

My Part

Missional Message: God wants Christ's followers to work together.

Missional Challenge:

"So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us." – Romans 12:5–6a

What is needed:

- Bible
- metal or plastic chain for the illustration
- tape or glue sticks
- several strips of colorful 2-by-8 1/2 inch paper for each child

Making it Real

(Show the children a very strong chain. Pull on the chain to show how strong the chain is.) This chain is very strong. God wants the church or followers of Christ to be connected, to work together, just like these chain links. When the followers of Christ work together, the work can be done in the best way possible, with strength.

God has provided many passages in the Bible about working together. *(Read Romans 12:4-8)* In this passage, God is saying the parts of our physical bodies have different functions. He says that the church is like our own bodies in that each person has a different role or job to do. Each follower of Christ in the church has a different job because each person is good at doing something. God wants us all to work together, using the gifts and talents that He has given us to strengthen the church. Working together to build God's church is the work of the church.

When I look around, I see children and adults with lots of different gifts and talents. Each single one of you has something special about you that God created in you. *(Give examples of how you have seen children in the church group strengthen one another by using their unique gifts or talents. Do not use specific names.)* When followers of Christ work together in the church, it makes God happy.

Prayer

God, thank You for giving us an example of how You want us to work together. And help us each to use our gifts and talents to work better together.

Making it Stick

Have the children create a paper-link chain. Have each child write on a 2-by-8 1/2 inch strip of paper the gifts and talents he or she has. Assist children as needed. Children can each complete several strips. When the children have completed their strips, have them combine and interlock their strips with the other children's strips with tape or glue sticks. Make sure the words show on the outside. With the last strip, lock all the strips together to make a circle and hang it in the room.

Describe how, when we all do our parts and work together, we are stronger as a group and can tell more people about Jesus.

Making it Personal

Memorize Romans 12:5-6a.

Write a list of what you think you are good at doing on a 4" x 6" card. Place this list in your Bible. Pray that God will help you use these skills or talents to show and/or tell others about Him Each time you see the list in your Bible, pray that God will help you use these skills or talents in a way that will strengthen other people.

Making it Home

Make a family chain by holding hands around the dinner table. Discuss how the family supports one another. Also discuss situations in which family members may need help from one another. Talk about the ways that a family can strengthen one another in areas of weakness.