

One Great Hour of Sharing and the Body of Christ

Lesson Objectives—

At the end of the lesson, the learner will be able to

- explain how different gifts serve other people, and
- identify at least one of their gifts

Resources and Equipment—

- butcher paper (large sheets)
- markers/crayons
- Bibles
- puzzle with enough pieces for each student to have 3 or 4
- 1 envelope per student (for puzzle pieces)
- 1 or 2 Hula-Hoops (for the Hula-Hoop activity)
- bandanas or 12-inch strips of cloth (1 per student for the Human Knot activity)
- copies of activity sheets

Setup—

Open floor space for tracing body outlines and activities

Table and chairs for coloring sheets

Gather—

15–20 minutes

Entry Activity—

word puzzles

Opening Prayer—*Open with this prayer or one of your own.*

Loving God, you are a God of community. You have called us to work together to serve you as your church. Help us discover the gifts you have given us and the ways we best can serve you. **Amen.**

Divide the pieces of a puzzle and place them into envelopes. Give each child an envelope, and keep one puzzle piece yourself. Have the students work together to put the puzzle together.

How were we able to put the puzzle together?

What would happen if people held onto their puzzle pieces?

Would we be able to complete it?

Did we need everyone to participate and help?

LESSON TWO

One Great Hour of Sharing and the Body of Christ *(continued)*

Now we are going to try a different sort of puzzle.

Human Knot (<http://bit.ly/humanknotgame>)

Have children stand in a circle. Reach out and hold hands with people in the circle who are not directly next to them. Each person will be holding hands with two people. Try to untangle the knot to return to a large circle (it doesn't matter if people are facing in or out of the circle).

Note: With younger children, it is easier to do this if everyone has a bandana in one hand. With their other hand, they grab hold of someone else's bandana. This also makes crawling through and around the arms a little easier.

Hula-Hoop Pass (<http://bit.ly/hooppass>)

(This is a simpler activity to use with both younger students and youth.)

Stand in a circle, holding hands, and pass the Hula-Hoop around the circle. Variations of this activity include having 2 people move through the hoop together, then 3 people, or using 2 hoops and passing them in opposite directions.

- How did we have to work together?
- Could we talk over each other or did we need to listen, too?

Explore—

30-35 minutes

Read 1 Peter 4:10

1 Peter was written to early Christians. Persecuted by the Roman Empire, the letter was a reminder to the Christians about what it means to follow Jesus. He reminded them to use their gifts to serve each other.

- What does it mean to serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received?
- What gifts do you think you have received?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-28

Paul urged the church in Corinth to stop fighting and work together. He reminded them and reminds us that everyone has something to contribute to the whole. Each of us is important.

- What are the gifts listed?
- What would happen if we were all ears? Hands? Feet?

Create body outlines of the students. If you do not have butcher paper large enough to do this, use legal paper and have the children draw a body outline on the page, or use the body outline shown below. On the body outline, ask students to write or draw how different parts of the body can be used to serve God.

One Great Hour of Sharing and the Body of Christ *(continued)*

Ears help us listen to others.
Shoulders help carry the load or let other people lean on them.
Feet spread the gospel.
Legs stand up for people who cannot stand up for themselves.
Hearts listen for God's Word to us.
Minds let us think about what God calls us to do.
Eyes see the brokenness in the world.
Mouths speak God's love to the world.
Hands stretch out to those in need.
Arms embrace others.

One Great Hour of Sharing supports a variety of agencies within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (<http://pda.pcusa.org/>)
- The Presbyterian Hunger Program (<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/hunger>)
- Self-Development of People (<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/sdop/>)

Each of these agencies has specific goals and ways that their ministries contribute to the world. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance provides resources for people in the midst of and after a crisis. PDA helps people after natural disasters as well as such people as the many refugees from Syria. The Presbyterian Hunger Program works to eliminate hunger around the world. Self-Development of People seeks to create a more just world through working with people so they can determine their own futures.

