

LESSON 3

Why Can't the Pastor Just Do it All?

(The Body of Christ Working Together)

Lesson Objective:

To understand that we are ALL members of the body of Christ and we ALL play an important and unique role in ministry and service. Your students will also learn that there are many different ways to serve in the church.

Prayer as You Prepare:

Jesus, we thank You for bringing us together for another week of Kids Small Groups. Thank You for Your Word and teaching us that we all have a role and a purpose as part of the body of Christ. Please help my students and I to be open and willing to serve You and others as you lead us to do so. Bring understanding to my students as we begin the process of teaching S.H.A.P.E. May the next few weeks reveal the unique design of my students! Amen.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Begin the Journey:

Have your students think through different things that can only be accomplished by working together as a team. Many pairs of hands working together are far better than one working alone!

ACTIVITY PAGE: BUILDING UP THE BODY

This handout will require your students to piece together words and parts of words to reveal a hidden message. On the other side of the handout will be five Quiet Time Check-in questions to review Acts 4:1–6:15.

Did You Know?

Emphasize the key words of "administrator" and "shepherd" compared to "minister" and "sheep." Can your students define these words?

OBJECT LESSON: BUILDING BLOCK

You will have a set of building blocks in the room. Use the blocks to show that it takes more than one block to build something of significance. You never find building blocks sold individually; blocks come in a set of different colors, sizes and shapes. An individual block is uniquely shaped and designed for a purpose to build. However, all by itself the block possesses nothing of great significance. But, when fit together with other unique blocks, you can make whatever is imaginable. The same thing applies with the body of Christ. When we work together while using our unique S.H.A.P.E. we can do great things for God's kingdom!

Seek the Treasure:

“God gave pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people, for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.” (Ephesians 4:11–12)

Uncover the Truth:

Be sure your students know the difference between an administrator-shepherd and a minister-sheep. Make sure your students understand that the body of Christ is made up of everyone who has made Jesus the boss of their lives.

- How do pastors “prepare God’s people for works of service”?
Pastors help prepare by first helping the members discover how they can best serve God. Second, pastors equip God’s people with the tools to serve such as knowledge biblical teachings, resources, opportunities to serve and much more.
- Why are pastors like shepherds?
A shepherd is a caretaker of sheep. Like a shepherd, a pastor shares some of the same responsibilities of a shepherd in feeding, protecting and guiding his flock or the church.
- How can you minister to or serve God, believers and non-believers?
 1. **God** (Luke 4:8)—*We minister to God by making Him happy through our obedience to Him and our desire to follow His way.*
 2. **Believers** (Hebrews 6:10)—*We minister to believers by praying with them, encouraging them through difficult times, helping them understand God’s truth and meeting needs that they may have.*
 3. **Non-Believers** (1 Peter 4:10–11)—*We minister to non-believers by simply being a friend to them, serving them, praying for them and always sharing God’s truth with them by our actions and words.*
- Why is the church known as the “body of Christ”? (Romans 12:4–8)
The church is known as the body of Christ because each member of the church has been given different gifts just like a body has different parts. When everyone in the church uses their unique gifts and talents together the church becomes a powerful force to expand God’s kingdom in a lost world! We must function together, just like a body, in order to be healthy and to grow.

Find the Purpose:

- What does it mean to you to be part of the body of Christ?
Answers will vary. To be a part of the body of Christ means that you are a committed part of the church. Scripture likens the church to the body of Christ with Christ as the head and the rest of the parts of the body are you and me!

- When do you hope to serve in your own ministry? If you already serve in a ministry, how did you know it was the right time to start serving?
We want every Children's 301 student to find a place to serve in ministry. Affirm those who are already ahead of the game serving. For those who are not, really challenge them to set a date to begin serving. Uphold them to this commitment.

- Of the three ways in which we minister, which is the hardest for you? Why?
Select between God, believers and non-believers. It may be difficult to serve God because we are so busy with our earthly lives and commitments. Believers may be hard to serve because we are always thinking of the "less fortunate" outside of the church. Finally, non-believers may be too plain difficult themselves to serve (i.e. asking too many questions, resilient or even persecutory).

- How can you begin to prepare yourself to be ready to serve in ministry?
Be open-minded. Prepare yourself through prayer, asking God to make it very clear to you where He wants you to serve. Talk to people serving in ministry asking exploratory questions and understanding the level of commitment. Connect with your family so they understand the importance of serving and can support a consistent time.

GAME: KEEP AWAY

Objective—To show that one person working alone cannot accomplish the task. But, many hands make the job easier and less overwhelming.

Materials—Ball

Instructions—You will need to go outside to play this game. Form a circle and choose one student to be in the middle. Everyone in the circle will throw the ball back and forth while the student in the middle tries to intercept the ball. If the student intercepts the ball, the person who lost possession of the ball will now be in the middle. As time goes on, add more students to the middle of the circle. Play as long as you can while still giving enough time for some discussion back in your classroom.

NOTE:

- Make sure this game maintains its friendly atmosphere not getting too competitive or mean. Stay focused on the greater purpose of the game.

Discussion

1. How did it feel to be all by yourself in the middle? Did you feel lonely? How did it feel to be on the outside of the circle? Did you feel like you were on a team?
2. How was it different when there were more of you in the middle? Did it feel different? How so?
3. We have many different ministries that you can serve in here at church. What would you feel like if it was up to you to keep all the ministries going?
4. Is there anyone here who is currently serving in a ministry? Are you the only one serving in this ministry?

FOLLOW-UP:

Ask your students about their "ONE Way to Spend Time with God." Maybe your discussion will give you some good ideas for how you can serve together as a small group in the future. Encourage your students as they pray about what ministry they are best shaped for. God will direct their paths if we give it up to Him.