



Lesson #10

You Are Gifted!



**Scripture Reference: 1 Corinthians 12:4-6
Colossians 3:17**



Goal: God gives us unique talents and abilities that we might serve Him.

Too often children spend their time wishing they were someone else, more athletic or musical, a better student or comedian, had more material things or were better looking. They neglect to see the uniquely special persons God has made in and of themselves. This lesson is designed to help the children recognize how God purposefully equips us each with different gifts, yet calls us all to be a part of the same church. By taking part in the interactive activities listed, the students will acknowledge specific abilities God has given them and investigate ways to use those abilities for the glory of God.



Opening Activity:

(For this activity you will need a Bible, a simple cookie recipe, pre-measured and clearly marked ingredients to make that recipe, a mixing bowl, a

wooden spoon, cookie sheets, cooking spray, hot pads, a pancake turner, and access to an oven. You will also need an adult helper to bake the cookies while you teach the remainder of the lesson. Try to complete this activity as quickly as possible, so there will be enough time for the baking process. If you think one batch may not be enough or there may not be time to bake all the cookies, you may make an extra batch at home and bring them to Sunday School with you.

Ahead of time, set all the ingredients on a table or shelf near the area where you intend to mix the cookies.)

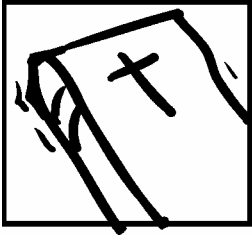
Gather the children around your work area. Say: **Last week we learned four reasons for why we go to church. What are those four reasons?** You may refer to the poster you made last week. **There is a fifth reason we go to church – to SERVE with our gifts. In our lesson today we’re going to learn what it means to SERVE with our gifts. To help us learn what this means, we’re going to do something that we don’t normally do at church. We’re going to make cookies.**

Before we start the cookies, however, I want each one of you to tell me something you’re good at doing. Go around the group allowing each child to answer. You may have to give some examples. Then say: **You’re all good at doing different things, because God chose to make you different from one another. When you’re grown, you’ll all have different kinds of jobs. Even though you are different, you’re all a part of this church, a very important part. Since you are different, I have different jobs for you to do today while mixing the cookies.**

Assign each child an ingredient to retrieve from the table or shelf and add to the cookie dough at the appropriate time. If there are more children than ingredients, assign one child per egg and assign some children to do the actual mixing. Otherwise, you may do the mixing or allow each child a turn stirring.

When finished, say: **You did a great job helping to make the cookies! Did you know that each of these cookie dough ingredients has a different job? Some of them make the cookies taste good. Some keep the cookies moist and chewy. Others help them to bake nice and puffy. The ingredients are all different, yet they’re all important parts of the same cookie dough. That’s just like us. The Bible tells us...Read I Cor. 12:4-6. We’re all different but important parts of the same church.**

Give the cookie dough to the adult helper to be baked and explain to the children that you will be using the cookies later in the lesson.



Bible Experience:

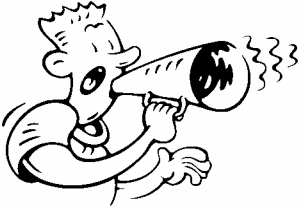
(For this activity, you will need a religious bookmark for each child, a magic marker, a box, gift wrap, scotch tape, a bow, and a Bible.

Ahead of time, using the magic marker, write two or more words of the following verse on the back of each bookmark so that if placed end to end the bookmarks will spell out the Bible verse: "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." [Colossians 3:17] Place all of the bookmarks in a box and wrap it to look like a present.)

Gather the children in a circle on the floor or around a table. Ask: **What is a gift? When someone gives you a gift, does it cost you anything? Why might someone give you a gift? How does receiving a gift make you feel? I'm glad to know you enjoy receiving gifts, because today I brought a gift for the whole class.** Allow the children to open the gift and each choose a bookmark from the box.

Say: **We've already learned that when God made us, He chose to make each one of us different. He chose to give us each different abilities. The Bible calls these different abilities "gifts". In other words, the things we are good at doing are gifts from God. Why might God have given us those gifts? What gift did I give you today? Is that bookmark going to do any good if you tuck it away in a drawer? What was it made for? In the same way, the gifts God gives to us are there for us to use. If we don't use our abilities, we're wasting them.**

Have the children turn their bookmarks over. Explain that when put together their bookmarks spell out a Bible verse. Have them try to put the verse in the proper order. Then have a child look the verse up in the Bible to see if they are correct. Say: **To figure out our Bible verse, we had to work together using our minds. God desires us to work together using our gifts for Him, too. Whatever we do, we're to do it all for Him.**



Life Application:

(For this activity, you will need white paper and pencils.)

Help the children to write Name Poems. Each child should write his or her name length-wise on a piece of paper. The object is to come up with words describing that child beginning with the same letters as the child's name. The words may reflect the child's personality, interests, or abilities. You may want to write your own name poem as an example. Other examples could be:

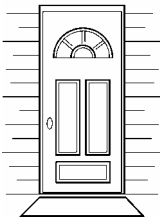
Ballerina
Energetic
Talkative
Horse-Lover

Joker
Extra Special
Football Player
Friendly

Caring
Artistic
Reads A Lot
Listener

When finished, have each child share his or her poem with the class. Say: **Listening to your poems helps us to see how different and special God truly did make us. I want each of you to look at your own poem right now. How can you use those traits or abilities for God?** If children can't come up with ideas on their own, give an example from your own poem or ask children how they could use a specific trait. For instance, you might say, "Carl, you like to read a lot. What could you spend time reading that would please God?" or "Jeff, you're very friendly. Who's someone you could reach out and be a friend to this week?"

Say: **These are just a few of the many ways we can use our abilities for God. We're going to use them in another way now as we put together plates of cookies and design cards for the shut-ins from our church. I've already made arrangements with your parents for some of you to deliver those cookies and cards this afternoon or tomorrow.**



Closing Activity:

(For this activity, you will need white construction paper, crayons or markers, stickers, small paper plates, gallon size plastic bags, curling ribbon, scissors, and the cookies from earlier in the lesson.

Ahead of time, you will need to obtain a list of the church's shut-ins and their phone numbers from the pastor or visitation committee. You will need to contact these shut-ins, explaining your class project to them and asking if they would accept a visit from one of your students. You will also need to make a list of students and parents who responded to the parent letter from last Sunday, assigning each a particular shut-in to visit. Call those parents who did not respond to make sure they didn't simply forget. If students' parents are unable to deliver cookies, perhaps you could arrange a time for those children to accompany you on visits. Some children may do more than one visit if necessary.)

Have the children design cards for the shut-ins they have been assigned to visit. If they are not participating in the visits, have them make a card for someone who may be doing two visits. When finished with the cards, have each child place a set number of cookies on a plate, cover the plate with a plastic bag, and tie it shut with curling ribbon. The bags may be decorated with stickers. It might also be wise to attach the shut-ins names and phone numbers to the appropriate plates and to suggest parents call the shut-ins before visiting. Say: **God has made each of us a unique individual. I'm not exactly like you, and you're not exactly like me. We're each good at doing different things. God wants us to serve Him by doing what we're best at doing. And He wants us to do it joyfully for Him. Today as you deliver these cookies, I hope you'll share that joy with the people you'll be visiting.**

If you have enough cookies, you may want to share some with the children while they work.