

Paul's world Life in Corinth – One body, many parts

Background information to support the resources on 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a

Life today

What do you have to do to pick up a drink, or to catch a ball? Even simple movements like these need our bones, muscles and nerves to work together. Each of these parts contains thousands of cells – the tiny building blocks that make up our bodies.



Imagine

You are part of a household in Corinth and you are going to prepare a feast for many guests. First, you need to roast barley seeds to make bread. You cannot do this without a fire, so you need someone to fetch the wood or charcoal so that you can light it. When the fire's burning and the barley is roasting in an iron pot, you are nearly ready to make the dough. Now you remember that you cannot make dough without water. You need someone to go to the fountain for you while you grind the flour. Once the bread is made, you need olives and

figs. Someone needs to buy them in the market. You also need wine, cheese and honey, chestnuts and pomegranates. When these things are prepared, you remember that someone needs to go to the harbour and bring some fresh fish for the guests to eat. A feast is a wonderful thing, but it needs many people working together to prepare it!



Did you know?

There was a special sporting event in Corinth every two years called the Isthmian Games. There were chariot races, wrestling and boxing, as well as music and poetry. The Games had a President who paid all the expenses and held a large feast for all the VIP visitors. Many people had to work together to make these games happen.



Paul's first letter to the Corinthians

A nugget to explore with children:
Chapter 12, verse 27



Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Christ has no
body now on earth
but yours, no hands but
yours, no feet but yours,
yours are the eyes through
which Christ's compassion is to
look out to the earth, yours
are the feet by which he is
to go about doing good and
yours are the hands by
which he is to bless
us now.

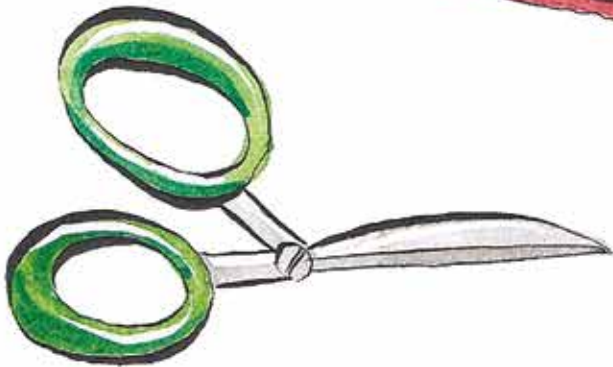
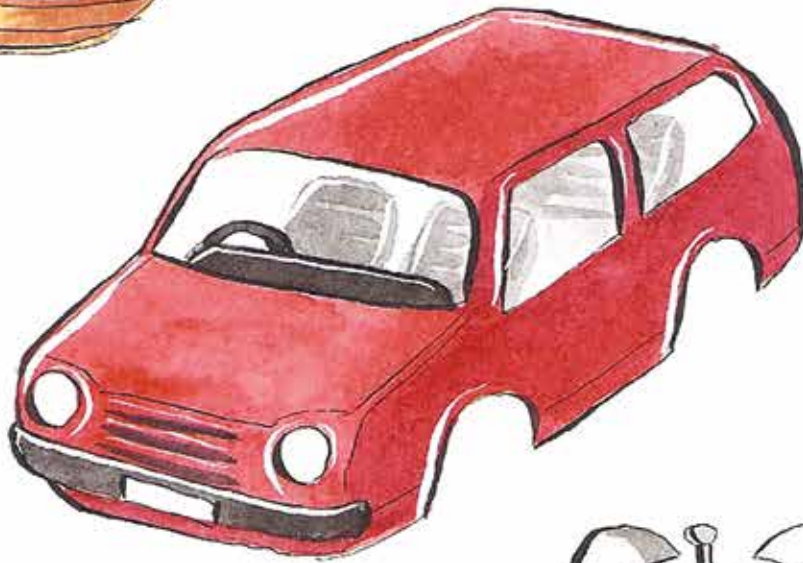
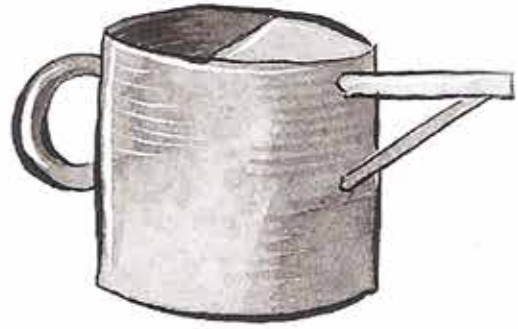
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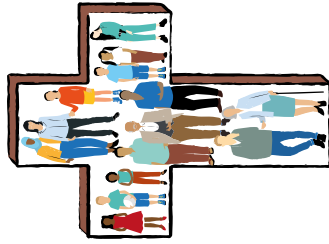


Activity time

Name

1 Corinthians 12.27

Paul says that we are all part of the body of Christ and have an important part to play.



