

# Made for Each Other

## Ephesians 4 and Spiritual Gifts

Ephesians 4:1-16 KJV

*Bible Lesson & Activities for Children*



THE **SUNDAY SCHOOL** STORE

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# Gifts with Purpose

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God gives us special gifts and talents, and wants us to use them to bless others and serve Him. Ephesians 4 reminds us that God unites us and gives us abilities to use together with His church body. This lesson uses presents to illustrate the importance of our spiritual gifts. The Lord provides us with the tools we need to work wisely with each other. Encourage children to discover, embrace, and use their unique gifts to serve one another and the Lord.

God gives us good things out of His abundant grace. We are not merely forced into following Him and serving with our gifts, but we can use our abilities to His glory. God wants us to work together as part of His body. We are called to one united faith with our fellow believers, and we can join together to build one another up in love. The Holy Spirit equips and enables us to speak encouraging words and to use our gifts for Him.

**Passage:** Ephesians 4:1-16

**Target Audience:** Kindergarten-6th grade

**Materials Needed:** Construction paper; glue; markers or crayons; tape; scissors; decorative supplies; gift boxes and bags; paper plates; paper bags; puzzles; music; Bibles.

## More Resources Online

- Watch the [video demonstration of the object lesson](#).
- Watch the [video example for the craft projects](#).
- Watch the [video Bible story "Books of the Bible: Ephesians"](#) from Saddleback Kids Club
- Watch the [video Bible story "Fruit of the Spirit"](#) from Crossroads Kids
- For more free illustrations, visit [Christian Clip Arts](#) and [Ministry-To-Children](#)

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## Object Lesson (5 minutes)

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*Greet children and present them with "gifts" of a sort...*

Hello, children of God!

Do you like to get presents? I think everyone enjoys gifts now and then, for your birthday or Christmas or just because. It's fun to open a gift that someone gave you and find what exciting treasure is inside. Well, today I have something for you. I have this large present here, and inside it I have something for each of you! *Show students a large bag or box, and have several smaller things within, enough for one per student. Hand out the smaller presents.* There's one for you, and you, and you...now, go ahead and open your presents and see what they contain. *Within each box or bag, have a slip of paper with a word representing a spiritual gift. Examples can include teaching, prayer, leadership, evangelism, generosity, etc.* That's interesting, isn't it? Each of you has been given a special gift.

Now I know it might be a little disappointing to open a present and find just a piece of paper, but these items represent the kinds of blessings that God has given us. The Bible tells us that God provides us all with special abilities which equip us to help one another and to serve Him and the church body. Some people might be great at teaching. Others are gifted in telling others about Jesus, or encouraging others with kind words. You might already know what talents God has given you based on things you are skilled at doing or enjoy. Perhaps you are still on the way to discovering what gifts God has given you, but you have some! Even simple things can be wonderful when we use our abilities for Him.

Even though we have different talents and abilities, we can use them together. We have all been blessed with the wonderful gift of Jesus and salvation through His death and resurrection. Because of that, we have unity together in Him and in our faith. We are called

to use our gifts to serve one another. Being part of a church family is like being part of a body. A body is made of many parts, and a church is made of members. Just as body parts work together to make things function, we can use our unique talents to serve God and the church body. We are all different, which is wonderful! It's important for us to identify ways that we can use our God-given abilities to help each other. And we can look for ways to love others as we do this. We should guard what we say and how we say it so that we speak in love and with consideration of others and their feelings. We can ask God for help in understanding our roles and loving others.

**Prayer: (Invite the children to repeat each line)**

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us special gifts.

Please help us to know how to best use them

To serve others and you.

Thank you for the church.

Thank you for your love.

I love you, God!

In Jesus name, Amen!

