

CITY LG – Oct 17th-18th

Bible Story: Oh, the Gifts We Can Gift (Paul writes to the Corinthians) • *1 Corinthians 12:12-21, 25-27 (Supporting: Acts 18:1-18; 19, 1 Corinthians 1:11; 4:17, 7:1a; 16:10)*

Bottom Line: When we use our gifts together, we can make a greater difference.

Memory Verse: “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young. Set an example for the believers in what you say and in how you live.” *1 Timothy 4:12a, NIV*

Life App: Individuality—discovering who you are meant to be so you can make a difference.

SFX: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

CG: IN FOCUS slide

Opener

HOST: *(Looking through photos on your phone)* “Oh! Hey Guys! I am just looking through some of the pictures on my phone. I have pictures of so many different people on here. But you know who I don’t have pictures of??? YOU GUYS! Let’s take some pictures now. I want to go home and show my family all my friends from the CITY.

(Go around and take a picture of each grade level, having the kids make their goofiest faces.)

“That was fun, you guys! Come back next week and we will show the pictures on the screen. *(Looking at the pictures on the phone)* What I love about group pictures is that even though it is a photo of an entire group of people, it is still made up of each individual person in the shot. You can always pick out yourself in a photo because you are different from everyone else. The fact that you are unique and different from other people is called individuality.

CG: Individuality Slide

“Individuality is discovering who you are meant to be so you can make a difference. And God created us all different for a reason. But we will get back to that in a minute...

Storyteller picks up a box with the Mr. Potato Head® toy and parts inside.

SETTING UP THE STORY

(Walk out amongst the kids shaking the box occasionally)

STORYTELLER. “In my hands I have a box, and in this box is a ... something. *(Shake box.)* It could be anything—rocks, some tiny shoes, maybe even a bunch of frozen vegetables. I wonder if anyone in this room has a talent for guessing?? Anyone want to guess what is inside this box?

(Let kids guess)

"It's a Mr. Potato Head®! That was amazing! How did you figure it out? (*IF ANYONE GUESSES*☺)

You are probably wondering? WHY am I playing with a Mr. Potato Head?

"Great question! And I'll need all of your help to answer it. This Mr. Potato Head® is going to play a big part in today's story."

(Bring the box up to the stage and set on the table)

PAUL SENDS TIMOTHY TO CORINTH

STORYTELLER: "Timothy had been traveling with Paul and learning from him on his journey. He had preached, taught, helped write letters, and did anything else Paul had needed. And now Timothy was ready."

"Was he ready to play with Mr. Potato Head?! No. He was finally ready to be sent out on his own without Paul. Paul sent Timothy to help the people who believed in God. He wrote a letter to the people telling them that Timothy was like a son to him. Paul described Timothy as being faithful in serving the Lord, and that he would remind the people of what Paul had taught them;."

"You are probably thinking...That's cool that Paul thought Timothy was ready for an important mission, but what did the people in need help with?

"All kinds of stuff! They needed encouragement, they needed instruction, and they needed some questions answered too. They had asked Paul about the gifts that God gives us through His Spirit. And Paul answered their question by talking about the human body."

THE BODY OF CHRIST

"See, another term for the church is 'the body of Christ.' Paul said that just like a human body has many parts that all do different things, the body of Christ is made up of people who all do different things. And all of the people are important no matter what their gifts are. Here, this should make this idea a little more clear.

(Take out one of Mr. Potato Head's arms. And hold it up)

"Now imagine how silly it would be if this arm said, (*In an exaggerated whiny voice...*) 'I wish that I was a foot instead of being an arm. That means I'm not really a part of Mr. Potato Head®'s body because I'm not a foot.

"That wouldn't make any sense! Of course the arm is part of the body just like the foot."

(Now pick up an ear and hold it up)

"And it would be ridiculous for this ear to say, (*In an exaggerated sad voice...*) 'Man, eyes are way better than ears. I wish I were an eye. But I guess that since I'm not an eye, I'm not really an official part of Mr. Potato Head®.'"

"Of course the ear is part of him!!" I need a helper for this next part. Someone who had a talent for making cool Mr. Potato Heads" Ok. Can you put some eyes on my friend here?

(Child puts eyes into the toy) Host holds up the toy with just the eyes attached.

"Okay, he only has eyes. Now what?"

"Kids, since he only has eyes, how would he hear anything? *(Pause for response.)* You're right! He couldn't hear with just eyes. Okay, now can you take out the eyes but put an ear on him?"

(Child takes off the eyes and puts an ear on)

"Okay, now the eyes are gone and he has just an ear."

"WHEW! Now he can hear again., but I have another question. Kids, how would he smell anything? *(Pause for response.)* Right again. You can't smell with your ear, so he wouldn't be able to smell. Okay, [Child's name], you can put him all back together."

(The child puts the whole guy together. Holds him up)

"None of the parts can say to each other, 'You're not important,' because they are all important." You can go sit down. Thanks for making the coolest Mr. Potato Head for me!

EVERYONE IS IMPORTANT IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

"Even though we are all different people, and we all have different gifts, we are all still important parts of the church."

God made all of us different on purpose. It isn't an accident that you have the gifts that you do, and you shouldn't be jealous that someone has a gift that you don't. And Paul finished his talk about the body of Christ with some very cool verses. Check out what he says in 1 Corinthians 12:26-27." Can one of my third graders read it for me?

Bring the Bible over to the child that bookmarked to 1 Corinthians 12:26-27.

"It says, 'If one part suffers, every part suffers with it. If one part is honored, every part shares in its joy. You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it.'

Yes, we are all part of the body of Christ, the church. And just like the different parts of the body work together, we need to work together as parts of the church."

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

“That’s true. I mean, just to put on this service for all of you requires me to teach the story, the tech kids in the back to put all of the slides up, the Worship Leaders to lead the music, and of course we can’t forget about your Small Group Leaders who show up every week to teach you.”

We’re all part of the church and God designed us all to work together. It’s like the one thing for us to remember for today.”

CG: Bottom Line Slide

STORYTELLER: [Bottom Line] “When we use our gifts together, we can make a greater difference. Let’s say that together. I’ll say, “When we use our gifts together and you guys shout, “WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Let’s go...”

Say the bottom line this way a few times, asking the kids to get louder

God made each of us unique, but He didn’t make us to work alone. If we accept that we are all different, but all important, then we can accomplish a lot when we work together. And that’s how we can truly make a difference in this world. Spend some time thinking about ways that you can work with others, using your combined gifts, to make a difference in the lives of others. Let’s pray.”

Pray

“Dear God, thank You for giving us gifts from Your Spirit. Help us to appreciate the unique gifts You have blessed us with. And guide us as we find ways to use our gifts and work together to point others toward You. We love You and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Dismiss kids to small group