

Discovering God on Route 66
LESSON #44

ONE BODY

PREP: Make cards with the names of body parts for the first game. Find a timer or plan to use your watch or a clock. *You'll want to choose between the first two games.*

-- OR --

Gather supplies for the second option for the opening game. For each team of 5 you will need: Cards with the 5 body parts; at least one blindfold; food items such as marshmallows; playing area with equal room for each team to participate.

Review the Bible verses **Romans 12:3-13**.

Prepare the song *Humbly Grateful or Grumbly Hateful?* found in both Sing a Song of Scripture and All the Best – Songs for Kids by Lillenas.

Make copies of the 4 Bible Verses to hand to the teams. Gather supplies for the teams to use such as: paper, pencils, pens, markers, scissors, tape, etc.

Enlarge the messages so that all the children can read them when held up at the front of the room. Cut them apart so that each message can be held up individually.

Copy FUNSHEETS to pass out to the children at the end of class.

PRAY: Begin with prayer that the children will learn more about what God wants them to do to serve Him.

OPEN: The first game is designed to encourage the children to work together. SET UP: You will need to have various body parts listed on separate pieces of paper. These parts could include:

HEAD	TORSO
SHOULDERS	LEFT LEG
LEFT ARM	RIGHT LEG
RIGHT ARM	NECK
RIGHT HAND	HIPS
LEFT HAND	RIGHT FOOT
HAIR	LEFT FOOT

The seven basic parts could be: Head, shoulders, right/left arms, torso, and right/left legs. For more children, you can break the body down into more specific parts like: Instead of head - eyes, ears, nose, checks, mouth, chin. Instead of torso – chest, ribs, stomach.

You can have the children make 2 or more bodies. Just remember the goal for this activity is to get them to work together, not compete against each other. If you have any “extra” children, allow them to be “Directors” and help tell the “body parts” where to go.

PLAY: Tell the children that you will be giving each one a card with a different part of the body on it. Announce they will have 3 minutes (*or whatever you feel appropriate*) to go to a specified part of the room and sit in order of the body parts so that they form a complete body. (*Some of the children may need to lie down to complete their body part. For example, if one person is the "hips", he will need to lie crosswise.*)

Hand out the parts. Set your timer and say "Go". Watch the children rush around the room. Do not help them. Let the children work together. If they have not completed the task after 3 minutes, announce that you are giving them some extra time.

GAME 2: *Optional -- You may want to substitute this game for the first game. There will probably not be time for both.*

SET UP: For each group of 5 children you will need cards that say:

HAND	FOOT	FOOT
EYES	MOUTH	

Also, you will need to provide blind folds for 4 members of each team. You can use bandanas or spray paint swimming goggles black. However, if you have a large number of children, you may just want to have them close their eyes or only give blind folds to the “hands”.

Prepare some type of food item that the mouths of each team will eat. Marshmallows are an inexpensive option or small bags of cookies, etc. (*Not items like hard candy that could be choked on.*)

Designate an area in the room where the teams can spread out evenly.

PLAY: Divide the children into teams of 5 people each. Pass out 5 body part cards to each team and explain what each body part will do. Then the teams can select who will be what part. Have them tape or pin their cards to their shirts. Also, all the parts except the eyes should put on their blind folds.

Reveal the food items for each team that are equal distances away from all groups. On "Go", the 2 people who are the "feet" must carry the "hands" to the food. However, the eyes must guide them to

the food by leading them. *(It's okay if the eyes talk to guide the hands & feet.)* Then, the "hands" must pick up the food and the "feet" will carry the "hands" back to the original starting place. Now the "hands" must feed the "mouth" the food.

The winning team is the team whose "mouth" has swallowed all the food first.

BIBLE: Have the children turn to **Romans 12:3**. Let a volunteer read this verse. Ask:

"How does God not want us to think of ourselves?" *(More highly than we ought to. He does not want us to think we are better than others or for us to think we are better than we actually are.)*

Say something like: "If a person is extremely smart, why is he or she that way?" *(God made them smart.)* "If you run very fast, God gave you legs that can go fast. So, we don't have the right to brag or think we are great. Why? Because God made us the way we are. He gave each of us special gifts."

Now have 5 volunteers read **Romans 12:4-8**. *(Note - to save time you can skip 7 and 8.)* Ask:

"What is God comparing Christians to?" *(Various parts of the body.)*

Now discuss how we need all the different parts of our bodies. You can even give some examples of some parts that don't seem very important but are. Like:

Ear Wax - Protects our ear canals from bugs and other foreign material such as bacteria

Big Toe - Provides balance

Tonsils - Fight infections

Eye lashes - Keep particles out of eyes

Explain how we can function without some of these parts, but it is more difficult. Also, talk about how a toe should be happy to be a toe. What would happen if it complained and tried to act like a mouth? Continue the analogy, and share with the children how like the very different parts of the body - all Christians have different purposes or functions. God makes each of us different. He gave us different gifts. He has different but very special jobs planned for each one of us.

