

The Body of Christ



1. We are the Church together
2. We are **one** body
3. Each part of the body is important
4. **Jesus** is our head

"Together you are the body of Christ.
Each one of you is part of his body."
1 Corinthians 12:27

KINGDOM FAMILY

Lesson 14: *The Body of Christ* (Condensed Version)

Saint Matthew's Anglican Church Children's Ministries

WE ARE THE CHURCH (1 Cor. 12:27)

Year 2. Kingdom Life
Unit 5: Kingdom Family

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.

"I Wonder" Questions: *What do you see in this picture? *I wonder why it says, "The Body of Christ". *I wonder what "The Body of Christ" means. *I wonder why there is a picture of Jesus and a picture of a group of people. Let's find out more in our lesson...

Lesson Props: Small clear label stickers, write names on the stickers of each child and adult present

Lesson Summary: Today we are going to talk about **the Church**. When I say the word "church", what do you think of? (*children respond*) Yes, sometimes we talk about the church as being a building, where God's Family gathers to worship. Other times we talk about the Church as being the **people**, (*point to people on poster*) God's Kingdom Family, those who love and follow Jesus. Now, let's read the memory verse on our poster: (*Point to verse and read*) "Together you are the body of Christ. Each one of you is part of his body." In a previous lesson we talked about the Body of Christ as referring to the bread we receive in Holy Communion (Eucharist). But the Body of Christ can also refer to the Church. The Church, or the Body of Christ, is all the people who follow Jesus. (*Point to 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. I am going to give each of you a sticker with your name on it, and you can come and put your name onto this picture of Jesus. Place it onto his body, not on his head. (*Have everyone place stickers*) The Bible says that we are the Body of Christ, and that Christ (Jesus) is the head of the body. But what does it mean to be part of the Body of Christ? We have four answers to that question on our poster: (*Point to answers one by one*) **1. We are the Church together.** Being the Church and following Jesus is not something we do alone. It is something we do together. (*Point to people on poster*) We worship God together. We follow Jesus together. **2. We are one body.** (*Point to stickers on Jesus picture*) 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. **3. Each part of the body is important.** Each one of us has a special part to play in the Body of Christ. (*Point to each child*) Each one of 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. **4. Jesus is our head.** (*Point to Jesus' head on poster*) When we come together to worship, we focus our attention on Jesus 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. (*Point to poster*) 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**.

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.)

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