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# Game & Activities Suggestions

## (10 minutes)

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This lesson focuses on how we have special spiritual gifts that can be used for God's work, just as special body parts have meaningful functions. Start off with some activities that relate to the body or gifts. Consider a few simple activities to kick things off:

- Have a mini talent show, and invite students to share or demonstrate a special ability. Encourage them that there are all sorts of talents. Something as simple as snapping fingers or curling a tongue is unique!
- Pass around gift boxes or bags for students to unwrap. Inside the "presents", place words that describe a gift such as faith, kindness, music, etc. Explain how there are many types of gifts that God gives us. Make this more of an extended game by having students sit in a circle and pass the presents around "hot potato" style with a chant or music. The student the gift lands on is the one who opens it.
- "Truth in love challenge:" Provide students with statements that might include criticism or unkind phrases. Challenge them to change the wording of the statements to be kind. Even something tough to hear can be worded in a loving way, and it's important to remember how we can speak in kindness and love to others, even while being truthful.
- Do the hokey pokey! Sing and dance to the hokey pokey song, making it "freeze dance" style. Or make it competitive by switching up the body parts (don't go in order) and calling out students who play the wrong body part. The same can be done with the "Father Abraham" song.
- Body part musical chairs: play musical chairs with a twist: call out a body part when the music stops, and make sure students place that particular part on the chair .
- Hands-tied group effort: group students and have them perform a simple task like coloring a picture or putting a puzzle together. However, students can only use one body part each (a left hand/right hand/etc.), and work as a team to complete the task.

Explain that this lesson reminds us how we all have abilities that can be used together to work for God and help other people!

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## Main Bible Teaching (15 minutes)

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This passage comes from Paul's letter to the church of Ephesus, encouraging the people to recall the blessings they have in Christ Jesus, and how they can use spiritual gifts to serve the church. Take turns reading verses, or read them out loud for younger children. Explain what these important words mean as you go through the passage.

***Ephesians 4:1-3 KJV*** *I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, (2) With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; (3) Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

Paul wants to emphasize the importance of Christian unity, given to us by the Holy Spirit. Remembering all that Jesus has done for us ought to result in a natural desire to serve and obey Him. We are the children of God, and He has called us to live in a way that reflects that. Being a Christian means that we should be humble and gentle. Living in unity with others means that we are patient and bear with one another. It can be easy, even (or especially) in church, to argue or feel divided. God wants us to work together and be at peace with one another. When we do that, we can show others what it means to be a follower of Christ.

**Ask:** Can you think of groups that have to work together? How is the church like a team?

***Ephesians 4:4-8 KJV*** *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; (5) One Lord, one faith, one baptism, (6) One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. (7) But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. (8) Wherefore he*

*saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.*

God is the one who gives us unity. We don't create that on our own, but already have unity in Him. We share our faith in Christ and Heavenly Father. We have all been given His grace, and we have all been given Jesus. Paul reminds people that we have much in common, and should work together.

**Ask:** How can we work together and remember our unity in Christ?

***Ephesians 4:9-14 KJV*** *(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? (10) He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) (11) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; (12) For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. (13) Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. (14) That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*

Spiritual gifts, like grace, are not earned or perfected on our own, but given by God for specific purposes. Ministry work is something that Jesus established. Note for kids that here Paul references specific ministry roles and leadership positions, but there are many ways that God gifts us and helps us to do His work. The positions listed here include apostles (ambassadors of God's work), prophets (speaking for God), evangelists (telling others of Him), and preachers and teachers. There are other areas and ways that people

help, but it's important to remember that God allows all of this to happen for His special purposes.

**Ask:** What are some things that you can do in the church right now? How can God use your talents?

***Ephesians 4:15-16 KJV*** *But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: (16) From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*

This is a good reminder that we are all connected to each other in and for Jesus. The church isn't just an audience watching a pastor and musicians, or a bus driven by one person. We all have a part to play. Not only is it important to identify and use the gifts God gives us, but we can also be mindful of how we love and speak to others, speaking words that are true, but kind.

**Ask:** How can we be careful about the things that we say?

We are made to serve the Lord and worship Him, and God wants us to do this together. He wants us to remember what unites us, and to use our blessings and talents for His glory and good. Sometimes we get sidetracked or frustrated, but it is a wonderful gift to remember how God equips us and uses us! Working with others for Jesus is not a chore, but a great opportunity that the Holy Spirit allows and assists with. We can identify our gifts and use them!



