



**Biblical Stewardship**



# **Bible Study Series**

## ***Using What God Gives Me to Help Others - Children's Teaching Plan -***

**ROMANS 12:4-8**

### **Materials**

- printed copies of accompanying handout for each child
- large pieces of newsprint or some other large paper, one piece per child (big enough for child to lie down on)
- various colored crayons and markers
- scissors

### **Preparation**

- Read the scripture passage.
- Read and study the lesson guidelines.
- Gather all of the items needed to implement the lesson.
- Make a simple banner or write on the chalkboard "Using What God Gives to Me to Help Others."
- Cut newsprint in large pieces and have these ready as each child enters to trace the child's outline.
- Pray for the children's hearts to be prepared and for the lesson to be practical.
- Practice what you will be teaching to the children so that the lesson's reality is true in your own life.

### **Lesson**

1. As each child enters the classroom, provide a large piece of newsprint (or other large piece of paper) on the floor and ask the child to lie flat on the paper while you or another teacher traces a general outline of the child. Be cautious to only draw "around" the child and to allow plenty of space when approaching any private body area. Whether a child is wearing slacks or a skirt, make the outline connect at the child's knees. Also be sure that at least two adult teachers are involved in the classroom for all activities at all times, whatever the number of children involved. This is a way to show that you value children by placing a priority on even the appearance of a safety issue for them.
2. Invite the children to use the crayons and markers and to draw a picture of him or herself on the outline the teacher has traced. Older children may cut out the outlined figure; this may be difficult for younger children to do. Encourage the children to draw either the clothing that they are currently wearing or to draw their favorite outfit.

3. From a translation that children can understand well, read the story from Romans 12:4-8 about the many different gifts given to the body of Christ, His church. As the boys and girls look at the drawings of themselves, they can identify the various things that the different parts of their own bodies can do. Allow the children to have time to think about this and then request that they use a pen or marker and on each helpful part of their body drawing, to write the thing that they depend upon. Teachers may suggest things such as:

- eyes            see
- nose            smell
- ears            hear
- mouth          speak, taste, eat, breathe
- head/brain    think
- hands          touch, pick up things, etc.

Continue helping the children label all of their useful, helpful parts.

4. As the children work on their body drawings, teachers should discuss ways in which we depend on each part of our bodies to do their job. We don't have to tell each body part to work, it just does what it was created to do. In this discussion, teachers may begin using the analogy relating to the church body. Every person in a church has a purpose. Children also have a purpose in their church. Each person is there for a reason and God has a plan for each person.
5. Teachers may help children discover in the scripture what some of the parts of the church body include. Teachers should explain, discuss, and

emphasize the following:

- Verse 4: Even if there are many parts, or members, in a church, they do not all have the same job or function (teachers may refer to the drawings; each body has many different important parts and each part does its own valuable job).
  - Verse 5: Even if there are many individual members in the church, they all make up one body/church (teachers may refer to the drawings; even with many different body parts, each drawing shows just one body).
  - Verses 6-8: God expects each person in the church to do whatever job God has placed him or her there to do.
  - Verse 6: Prophecy (telling forth one's faith)
  - Verse 7: Serving (helping others) teaching (leading others in learning)
  - Verse 8: Exhorting (sharing faith clearly), giving (providing for others), leading (guiding others), showing mercy (having a caring heart)
6. Copies of the handouts may be provided so that children can list the different jobs in their own church which God has given to someone. Teachers may encourage the children to think of not only the listed responsibilities and needs but also to include as many other jobs as possible. Children may even list additional people on the back of their handout page.

7. Children may also consider what they can do to help make church a special place. Each child should be guided to list his or her name and then the special helpful item that is theirs to contribute to the church. Teachers may help children think about this and even suggest various ways that children often play an important part in a church, such as:

- singing in choir or in the congregation
- greeting others
- bringing an offering
- listening quietly during the sermon time
- smiling at others so they feel welcome
- helping friends and visitors find their way to Sunday School class
- bringing food to share with others during the holidays and other times
- bringing a Bible and looking up the scripture
- inviting others to church
- praying, both silently and aloud

This list may be altered and added to in order to fit the church setting

## **Follow-Up**

1. As the children complete their notes on their handouts, teachers should ask if a child would like to share a prayer aloud (one of the ways to be involved in church listed above) and thank God for putting each person in the church so that they can all help others.
2. Before dismissing the children, teachers should ask them to each make a commitment to lead in the area they have listed on their handout. Teachers may call during the week (or send a card or an e-mail) to remind and encourage the children as they prepare to return to church the next Sunday, so they may keep their commitment to be an important part of their church.

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## *Using What God Gives Me to Help Others - Children's Learner Handout -*

### ROMANS 12:4-8

God has given us many people to do important jobs in my church. Thank You, God, for some of those people (list the name beside the position):

Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

Music Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Piano Player \_\_\_\_\_

Office Helper \_\_\_\_\_

Deacon \_\_\_\_\_

Greeter \_\_\_\_\_

Others \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What job does God have for me to do in my church? I will use my abilities to do

\_\_\_\_\_.