I Corinthians 12:14-21**

*<sup>14</sup> Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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? <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?*

*<sup>18</sup> But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. <sup>19</sup> How strange a body would be if it had only one part! <sup>20</sup> Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. <sup>21</sup> 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."*

**Just as the body has different, unique parts, 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 and talents. 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 are not living to glorify God, then the body cannot function as it was created to. Everyone who believes and trusts in Jesus has a role in the body of Christ.**

**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.**

**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 or talent than others, but every person is equally important to the body of Christ. Everyone is needed and has a role to play for the body of Christ to function and glorify God. 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.

Another role of the body of Christ is to sympathize with one another during pain and suffering. 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, and your friends and family 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.

## Prayer

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close your family time. 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.

## Activity

“Prayer Journal”-the purpose is to remind us to pray for other members of the body of Christ.

**Supplies:**  
Sheets of Paper  
Stapler

Staple the sheets of paper together to create a journal. As a family, talk about specific prayer requests, and have your child write them in their journal. They can continue to add to their prayer journal throughout the week.

**As members of the body of Christ, we should encourage one another and pray for one another. We learned that the body of Christ suffers together and experiences joy together.**

