



go GROUPS

STUDENT DEVOTIONAL UNIT 32

Name:

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UNIT 32: THE CHURCH GROWS

Session 1: Peter Performed Miracles Acts 9



Sunday, April 7

What is the church?

The church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God.

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:12

"For just as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—so also is Christ."

Session 1 Monday



Before you read...

- ▶ This week, we are returning to the book of Acts, where we were reading before Easter. Remember, the apostles had been preaching the good news about Jesus in Jerusalem even though they faced many difficult things like prison and even the death of Stephen.
- ▶ The apostles are starting to go out, away from Jerusalem to share the good news. We read about Philip and the Ethiopian. In this unit, we will read about Peter's journeys.
- ▶ This week, we will read about how the Holy Spirit gave Peter the power to perform miracles so that more people could be part of Jesus' church.



Read Acts 9:32-35

- ▶ What city did Peter travel to?

- ▶ What did Peter do for Aenas?

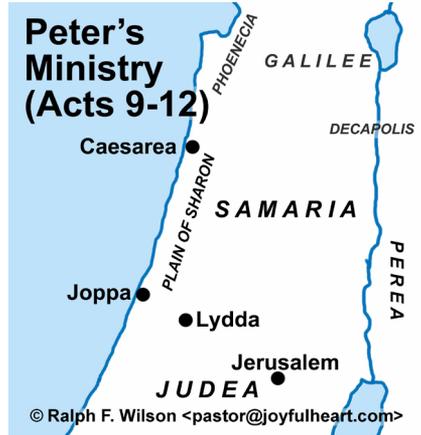
- ▶ Verse 35 says that all the people who saw the healed man turned to the Lord. Why do you think they worshiped God instead of Peter? (This is a deep thinking question!)



Before you read...

- ▶ This week, we are reading about how the Holy Spirit gave Peter the power to perform miracles so that more people could be part of Jesus' church. Yesterday, we read that Peter healed a man named Aenas in Lydda. Peter healed Aenas by the power of Jesus Christ, not by his own power.

- ▶ Look at this map. You can see the places Peter traveled to. They are towns not very far from Jerusalem.



Read Acts 9:36-38

- ▶ What does verse 36 say Tabitha/Dorcas was always doing?

- ▶ What happened to Tabitha/Dorcas?

- ▶ Why do you think the disciples wanted Peter to come to Joppa?

Session 1 Wednesday



Before you read...

- ▶ This week, we are reading about how the Holy Spirit gave Peter the power to perform miracles so that more people could be part of Jesus' church.
- ▶ Yesterday, we read that a disciple named Tabitha/Dorcas, who always did good, got sick and died in a town called Joppa. (Find it on yesterday's map.)



Read Acts 9:39

- ▶ What happened when Peter arrived in Joppa?

- ▶ How did the widows feel?

- ▶ Why do you think they showed Peter the clothing that Tabitha/Dorcas made?



Before you read...

- ▶ This week, we are reading about how the Holy Spirit gave Peter the power to perform miracles so that more people could be part of Jesus' church.
- ▶ Yesterday, we read that the widows (the friends of Tabitha/Dorcas) were very sad about Tabitha/Dorcas' death and showed Peter all the good work she did before she died.



Read Acts 9:40-41

- ▶ List the 3 things Peter did when he was in the room with Tabitha/Dorcas.

- ▶ What happened to Tabitha/Dorcas?

- ▶ How was Peter able to do this for her?

Session 1 Friday



Before you read...

- ▶ This week, we are reading about how the Holy Spirit gave Peter the power to perform miracles so that more people could be part of Jesus' church.
- ▶ Yesterday, we read that Peter prayed and told Tabitha to get up and she came back to life! The power of the Holy Spirit in Peter was able to raise her from the dead! Peter always wanted people to know that it was God's power that performed the miracles and through God's power we can all be saved.



Read Acts 9:42-43

- ▶ Were Peter's miracles a secret?

- ▶ What did Peter do after these miracles?

