



OVERVIEW SECTION

How to Read This Lesson Plan

The **Overview Section** is the foundation of this lesson plan. The questions and activities for the class that you will be teaching on Sunday morning have been based (sometimes loosely) upon what you read in this section. The **Overview Section** is composed of five components (each component is underlined in the lesson plan):

How to Read This Lesson Plan (defines all components of the lesson plan)

Purpose of Sunday Morning Spiritual Formation (a reminder of why we do this)

Scripture(s) for the Session (a reminder that the scripture is to be read in every class)

Key Verses & Theology (background for teachers to ponder)

Themes to Focus on from the Scripture (the ideas that the session's lessons are based on)

The actual lesson is found in the second section, **The Sunday Morning Experience Section**. Think of this section as the step-by-step instruction guide to your Sunday morning teaching experience. There are four components to this section (again, each component is underlined in the actual lesson plan):

Preparation (including supplies needed)

Classroom Statement (a brief explanation of what will be taught/happening in the classroom)

Step-by-step process of the lesson (including the scripture to be read)

Suggested variations for age groups (Self-explanatory but not always applicable)

We encourage you to read the rest of this **Overview Section** before reading the **Sunday Morning Experience Section**.

Purpose of Sunday Morning Spiritual Formation

The purpose of Sunday Morning Spiritual Formation is, with God's help and in community, to hear and interact with the stories of our faith tradition, to pray, worship and play together, and to equip and support the building of relationships with God and with each other.

Scripture(s) for the Session: 1 Corinthians 12:12-18; 27

Please READ this aloud in every class you teach. The actual words to the scripture can be found in **The Sunday Morning Experience Section: Step-by-Step process of the lesson**. When reading to the class, please read it from the lesson plan (not an actual Bible) as the wording of the scripture has been modified to help clarify some language issues.

Key Verses & Theology: These are provided to help the teachers think about and build a framework for understanding the story to help in answering some of the questions that the students might raise in class.

13 For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. The meaning of the word “baptized” in this sentence means “chose.” Paul is telling the congregation of Corinth that they chose to be part of the Body of Christ. And along with that choice comes the joy and responsibility of surrendering to and carrying out the will of the Holy Spirit. When we make that choice to be part of the Body of Christ, then our differences are no longer points of separation. Instead, our diversity becomes our strength in the form of many and various talents working together. The usage of “body” as metaphor here is ingenious. For instance, a nose and a big toe have absolutely nothing in common with each other. But if they both choose to belong to something larger than themselves, like the same body, then together in their diversity, they make the body more versatile. It is important to note, though, that once they choose to be part of the same body, then they must listen to the mind/brain. They must function as parts of the body, and not as independent entities. To act independently while still being part of the body would mess everything up.

18 But as it is, God arranged the parts in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

The phrase, “The left hand doesn’t know what the right hand is doing” is a phrase that is often used in institutions, a place where the many-headed bureaucracy beast likes to reside. Just imagine what would happen if our bodies actually functioned like institutions and our left hand repeatedly canceled out the action of our right hand while our legs were constantly trying to outdo our arms in order to show their superior worth. It would feel like our body was being pulled in a million different directions and we would never be able to accomplish a single thing. This is why, in order to be part of the Body of Christ, we must choose to actually be part of the Body of Christ. We do this by surrendering on a daily (hourly!) basis to God’s will. We seek God’s guidance and allow God to be the one who arranges and commands our movements, decisions and words. Because if we do not surrender to God, but still act like a member of the Body of Christ, then all that we are creating is a many-headed bureaucracy beast that moves in a million counteracting directions.

16 And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. Not only do we let go of our independent decision-making when we choose to be part of the Body of Christ, but we also have to let go of the internal voices that tell us we’re not good enough and don’t belong. Strangely enough, even though these voices are more obviously damaging than the internal voices of independence, they are also more difficult to dismiss or ignore. The voices of not-belonging will tell us that we can’t do something as well as what someone else is doing and therefore we shouldn’t participate at all. But that’s not true. Just because an ear doesn’t receive sensory information like an eye does, it still receives and interprets sensory information. And, what we’ll discover, as we share what we have to offer, is that what we do have to offer is what helps us to belong. For example, the better an ear listens, the better it serves the body, and in so doing, the ear also better understands its belonging.

Themes to Focus on from the Scripture: Themes are provided to help teachers understand the teaching of the *session* (not necessarily the class). Sometimes an activity in one class may not match up with any of the themes.

Body of Christ – The Body of Christ is how God interacts with the world. During Jesus’ ministry, God’s will and desire for the world shone through Jesus. The Body of Christ is how Jesus’ ministry and the light of God continues to shine. It is how God continues to shine God’s light into the world. And like cells or parts of a body, each of us can contribute to and participate in God’s will for the world. But in order to be part of the Body of Christ, we must first stop functioning as our own separate bodies.

