

CHILDREN'S SERMON

The Body of Christ

Materials: Mr. Potato Head and accessories

1 Corinthians 12:14–20

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member 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 members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be?²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body.

Start off with Mr. Potato Head and with extra eyes and mouths. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul talks about the church as the body of Christ and says that all of the members of the body are important. I’ve brought a Mr. Potato Head doll today, but something is not quite right. Can you tell what it is? It has too many mouths and eyes. It doesn’t have any arms or legs or a nose. With just eyes and mouths, it can see and talk, but it can’t listen and it doesn’t have any arms or legs to help others.

Paul was writing to the Corinthians because they thought that some people were more important than others because of the gifts they had. Paul tells them that everyone is important. The people whose gifts are not so noticeable as others are equally important. Let me fix Mr. Potato Head so he has eyes, ears, nose, mouth, arms and feet. That’s better. All of the parts work together. The church works together, too. God has given us gifts to use to serve God. And when we work together, we can do more in the world.

I hope you have your Gracie fish banks for One Great Hour of Sharing. When we collect money for One Great Hour of Sharing, we work together with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People to serve the children of God. These groups serve people in different ways, but all of them serve God by using their gifts to spread God’s love and to help others around the world.

Let us pray:

Creator God, you have made each of us unique. You also create community so we can use our gifts to serve you and others. Help us look for your gifts to us and to others so we may be the body of Christ. In Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

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