- ▶ Imagine you are Peter. What do you think it felt like when he healed Aeneas and brought Tabitha/Dorcas back to life? Write down the emotions you think Peter experienced.



The People in the Church Loved One Another Word Scramble

Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in the circle boxes and unscramble them to find the answer to the last phrase.

VIALE

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SRIATSPU

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INGWES

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Peter told Dorcas to

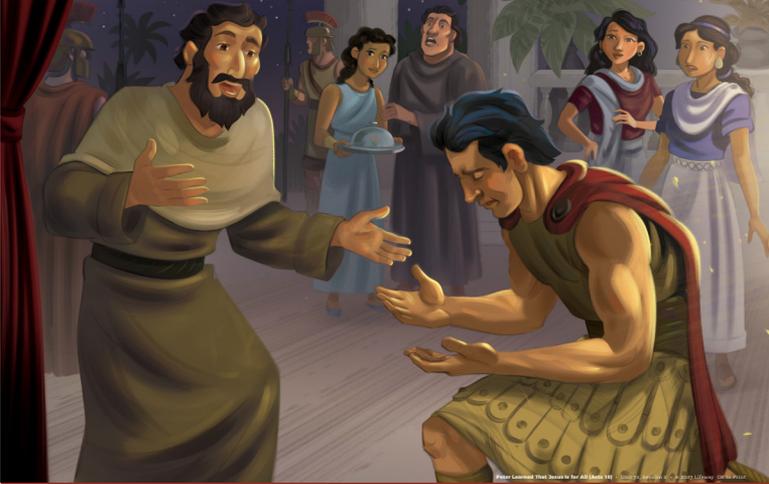
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UNIT 32: THE CHURCH GROWS

Session 2: Peter Learned That Jesus Is For All Acts 10



Sunday, April 14

What is the church?

The church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God.

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:12

“For just as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—so also is Christ.”



Before you read...

- ▶ This week, we will continue reading about Peter's journeys to share the good news about Jesus. So far, the apostles have been sharing about Jesus with only Jewish people. We have learned about God's people using the names Israelites and Jewish. It is important to remember that God had many laws for His people to set them apart from others. Those laws included things they could and could not eat. The laws also instructed them to stay away from people who did not follow God, called Gentiles. The man we will read about today, Cornelius, is a Gentile.
- ▶ After Jesus died and rose again, God's people no longer needed to follow His laws from the Old Testament because Jesus was the perfect sacrifice.



Read Acts 10:1-8

- ▶ What does verse 2 say that Cornelius does regularly?

- ▶ What did the angel of the Lord tell Cornelius to do?

- ▶ Cornelius obeyed the angel right away! How would you respond if an angel came and gave you instructions?

Session 2 Tuesday



Before you read...

- ▶ This week, we are reading about another time when Peter shared the good news about Jesus. So far, Peter had only shared about Jesus with the Jews, God's people. In Acts 10, God helps Peter learn that He wants ALL people to know about Jesus. Yesterday, we read that a man named Cornelius, a Gentile (not one of God's people), had a vision from an angel. The angel told Cornelius to send men to Joppa to bring Peter to his house. Today, we will read what Peter was doing while Cornelius had the vision from the angel.



Read Acts 10:9-16

Challenge: read all the way to verse 26

- ▶ What happened to Peter when he was waiting for his meal to be prepared?

- ▶ What did God tell Peter to do? What was Peter's response?

- ▶ Peter had followed God's laws about what he could eat his whole life. Now God was telling Peter he could eat anything. Tell about a time when a rule changed for you.



Before you read...

- ▶ So far, Peter had only shared about Jesus with the Jews, God's people. In Acts 10, God helps Peter learn that He wants ALL people to know about Jesus. Yesterday, we read that Peter had a vision where God told Peter three times that he could eat any animal instead of following the Old Testament laws. Peter wondered about the meaning of the vision as Cornelius' men arrived where Peter was staying. After that, Peter traveled with the men to Cornelius' house.



Read Acts 10:27-33

- ▶ In verse 28, what does Peter say God had shown him?

