

## Major Event: The Church

### Lesson 9: Importance of Spiritual Gifts for Unity

#### Central Text: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many. 15 If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. 19 If they were all one member, where would the body be? 20 But now there are many members, but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; 23 and those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable, 24 whereas our more presentable members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, 25 so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

#### Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

- The body of Christ has many individual distinct members with every member being unified in one body.
- In the body of Christ the believer does not lose his personal identity and individuality.
- Each believer has an individual gift(s) and role in the body so that the body will properly function.
- The diverse parts of the human body work together as **one**, with the various parts being dependent on each other as it functions (cf. vv. 21-26). Likewise the body of Christ has a diversity of parts functioning together in co-dependency.
- All the members of the body are important, despite their varied functions.
- Every member of the body of Christ is important and every member of the body has a spiritual gift that's important to the function of the body.
- A believer must personally realize that he or she has an important function in the body despite their gift and role in the body.
- If the body only consisted of one body part, it could not function. Likewise, if the body of Christ consisted of only one part, it could not function.
- The diversity of gifts and the variety of abilities of the members of the church is essential to its proper function.
- All the spiritually gifted people in the body are mandatory for the spiritual health of the body. It is not healthy for a believer to not be functioning in his or her spiritual gift.
- God the Holy Spirit determines the gift(s) of each member of the body (12:11), and God has carefully arranged the body according to His perfect will.
- No member of the body can look at another and say that they are not important.
- There should be no division in the body
- The members of the body are to have the same care for one another
- There is to be mutual ministry for one another in the body of Christ, which is the opposite of division in the body.

#### Suggested Attributes and Characteristics of God:

Humility- Even though God is above all, He still sent His Son to serve us (John 13:1-17). Therefore, we should serve one another even if we are not a deacon in the church.

#### Suggested Reading for Children at Home:

John 13:1-17- the importance of humble servanthood of one another in reflection of Christ's love for us.  
Don't forsake the assembly of ourselves at church for the function of the body- Hebrews 10:23-25