Each agency does important work in the world. The Presbyterian Hunger Program works to eliminate hunger but is not equipped to help clean up after a flood. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance works to provide safe shelter for those in need, which can be an issue of justice, but PDA is not equipped to do the long-term work of Self-Development of People. Just as each of us has a variety of gifts that are used to work for the common good, so do agencies within the church.

Closing—
5 minutes

Ask students to stand up or raise their hands when they think any of the following statements describes something they are good at doing:

- I like making new friends. (fellowship/hospitality)
- I like to share stories about Jesus with my friends and family. (evangelism)

LESSON TWO

One Great Hour of Sharing and the Body of Christ *(continued)*

- I like to organize things (my toys, my room) (administration)
- I pray to God to help me make the right choices. (discernment)
- I give to others when I am able. (generosity/stewardship)
- I read my Bible. (knowledge)
- I like to be a leader. (leadership)
- I like to help others or I like to volunteer. (help/service)
- I am good at helping people understand Bible stories. (teaching)
- I want to help people who are in pain. (mercy/compassion)

These are some of the spiritual gifts that we read about in the Bible. Everyone has spiritual gifts. This week, make a list of ways you can serve others.

Closing Prayer—*Close with this prayer or one of your own.*

God of all gifts, thank you for bodies that help us be the body of Christ. Help us to work together to serve you with what you have given us. **Amen.**

Written by the Rev. Karen Wagner, Southminster Presbyterian, Prairie Village, Kansas

One Great Hour of Sharing and the Body of Christ *(continued)*

The Body of Christ



APOSTLE
FOOT
HELP
TEACHER

EAR
HAND
LEADERSHIP
WISDOM

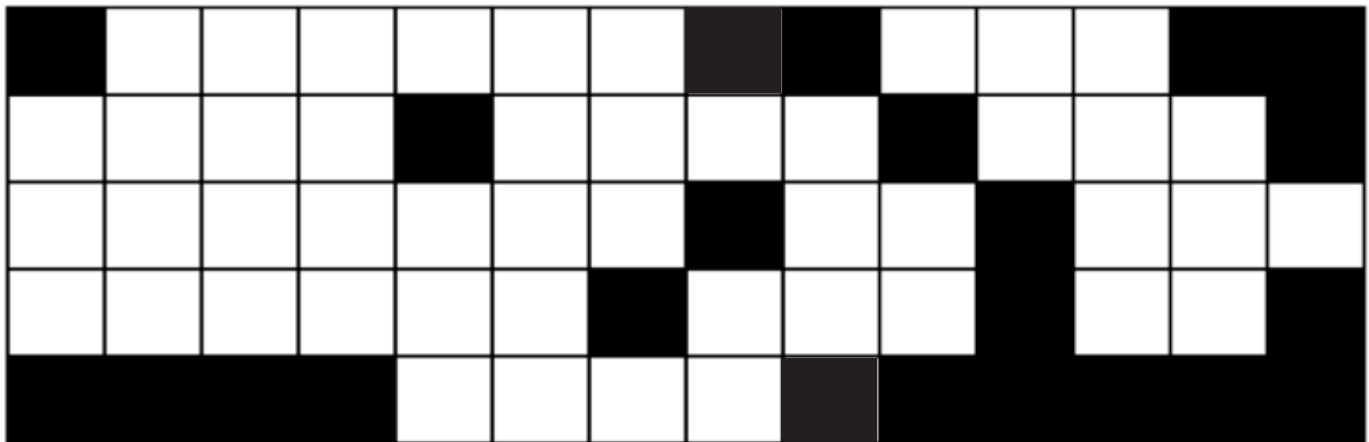
EYE
HEALING
PROPHET

<http://bit.ly/freepuzzlemaker>

One Great Hour of Sharing and the Body of Christ *(continued)*

The Body of Christ

All the letters have fallen out of the puzzle. The columns of letters below the puzzle are the letters for that column. If you are stuck, look at 1 Corinthians 12:12–14. The puzzle is one of the verses. Good luck!



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O N Y E D T O
 M O D B I S O Y U T O F
 B E N S E A N E S T N E T
 C I M D M R D B O F H O N E