- ▶ What does Cornelius say they are all ready to do? (verse 33)

- ▶ God had a special plan for Peter to go and speak to Cornelius and his relatives and friends about Jesus. Even still today, God calls people to go to other places to tell people about Jesus. Can you name a missionary who has traveled to a different place to tell others about Jesus?

Session 2 Thursday



Before you read...

- ▶ This week, we are reading about another time when Peter shared the good news about Jesus. So far, Peter had only shared about Jesus with the Jews, God's people. In Acts 10, God helps Peter learn that He wants ALL people to know about Jesus.
- ▶ Yesterday, we read that God showed Peter that no man or person is impure or unclean. God wanted Peter to share about Jesus to all people! Cornelius and his guests were ready to listen to what Peter had to say.
- ▶ Today, we will read Peter's speech where he shares the gospel with Cornelius and his guests.



Read Acts 10:34-38 Challenge: read through verse 43

- ▶ In verse 34, Peter says, "God does not show _____."
- ▶ Who does God accept?

- ▶ Verses 34 and 35 are a very important message. Again, what kind of people does God accept?



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday, we read that God does not show favoritism. He accepts ALL people who fear him and do what is right. This means any person who believes in Jesus and repents of their sin is accepted by God!! Today, we will read what happens to this group of Gentiles at Cornelius' home.



Read Acts 10:44-48

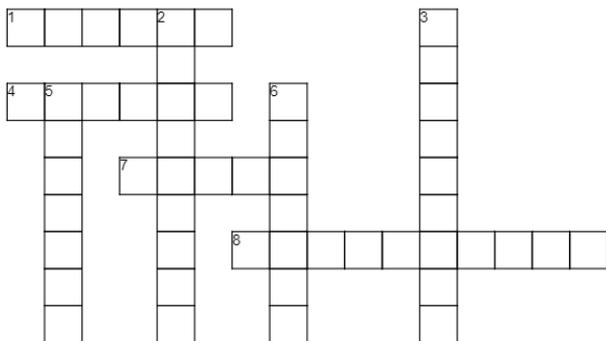
- ▶ Who came on all the people that heard Peter's message?

- ▶ What did the people in Cornelius' home do after the Holy Spirit came?

- ▶ Do you remember what happened right after the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples? Look back at Acts 2 to see if it is the same thing that happened to the people in Cornelius' home.

Peter Has a Vision

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. Acts 10:34-35. (NIV)



HORIZONTAL

1. Similar to a dream.
4. Having a desire for food.
7. A disciple of Jesus.
8. To treat one person better than another.

VERTICAL

2. A centurion.
3. An officer in the Roman army.
5. Something that is unpure or dirty.
6. A person who works for another.

CENTURION
FAVORITISM

PETER
UNCLEAN

HUNGRY
CORNELIUS

TRANCE
SERVANT

UNIT 32: THE CHURCH GROWS

Session 3: Gentiles Became Part of the Church Acts 11



Sunday, April 21

What is the church?

The church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God.

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:12

"For just as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—so also is Christ."

Session 3 Monday



Before you read...

- ▶ Last week, we read about when the Holy Spirit led Peter to share the good news of Jesus with some Gentiles, people who were not Jewish. God wants ALL people to know about Jesus.
- ▶ This week, we will read that some of the other apostles and followers of Jesus were not sure if Gentiles should get to hear about Jesus. They thought the good news was just for the Jews. Peter helps them understand that is not true. Some of what we read will be a recount of what we read in Acts 10, but it is always good to read it again. If God put it in the Bible twice, it must be important enough for us to read it twice.



Read Acts 11:1-8

- ▶ What did the apostles and believers do to Peter when he went back to Jerusalem?

- ▶ What did Peter explain to these men?

- ▶ Can you think of anyone else in the Bible who heard from God in a vision or dream?



Before you read...

- ▶ This week, we are reading that some of the other apostles and followers of Jesus were not sure if Gentiles should get to hear about Jesus. They thought the good news was just for the Jews. Peter helps them understand that is not true.
- ▶ Yesterday, we read Peter's account of his vision about what animals he could eat. God was helping Peter understand that no animal or person was unclean or impure.