Surrender – To be part of the Body of Christ is to join something that is larger than us. And in order to do that, we have to let go of our independence. We have to let go of thinking that we know best, that we are the authorities, that we know how to make things better. Being part of the Body of Christ is to trust and seek God in our decision making. Being part of the Body of Christ means we surrender our previous priorities and instead accept the priorities that God sets for us. The first one being, to seek God first, always. We see this in the Jesus story, as Jesus seeks God first instead of survival, and therefore allows himself to be arrested and crucified. This was not good for Jesus individually, but it did allow for the creation of the Body of Christ aka the start of the Church.

Purpose – Sometimes you might wonder, “What’s the point?” Or “Why am I here?” Or, “What’s this all for, anyways?” These questions arise when we seek to create our own meaning of life or when we let others define the meaning of our life. When we surrender to God and join the Body of Christ, not only are we surrendering our independence, we are also surrendering these questions of pointlessness and their answers. This does not mean that we stop asking questions – but the focus of the questions shift. Instead of trying to figure out what it all means or if certain things exist or don’t exist, we’re instead focused on how God is calling us to live out God’s purpose for us and for the world. We ask questions of “How?” “When?” and “What’s next?” We ask questions that help us to clarify and understand Jesus’ Commission of the disciples: “Go and make disciples in every nation and obey everything that I’ve commanded you.” In the place of “what’s the point” questions, we accept and understand that we belong to God, that we belong with others who know they belong to God, and that together we seek to live out God’s desire for God’s beloved creation and people. Belonging to the Body of Christ means that God’s purpose becomes our purpose.

THE SUNDAY MORNING EXPERIENCE SECTION

Preparation

- Print out this lesson plan and bring it with you on the Sunday Mornings you are teaching
- Arrive at pre-arranged time to join other teachers, shepherds and staff for an opening prayer.
- **Supplies Needed:** tissue paper, scissors, overhead projector (or large flashlight), 6 foot-long x 30 inches-wide butcher paper, black and white acrylic paint, paint brushes, pencil to trace silhouette with, heavy stock/construction paper, masking tape, watered down glue, paint brushes for the watered down glue.
- **Set-up Required:** The picture that the kids will work on, needs to be drawn ahead of time. Any-sized piece of paper or type of paper can be used. The original was drawn on butcher paper that measured 30 inches wide and 72 inches long (2 1/2' x 6'). To transfer the picture (found at the end of this lesson plan) to the butcher paper, print the picture out onto a transparency (if you have a digital projector that connects to your laptop, then you can skip that step). Tape the blank butcher paper on the wall. Using a projector, fit the image to the butcher page. Then trace the image, including the words – but don't fill in the words, the hands, feet or "cloak" of Jesus – leave those open. You will want to paint in Jesus' face and hair as well as the four sections with your choice of colors and the top and bottom sections before the class begins. In fact, you might want to trace the sections and Jesus first, paint the sections, let it dry and then come back the next day to finish tracing the lettering. In the room where you'll be working on the picture, you'll want the butcher paper on a surface where it can lay flat. You'll have to tape and weigh down the paper with books at the edges because butcher paper curls on its ends and edges.
- **Post-class work:** After the session is done, there are some finishing touches you'll have to do. You'll want to make sure that the letters are readable – if not, you'll have to touch them up. To hang the painting, you'll need some form of wood to glue to the top and bottom of the backside of the painting. We used a 2" wide lattice that was less than a 1/4" thick. The wood on top will provide a place put in two eyehooks (10 to 12" inches in from the outside edge) that'll allow you to thread wire or string through. The wood on the bottom creates a weight that keeps the paper mostly straight.

Classroom Statement

This Arts and Crafts class consists of reading the Body of Christ scripture for 1 Corinthians 12 and then making a life-sized poster of the Body of Christ that is filled in with the profile silhouettes of each of the students (since they/we are the members of the Body of Christ).

Step-by-Step Process of Lesson

Shepherd comes in with students

SHEPHERD ASKS "Question of the Day."

INTRODUCE yourself

Hi, my name is ____ and I want you call me (tell the students how they may address you).

PRAY Short and simple is perfect. For example:

God, thank you for this day and for each other. We need your help. Help us to learn about you this day. Amen.

TELL

- Mostly what we talk about in class on Sunday mornings are stories from the Bible.
- But for this session, we're going to be talking about part of a letter that the apostle Paul (apostle means "sent out") wrote to a new church in a city called Corinth.
- Paul had helped that church in Corinth get started, and he knew that the people in the church were having some disagreements.
- One of the biggest disagreements they had was about who was in charge and who was more important.
 - In school, sometimes, you might have or hear a similar argument about who is better at kickball and who is better at reading and things like that, right? That's the same type of thing that was happening in the Church in Corinth. They were arguing about who was better
- So Paul wrote a letter to the church in Corinth as a way to help them out.
- We're going to read, now, a very brief part of that letter.
- Listen to what Paul has to say about who is more important.