"What are some of the gifts listed in the verses we just read?" *(Prophecy, Mercy, Organization, Exhortation, Giving, Teaching, and Serving)*

Have 4 children read **Romans 12:10-13**.

"Why does God give us these gifts?" *(We are given gifts so that we can serve and help our Christian brothers and sisters. By being "devoted to one another" we are serving God.)*

"What does verse 10 mean by 'honor one another above yourselves'?" *(We are to consider what other people need before worrying about ourselves!)*

Give the children some examples of gifts people may have. Talk about how these gifts should be used to serve God since He is the one who gave us these gifts. Discuss how it is wrong to use the gifts only for your own pleasure or not to use your gifts at all!!

Example: A person who is very gifted at doing math could be selfish and not help someone who asked for help or he could help people who need help with their math.

Someone who is good at baking could make food for an elderly couple or their Sunday School class.

A talented artist could help make backgrounds for the puppet shows or draw art for Sunday's bulletin.

A gifted baby-sitter could help in the nursery on Sundays or Wednesdays.

Talented singers could sing in the choir or go to a nursing home and sing Christian songs.

"How does the church work if everyone is using their gifts to serve God by helping other Christians?"
(*GREAT!*)

"Does God want us to complain about the gifts He has given us?" (*No.*)

"How should we act when we use our gifts for God? Should we complain about doing it and grumble? or Be happy and rejoice?" (*Read Romans 12:11,12 again.*)

SING: Sing *Humbly Grateful or Grumbly Hateful?* found in both Sing a Song of Scripture and All the Best – Songs for Kids by Lillenas.

APPLY: PREP: You will need to supply the children with the following Bible verses already written out -- as well as paper, pencils, pens, markers, scissors, tape, etc.

Romans 12:13	Share with God's people who are in need.
Romans 12:5	So in Christ we who are many form one body.
Romans 12:3	Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought.
Romans 12:9	Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

Let the children know that they are going to be able to begin applying what they have learned about being part of the body of Christ and using their gifts! Divide the children into 3 or 4 groups. Give each group one of the Bible Verses to work on.

Each group will need about 5-8 minutes to work on a plan to teach the other groups their Bible verse. Explain that they are to use their creativity and giftedness! They can use music, drama, pictures, words, motions, the chalkboard, actions, etc. to teach this verse to the other teams. Let them know that they will be earning points for: 1) Knowing their verse; 2) Teaching that verse; and 3) Learning the other teams' verses.

When time is up, each team must stop working on their presentation! One at a time, each team will have about 4 minutes to teach their verse to the other teams.

After the last team has completed their presentation, play this next game.

GAME: *Note:* You may not have time to use all 8 sentences, but try to show at least 4.

Have the teams stay in their groups. One at a time, hold up a message for groups to see. The group who is able to stand first and tell what the message says -- gets a point. If no group can tell what the message says within a minute, no one gets a point.

Larger messages can be found at the end of the lesson. You should still enlarge them to help the children see them better.

MESSAGES:

J s s l v s y .	B k nd t th rs.
S k G d f rst.	G f nd th p l.
L v y r br th r.	K p G d's c mm ndm nts.
Th c w s bl ck.	B k th c k t h m .

Answers: *Jesus loves you. Seek God first. Love your brother. The cow is black. Be kind to others. Go find the pool. Keep God's commandments. Bake the cake at home.*

DISCUSS: Talk about how not only is it a sin when we do not use our gift for God, but it also makes it harder for our Christian brothers and sisters to do God's work. Just like in the game it was hard to understand the messages because all the vowels were not using their "gifts".

APPLY: CON'T: Now that the children have had time to forget the verses, give them two minutes to write as much of each verse as they can. *Make sure you remove any hints or clues that are around the room!*

After time is up, give each team one point for every word they were able to get correct in each verse (*including the reference*). PLUS, give each team one point for every word the other teams got correct for the verses that they taught!!

The winning team is the one with the most points. (*In actuality – they're all winners!*)

CLOSE: Give each child a chance to talk about what gift(s) God has given to them and how they can use it to serve God by serving their Christian brothers and sisters joyfully.

Pass out the FUNSHEETS. End with prayer.

HEAD

TORSO

SHOULDERS

LEFT LEG

**LEFT
ARM**

**RIGHT
LEG**

**RIGHT
ARM**

NECK

**RIGHT
HAND**

HIPS

**LEFT
HAND**

**RIGHT
FOOT**

HAIR

**LEFT
FOOT**

J s s l v s y .

S k G d f rst.

L v y r br th r.

Th c w s bl ck.

B k nd t th rs.

G f nd th p l.

K p G d's c mm ndm nts.

B k th c k t h m .