Read Acts 11:9-14

- ▶ How many times did Peter see the vision of the sheet and animals?

- ▶ Who told Peter to go with the men who showed up at his house?

- ▶ What message was Peter supposed to bring the men from Caesarea?

Session 3 Wednesday



Before you read...

- ▶ This week, we are reading that some of the other apostles and followers of Jesus were not sure if Gentiles should get to hear about Jesus. They thought the good news was just for the Jews. Peter helps them understand that is not true.
- ▶ Yesterday, we read Peter's account of when the three men showed up and wanted him to go to Caesarea.



Read Acts 11:15-18

- ▶ What happened as Peter began to speak to the men in Caesarea?

- ▶ What question does Peter ask in verse 17?

- ▶ How did the apostles and believers respond to Peter's account about visiting the Gentiles?



Before you read...

- ▶ This week, we are reading that some of the other apostles and followers of Jesus were not sure if Gentiles should get to hear about Jesus. They thought the good news was just for the Jews. Peter helps them understand that is not true.
- ▶ Yesterday, we read that the Holy Spirit came upon the Gentiles as they heard from Peter and believed in Jesus. Once the apostles heard this from Peter, they had no objections and praised God for the new believers. Today, we will read about what happened to some other apostles who were scattered after Stephen's death. We read about Stephen's death in Acts 7 in our last unit.



Read Acts 11:19-24

- ▶ Who had the believers mentioned in verse 19 been telling the good news to?

- ▶ What did Barnabas find when he arrived in Antioch?

- ▶ Twice it says a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. How many people do you think became believers?

Session 3 Friday



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday, we read that believers were traveling to many different cities to share the good news. Some were only telling it to Jews, but others were telling it to Gentiles. The most important part of this message is that the amazing news of Jesus Christ was traveling to new places and many people were believing!



Read Acts 11:25-30

- ▶ Who came to Antioch with Barnabas? Extra credit if you know the new name this guy gets. :)

- ▶ What did the disciples first start to be called at Antioch?

- ▶ Take a few minutes and think about this. Written right here in the Bible is the beginning of the Church and Christians. We are still part of this same Church today. We are still Christians today. How does it make you feel to know YOU are part of God's great plan?

256. THE CHURCH IN ANTIOCH

(ACTS 11:19-30)

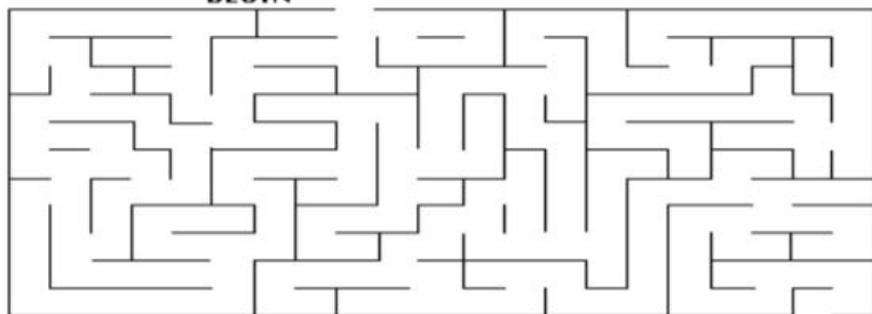
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ADDED
 ANTIOCH
 BARNABAS
 CHRISTIANS
 DISCIPLES
 ENCOURAGED

FAITH
 FAMINE
 HELLENISTS
 HOLY SPIRIT
 JEWS
 LORD JESUS

PERSECUTION
 PREACHING
 PROPHETS
 RELIEF
 SAUL
 SCATTERED

BEGIN



FINISH

UNIT 32: THE CHURCH GROWS

Session 4: Peter Was Rescued From Prison Acts 12



Sunday, April 28

What is the church?

The church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God.

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:12

“For just as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—so also is Christ.”



Before you read...

