

14



THE BODY OF CHRIST

We are the Church

YEAR 2 – KINGDOM LIFE

UNIT 5: KINGDOM FAMILY

1 | Teacher's Notes

Scripture 1 Corinthians 12:27

Objectives To explain that

- Today's lesson is about God's Kingdom Family, the Church.
- The Body of Christ can refer to two things – the bread we receive in the Eucharist, or the Church. Today we are talking about the Church.
- The Church, or the Body of Christ, is all the people who have ever followed Jesus anywhere and anytime through the ages. It includes those who are already in Heaven.
- To be part of the Body of Christ means that: We are the Church together; We are one body; Each part of the body is important; Jesus is our head.

Memory Verse "Together you are the body of Christ. Each one of you is part of his body." (1 Corinthians 12:27 - CEV)

ACNA Catechism Connections Today's lesson of The Body of Christ is connected to the following Catechism questions:

Q92 What is the Church? The Church is the whole community of faithful Christians in heaven and on earth, called and formed by God into one people. The Church on earth gathers to worship God in Word and Sacrament, to serve God and neighbor, and to proclaim the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

Q93 How does Holy Scripture teach you to view the Church? Holy Scripture teaches me to view the Church as God's family, as the Body and bride of Christ, and as the temple where God in Christ dwells by his Spirit.

Q94 Why is the Church called the Body of Christ? The Church is called the Body of Christ because all who belong to the Church are united to Christ as their Head and

source of life, and are united to one another in Christ for mutual love and service to him.

Q96 In what sense is the Church “one”? The Church is one because all its members form the one Body of Christ, having “one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all”. The Church is called to embody this unity in all relationships between believers.

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes**

Big story props:

- Large Bible
- Kingdom Life storyboard (see photo)

Lesson Props: (see Props Document for instructions on how to make these)

- Picture of Jesus (see props document)
- Body of Christ puzzle. See props document for details.
- Small clear labels that can fit on the puzzle pieces. Write a name on each label (one for each child and teacher present) and place one on each puzzle piece. Have a few spare labels with no name on them. If you have new children in the class, put their name on one of the spare pieces.
- “The Body of Christ” card
- Storyboard symbol: 9 peg people (men, women, and children)
- Q&A poster. See props document for details. See also photo on page 4.

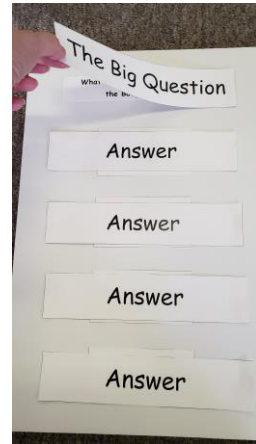
Memory Verse: “Together you are the body of Christ. Each one of you is part of his body.” (1 Corinthians 12:27 CEV)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan) Print out and place in large Bible.

2 | Lesson Outline:

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (<i>see Resource Section</i>)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (<i>see Resource Section</i>) Extinguish the candles
Music	Big Family of God - Nick and Becky Drake (with actions: worshipforeveryone.com) This is my commandment The Body – Steven Curtis Chapman <i>Please check internet for lyrics and music.</i>
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment. <i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i>
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Story Board Review	Ask review questions relating to props from previous lessons on story board. <i>Story board review is found in Section 4</i>
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Large Bible, Kingdom Life storyboard
Bible Story	<i>Proceed with story and questions found in Section 4.</i>
Related activities	<i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i>
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <i>See Resource Section.</i>

3 | Storyboard Progression



This is how the storyboard should look at the start of the lesson

Q & A Poster



This is how the Kingdom Family section should look at the end of the lesson. After the lesson, leave all the peg dolls and symbols on the storyboard for next week.

4 | Story and Questions

SETUP: *Ahead of time, write the names of all the children and helpers on the small labels, and leave a few labels empty for any new or visiting children. As the children enter the classroom, place their named label on one of the puzzle pieces. Don't put a label on the head piece but leave this piece for the teacher to add to the puzzle later in the lesson. Set up two stations, one for the puzzle making, and one for the storyboard. Have the Q&A poster by the storyboard. Start the lesson by the storyboard for the review.*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Today's lesson is from the Bible, and it is about God's Kingdom Family, the Church.'*

STORYBOARD REVIEW:

We have learned about Kingdom Food. Our spiritual food is the Bible, which is the Word of God, and the Bread and Wine we receive in Holy Communion, which is the Body and Blood of Christ.

These things feed us and helps us to grow to become more like Jesus.

STORY:

TEACHER: Today we are going to talk about what the Church is, and how we are all a part of it when we follow Jesus.

Who likes doing puzzles? *(Move over to the puzzle station)* We are going to put a puzzle together today, and I'm going to give each of you a piece of that puzzle with your name on it. This is the picture that we are putting together. It is a picture of Jesus. *(Put the picture on the floor.)*

Take a look at your puzzle piece and try to figure out what part of the picture it is. Now let's try to put our puzzle together.