Family time

Talk about some of the people at your church and the special contribution they each make.

Do a family challenge. Find out about a surprising skill that a friend, neighbour or someone at church has.

Pray Hold hands together in a circle. Pray for the person on your left, and on your right, then squeeze each other's hands gently, as you thank God for your family, church, and being part of the world-wide body of Christ.

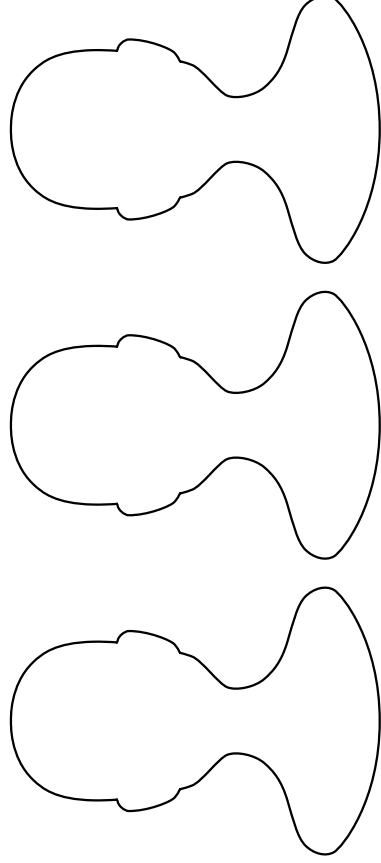
ROOTS children's Sheet

One body, many parts

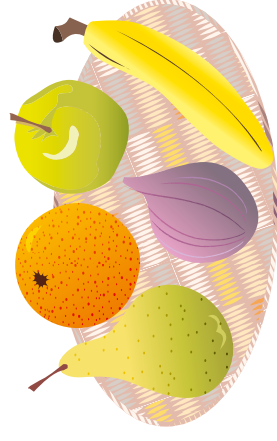
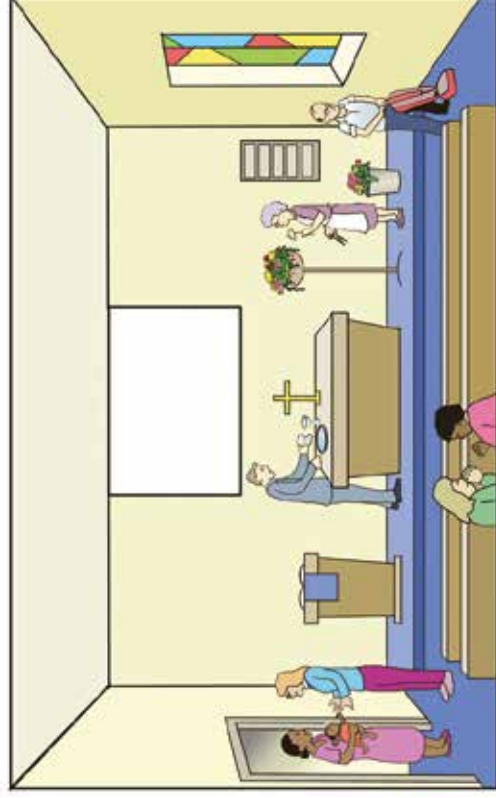
Individual fruits are tasty but chopping them up and mixing up the textures and flavour to make a fruit salad is even better! Write a recipe for a fruit salad to symbolise the body of Christ.



Draw three different faces, e.g. eye colour, nose shape, hairstyle.



Explain to someone how these people are playing their part in the body of Christ.



ROOTS RECIPE CARD FRUIT SALAD

Ingredients:

Method:

Name

ROOTS Colouring Sheet

One body, many parts

Colouring time

We all belong to the body of Christ.