- ▶ In this unit, we have been reading a lot about Peter and his desire to share the Good News of Jesus with everyone. But, there were still many people and religious leaders who were trying to stop the spread of the gospel.
- ▶ This week, we will read about Peter's miraculous escape from prison. We will learn that God's plans can never be stopped.



Read Acts 12:1-5

- ▶ Who did King Herod have put to death?

- ▶ How many people were guarding Peter in prison?

- ▶ What were the people of God's church doing for Peter?

Session 4 Tuesday



Before you read...

- ▶ This week, we reading about Peter's miraculous escape from prison. We will learn that God's plans can never be stopped.
- ▶ Yesterday, we read that King Herod had James put to death and Peter put in prison because it pleased the religious leaders who did not believe in Jesus. Peter was guarded by 16 men in prison! Peter's hardship caused God's people to draw near to Him and earnestly pray for Peter.



Read Acts 12:6-7

- ▶ Describe the way Peter was guarded in verse 6.

- ▶ Who appeared in Peter's prison cell?

- ▶ Imagine you are Peter. What would have been going through your mind in these two verses?



Before you read...

- ▶ This week, we are reading about Peter's miraculous escape from prison. We will learn that God's plans can never be stopped.
- ▶ Yesterday, we read that Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with chains, with more soldiers guarding the entrance to the prison. But, an angel of the Lord came and broke Peter's chains!



Read Acts 12:8-11

- ▶ What did the angel tell Peter to do?

- ▶ What did Peter think was happening at first?

- ▶ After Peter was completely out of prison, what did he realize?

Session 4 Thursday



Before you read...

- ▶ This week, we are reading about Peter's miraculous escape from prison. We will learn that God's plans can never be stopped.
- ▶ Yesterday, we read that the angel of the Lord led Peter out of prison, past all of the guards. Peter thought it was a vision at first, but then realized that God rescued him from Herod's evil plan. God's plan is always greater!



Read Acts 12:12-15

- ▶ Where did Peter go after he was out of prison?

- ▶ What happened when Peter got to this place?

- ▶ Why do you think the people did not believe it was Peter knocking at the door?



Before you read...

- ▶ This week, we are reading about Peter's miraculous escape from prison. We will learn that God's plans can never be stopped.
- ▶ Yesterday, we read that Peter went to the house of Mary where many people were praying for him. But, when he knocked on the door, the people did not believe it was actually Peter at the door.



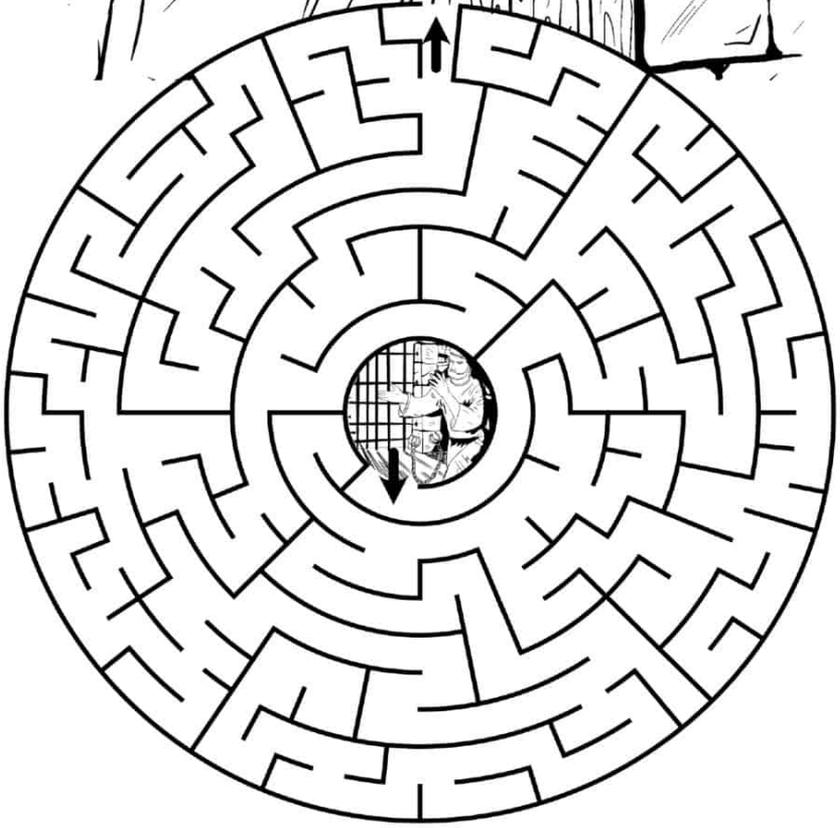
Read Acts 12:16-19

- ▶ How did the people react when they finally opened the door?