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# Craft one: "Spiritual Gifts Bag"

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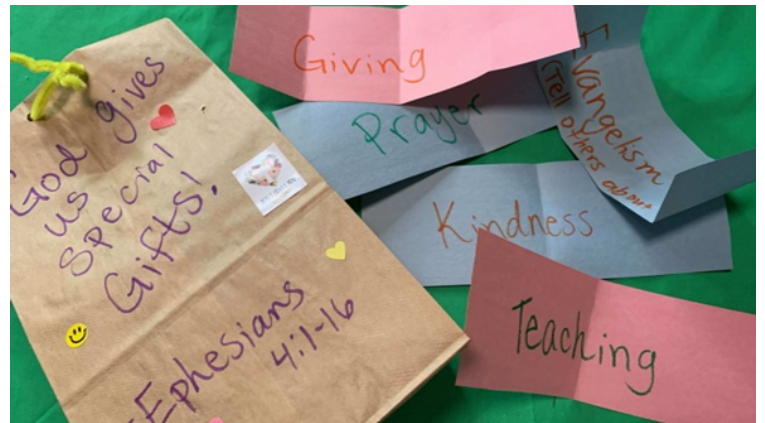
You will need:

- Construction paper or cardstock
- Paper bags or gift bags
- Decorations (stickers, glitter, etc.)
- Markers or crayons
- Ribbon, string, or pipe cleaner
- Scissors
- Hole Punch



Procedure:

1. Decorate the outside of the bag with verses and captions.
2. Add decorations as desired. Punch holes near the top of the bag for the ribbon/string to go.
3. Cut strips of cardstock or paper, and place words on them that would represent spiritual gifts (teaching, prayer, evangelism, etc.).
4. Place the papers inside the bag. Seal with a ribbon, string, or pipe cleaner.
5. Give the bag as a reminder gift to someone, or keep it to consider the gifts God gives us.



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## Craft Two: "Truth in Love Plate"

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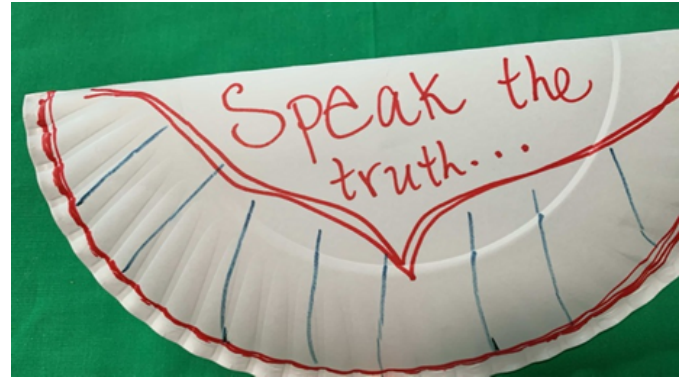
You will need:

- Paper plates
- Scissors
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Markers or crayons
- Glue or tape
- Extra decorations as desired



Procedure:

1. Fold the plate in half. Decorate the outside to look like a mouth. Add teeth or lips and verses or captions.
2. Open up the plate. On the inside, decorate with more verses and captions.
3. Cut out paper in the shape of hearts. Attach to the inside of the plate.
4. Decorate with more items as desired. Use it to remember the importance of speaking truthful and loving words.



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## Ephesians 4:8 KJV

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*When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.*



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## Ephesians 4:8 KJV

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*When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.*



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# Word Search Puzzle

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Unity - Humility - Gentleness - Patience - Love - Spirit

Peace - Captives - Apostles - Prophets - Teachers - Shepherds

G	Q	S	P	T	S	S	O	C	C	M	V
A	Q	W	A	C	V	P	W	K	A	V	P
G	F	V	T	I	Q	V	I	Q	P	U	R
H	U	M	I	L	I	T	Y	R	T	N	O
L	O	V	E	L	N	X	A	J	I	I	P
D	F	E	N	N	L	L	C	W	V	T	H
T	E	A	C	H	E	R	S	Q	E	Y	E
W	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	P	T
T	L	G	E	N	T	L	E	N	E	S	S
I	K	M	Q	L	T	C	M	V	D	U	F
P	E	A	C	E	K	Q	V	C	I	E	Q
C	A	P	O	S	T	L	E	S	D	R	U

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## Word Search Answers

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G Q S P T S S O C C M V  
A Q W A C V P W K A V P  
G F V T I Q V I Q P U R  
H U M I L I T Y R T N O  
L O V E L N X A J I I P  
D F E N N L L C W V T H  
T E A C H E R S Q E Y E  
W S H E P H E R D S P T  
T L G E N T L E N E S S  
I K M Q L T C M V D U F  
P E A C E K Q V C I E Q  
C A P O S T L E S D R U