READ 1 Cor 12:12-18; 27 (NRSV)

12 For just as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. **13** For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. **14** Indeed, the body does not consist of one part but of many. **15** If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. **16** And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. **17** If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? **18** But as it is, God arranged the parts in the body, each one of them, as he chose **27** [Because] you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

ASK (answers in parentheses)

- So in the scripture that we just read, we hear Paul talking about the Body of Christ. According to Paul, *who* is part of the Body of Christ? (you are/we are)

- So, for a moment, I want you to think of your arm, which is part of *your* body. What does your arm do? (expect all sorts of answers that will boil down to one basic answer: It moves and sometimes when it moves, it moves other things too)
- Let's say you want your arm to move faster and you want it to move heavier things. What might you do to help your arm be able to improve its movement? (lift weights, exercise, eat right)
- Is this true for your body in general, if you want it to move faster or move heavier things, do you have to exercise, lift weights and eat right? (yes)
- Where does your body get the energy it needs in order to move and do things? (from food and from air)

TELL

- So just like our body needs energy before it can move and do things, so does the Body of Christ need energy before it can move and do things.
- And just like parts of our bodies need exercise so that it can move faster and better, like our arms, so, also, do body parts of the Body of Christ need to be exercised.
- So we might wonder, how does the Body of Christ get energy? And how does it get exercise to get stronger? Well, here's the short answer:
 - We worship together
 - We pray together
 - We learn the Bible stories together
 - And then we take what we learn during these experiences and we share it with others.
- **When we worship together**, we're telling God why we like God, we're giving thanks for what God has given us, we're telling each other what we know about God, we're receiving God's presence, we're sharing what God has given us, we're asking God for forgiveness for ways we've ignored or forgotten God and then we're receiving God's forgiveness.
- **When we pray together**, we're talking to God and we're listening to God and we share with each other what we're telling God and hearing from God.
- **When we learn the Bible stories together**, we talk to each other about who we understand God to be, who we understand ourselves to be and who God is leading us to be.
- What we learn about ourselves and about God from all these experiences, gives us a lot to share with others in our church and in our lives.
- Worshiping, praying, learning and talking about the Bible stories is how the Body of Christ eats, breathes and exercises to get stronger.

EXPLAIN OVERALL PROJECT

- Today, we're going to make a poster that reminds us of how the Body of Christ receives energy and the exercises it does in order to stay strong.
- On that poster will be the Body of Christ (which will look like Jesus, but with a surprise) and will say the four things we've just talked about: Worship, Prayer, learning Bible stories, and sharing with others what we've experienced.
- The Body of Christ is made up of us, and to show that on the poster, we're going to make silhouettes of our faces and then paste them into Jesus' Body.

EXPLAIN SILHOUETTE Part of project

- The way we'll make our silhouettes is like this:
- You'll get into groups of three.
- Each person gets a colored tissue paper, a sheet of cardstock/construction paper and a pencil
- After you have your tissue paper and sheet of cardstock, you're going to tape the corners and edges of the tissue paper to the cardstock so that the tissue is flat against the cardstock/construction paper.
- Once everyone in your group has done this, then one person in your group will then sit sideways between the projector/flashlight and the wall – the person should have their shoulder against the wall because your head has to be pretty close to the wall so that the shadow isn't too big.
- The second person in your group will hold up the sitting person's taped piece of paper against the wall where the shadow of the first person's head is. The cardstock/construction paper should be facing out and the tissue paper should be pressed against the wall.
- While the second person hold's the first person's paper, the third person will trace the outline of the shadow of the first person's head onto the cardstock.
- Then you rotate positions and do it all over again.
- Once you've traced the heads of everyone in your group, then you will cut out the tracing of your head.
- When you cut out your profile, you'll be cutting both the cardstock and the tissue paper. The cardstock helps with the cutting. But when you're done, what we'll want is the tissue paper part of your profile.
- After you've finished cutting carefully detach the tape.
- You will put the tissue cut-out of your profile into this box, where it will later be glued onto Jesus (most likely during a different class).

EXPLAIN Grade Responsibilities for Poster part of project

- We are also, according to grade, responsible for finishing work on the actual poster. So while some of us do the profile work, the rest of us will work on the poster itself. These are our responsibilities by grade:
 - K-1st grade will begin painting the words in each quadrant.
 - Using Q-tips, you will dot the paint onto the letters so that the whole letter is covered.
 - The words in the quadrants will be black and the words at the very top and bottom will be white.
 - 2 – 3rd grade will finish painting in the letters; and will also start painting the hands and feet of Jesus.
 - Using Q-tips, you will dot the paint onto the letters so that the whole letter is covered.
 - The words in the quadrants will be black and the words at the very top and bottom will be white.
 - Use paint brushes and paint to fill in Jesus' hands and feet. Be careful about staying within the lines!
 - 4-5 grade will finish whatever painting that 2-3rd didn't finish. 4-5th grade will also paste all the faces on to Jesus' torso/robe. They will do this by:

- Arrange all the profiles in and among Jesus' torso and arms before applying any glue.
- Faces will need to overlap so that just the first few inches of the profile will show, then the next face will be laid on top. Start with lighter colors on the bottom and put darker colors on top.
- You MUST alternate colors.
- Once all the faces are aligned correctly, then the students are to paint glue OVER the faces. The glue will soak through the tissue paper and adhere to the paper.

DO Body of Christ Poster Project

CLEAN UP