- ▶ Who did Peter say got him out of prison?

- ▶ It says that Peter went to another place. What do you think Peter did next?

LEAD PETER SAFELY TO THE HOUSE



UNIT 32: THE CHURCH GROWS

Session 5: We Are Part Of One Church 1 Corinthians 12



Sunday, May 5

What is the church?

The church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God.

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:12

“For just as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—so also is Christ.”

Session 5 Monday



Before you read...

- ▶ The most important thing we can learn from this unit is that Jesus is for ALL people EVERYWHERE! We have learned that the church began to spread out and that Jesus is for both Jews and Gentiles in those places. Even now, Jesus is still for ALL people EVERYWHERE. There are many different churches in the world, but there is only one Jesus. This week, we are reading from 1 Corinthians 12 where the author, Paul, tells us that even though we are many different people with many different gifts, we are ALL part of God's church and worship the ONE true God.



Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

- ▶ List the things this passage says are different.

- ▶ List the things this passage says are the same.

- ▶ How are your two lists different?



Before you read...

- ▶ This week, we are reading from 1 Corinthians 12 where the author, Paul, tells us that even though we are many different people with many different gifts, we are ALL part of God's church and worship the ONE true God. Yesterday, we read that there are many different gifts, kinds of service, and kinds of work, but the same God, Lord, and Spirit. God is above all!



Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

- ▶ In this passage, Paul mentions 9 different gifts. Can you list all 9?

- ▶ Who do all of these gifts come from?

- ▶ Our Go Groups are designed to grow different gifts. What gifts do people in Power it Up have? What gifts do people in Serve it Up have? What gifts do people in Turn it Up have?

Session 5 Wednesday



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday, we read that the same Spirit works in all of us who believe, but the Spirit gives us each different gifts! What gifts has the Spirit given you?
- ▶ In today's passage, Paul is going to compare the body of a church to a human body. Just like our body has many parts, there are many parts to the people in God's Church.



Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-20

- ▶ Who arranged the parts of our body and gave them their jobs?

- ▶ Imagine you lost the ability to use one of the parts of your body that Paul mentions in this passage. How would your life be different?

- ▶ What do you think is the most important part of our body?



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday, we read that God arranged all the parts of our body in a very unique way and we need all of them to live the life He designed for us to live. None of the parts are more important than the other parts.
- ▶ Today's passage continues this same message about how all parts of the body are important. Paul is saying this because he wants us to know that all people in the church are important, too, no matter what they look like or what their gifts are.



Read 1 Corinthians 12:21-26

- ▶ Paul says that the eye cannot say it does not need the hand. How do your eyes and hands work together?

- ▶ Our skin and our heart need different kinds of care. We can wash our hands, but not our heart. Can you think of an example of how different people in the church need different kinds of care?

Session 5 Friday



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday, we read that different parts of our body need different kinds of care. In the same way, different people in the church need different things. Some people need food or shelter. Other people need someone to comfort them when they are sad.
- ▶ In today's final passage, Paul reminds us again, that ALL people have different gifts, given by the Spirit, that are needed in God's Church.



Read 1 Corinthians 12:27-31

- ▶ What roles does Paul list for people in the church?

- ▶ Can you think of any other gifts people might have in our church that Paul does not mention?

- ▶ What gift do you think the Spirit has given YOU to use in our church?

Many Parts, One Body

Decode the message.

Each letter in the phrase has been replaced with a random letter or number. Try to decode the message.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
3																				17					

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