ACTION: *Let the children and teachers put their puzzle pieces in place. If some children are away, leave their spot on the puzzle empty for now. The head piece will also be missing from the puzzle.*

TEACHER: That's great! Our puzzle is almost complete. It is a picture of Jesus' body, **the Body of Christ.** *(Place sentence on floor above puzzle.)*

Each one of us is a part of the Body of Christ. If we took your piece away, the body would not be complete. *(If any children are missing, talk about each of them being needed to complete the body and add their pieces to the puzzle now.)*

TEACHER: Now, which part is still missing from this puzzle? Yes, the head piece. The Bible says that we are the Body of Christ, and that Christ (Jesus) is the head of the body. *(Put the head on the puzzle.)*

Last lesson we talked about the Body of Christ as referring to the bread we receive in Holy Communion (the Eucharist). But the Body of Christ can also refer to the Church. Let's read our memory verse again:

“Together you are the body of Christ. Each one of you is part of his body.”

Let's bring our puzzle over to the storyboard and learn more about the Church.

ACTION: *Have the children sit by the storyboard. Bring the puzzle with you.*

TEACHER: Sometimes we talk about the church as being a building, where we gather to worship. Other times we talk about the Church as being the **people**, God's Kingdom Family. *(Place “Kingdom Family” unit title on storyboard as shown in photo above.)*

The Church, or the Body of Christ, is all the people who follow Jesus. *(Place 9 peg people on the green area around the Trinity on the story board, facing the Trinity.)*

These figures will represent all the people who follow Jesus. It includes every person who ever followed Jesus anywhere in the world, both in the past, present and future. It even includes those who have died and are now in Heaven with Jesus. We are all one body – the Body of Christ. *(Point to puzzle.)*

Now, I have a big question and some answers about the Body of Christ. Can someone pull off the big question card and read the question underneath?

ACTION: *Q&A poster with covered questions and answers as outlined below. Ask children to pull off one cover at a time to reveal the sentence, have a child read it and the teacher say the explanations.*

STUDENT: What does it mean to be part of the Body of Christ?

TEACHER: Now I need some volunteers to pull off the answer cards and read the answers to our big question.

STUDENT: WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER

TEACHER: Being the Church and following Jesus is not something we do alone. It is something we do **together**. (*Point to peg people.*) We worship God together. We follow Jesus together.

STUDENT: WE ARE ONE BODY

TEACHER: (*Point to puzzle*) The different parts of the Body of Christ work together in **unity**, just like our own body parts work together as one body. As followers of Jesus, we should not be fighting one another or arguing with each other. When we follow Jesus, he helps us to love one another, just as he loves us. Then others will see this love and will want to follow Jesus too.

STUDENT: EACH PART OF THE BODY IS IMPORTANT

TEACHER: (*Point to each puzzle piece*) Each one of us has a special part to play in the Body of Christ. You have something special to give to the Body of Christ that only you can give because there is nobody else like you. We each have special talents and we all need each other.

STUDENT: JESUS IS OUR HEAD

TEACHER: When we come together to worship (*point to peg people*), we focus our attention on Jesus (*point to Jesus peg doll*) who is the head of his body. And we obey him, who is the Forever King and Lord of All.

That is what it means to be part of the Body of Christ. Now, let's read these answers altogether:

We are the Church **together**

We are **one** body

Each part of the body is **important**

Jesus is our **head**

Life Application Prayer:

TEACHER: Lord Jesus, thank you that when we follow you, we are part of your body, the Body of Christ. Thank you that you made each of us a special part of your body. You made us to need each other, and to need you most of all. Help us to love and appreciate one another and work together for your Kingdom. Amen.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **What does this lesson tell us about Jesus?** (He is the head of his body, the Church.)
- The expression “The Body of Christ” can have two meanings. What are those two meanings? (The Church, and the bread we receive in the Eucharist.)
- Is the Church all the people that follow Jesus? (Yes. It includes every person who ever followed Jesus anywhere in the world, both in the past, present and future. It even includes those who have died and are now in Heaven with Jesus.)
- Is following Jesus something we do alone? (No. It is something we do together in the Body of Christ, the Church.)
- Are some parts of the Body of Christ more important than others? (No. Every part of the Body of Christ is very important. You are an important part of his body.)
- Who is the head of the Church? (Jesus is the head of his body, the Church. He is our Forever King and Lord of All.)

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional activities

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers
- Draw a picture of Jesus (full body) on a large sheet of paper. Have the children draw pictures of themselves and tape the pictures onto the picture of Jesus, so they all fit inside his body.

"Together you are the
body of Christ.

Each one of you is
part of his body."

(1 Corinthians 12:27)