



# EVERYONE MATTERS – IN GOD’S FAMILY WE EACH HAVE AN IMPORTANT JOB TO DO

## BIG IDEA

*God’s family the church is like a body – all the parts are important and have special jobs to do.*

### PREP *(Kids can help!)*

**Buy** a packet of licorice allsorts (or jelly beans)

**Write** on post-it notes the main body parts such as head, neck, torso, arm, hand, leg, foot. (If you have more children include two legs and two arms)

**Find** a couple of fabric ties, tea towels or rope to tie legs together.

**Get** a piece of A4 paper each and some colouring pencils

**Optional activity:** Find a ballpoint pen that you can take apart. Remove the spring from it. Reassemble the pen without the spring but keep it somewhere handy

**Put everything into the Faith Box before you start**

### INTRO

Do you know that God says each of us has a special place in his family? No one else is the same as us and no one else has the same special gifts and talents as we do. We all need each other so that the family of God, the church, works really well.

The Bible calls the church “Jesus’ body”.

A body works best if all our limbs are strong – so we need to ask God to give us strength to be who he made us to be. That means if we are a neck, we shouldn’t want to be a foot or a head; instead we can decide to be the very best neck that we can be. God wants us to use the special talents and gifts he has given us to help others. In fact that’s what makes the family of God so interesting. We are like a big packet of jelly beans or licorice allsorts.



*TAKE OUT THE POST-IT NOTES WITH THE BODY PARTS WRITTEN ON THEM and stick a body part name on everyone. Get everyone to read out their body part before you start the challenge.*

*Now get everyone to find the two body parts that they should connect to, and link arms with those family members.*

*A proper connection would be head to neck, neck to torso, arms to torso, etc. Not head to leg or arm to leg! While still connected, finish by trying to sit down in the order a body would sit down. (Torso, neck, head, arms, hands, legs, feet.)*

*If you have time you can play it again by mixing up the stick-it notes and trying it with a new combination.*

*It is amazing how our bodies are designed so that all the parts work together to help the other parts get somewhere or do a job. If one bit like your legs doesn't work properly there's a problem. What might happen when you try to race through an obstacle course without the full use of your legs?*

## GAME

### **OBSTACLE COURSE (WITH A DIFFERENCE)**

*SET UP AN OBSTACLE COURSE WITH THE CHILDREN'S HELP. It should include things to climb under, around and over. It could be the dining table to climb under, a chair to go around and a sofa to climb along.*

*Everyone has a turn at doing the obstacle course while you time them.*

*Now each person is tied up around the legs (using the rope or tea towels) and they must do the obstacle course without the proper use of their legs.*

*The person who gets the best time while tied up gets to choose a licorice allsort (or jelly bean) and then hands them around to everyone else.*

*Come back to the table.*

## EXPLORE

(optional)

**Now here are some facts and figures about our bodies. Do you think they are true or false?**

*Children bang the table with their hand if the statement is true. Or fold their arms if they think it is false!*

### **True or False, Body Quiz**

- In one day, a human body sheds 10 billion skin flakes. That adds up to about 2kg per year.
- Every square inch of the human body has about 19 million skin cells.
- Every hour 1 billion cells in the body must be replaced.
- The human body makes anywhere from 600mls to nearly 2 litres of saliva every 24 hours.
- The width of your arm span stretched out is the length of your whole body.
- As well as having unique fingerprints, humans also have unique tongue prints.
- The left side of your body is controlled by the right side of your brain while the right side of your body is controlled by the left side of your brain.
- Your nose and ears continue growing throughout your entire life.

(All these statements are true!)

## QUESTIONS

Do you have any special jobs you do as part of your family?

Does your family have any special jobs you do as part of your church?

What are some of the things we do in this family that we might think are small and insignificant but actually help the family work together?

What are some of the things we do in our church that we might think are insignificant but actually help the church work together?

God gives us gifts and talents and we can practice using them even when we are young. Some have a special gift of faith when they pray, and some have a gift of getting people to work together and some have a gift of helping others, some are musical and some are good at teaching others. But the main thing is that we enjoy doing the task God has given us.

### **OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: THE BALLPOINT PEN**

*TAKE OUT THE BALLPOINT pen and ask everyone what they think the most important part of it is.*

*Then let them try writing with it.*

*Explain that it does not work because a small part is missing – bring out the spring and put it back into the pen. Let them use it again to show that it works now. The spring may seem small and unimportant, but the pen cannot work without it!*

**Everyone have another licorice allsort as you read.**

## READ

☞ The body has many parts not just one part. If the foot says, “I’m not a part of the body because I am not a hand,” that does not make it any less a part of the body. And what would you think if you heard an ear say, “I am not a part of the body because I am only an ear and not an eye?” ... Suppose the whole body were an eye – then how would you hear? Or if the whole body were just one big ear how could you smell anything? But that isn’t the way God has made us. He has made many parts for our bodies and has put each part just where he wants it. What a strange thing a body would be if it had only one part!

*1 Corinthians 12:12-31; TLB*

God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, then prophesy whenever you can – as often as your faith is strong enough to receive a message from God. If your gift is that of serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, do a good job of teaching. If you are a preacher, see to it that your sermons are strong and helpful. If God has given you money, be generous in helping others, take the responsibility seriously. Those who offer comfort to the sorrowing should do so with Christian cheer. ☞

*Romans 12:6-13*

Let’s think about each person in our family. Can you think of any special talents that Daddy has, that Mummy has, that Jamie has, that Sarah has that could be used by God to help his body the church?

For example Jamie is really good at music, so maybe he could help with the worship one day. Sarah is really good at helping people who are sad, Mummy is really good at organising things.

Let's all think about each person and how they might contribute to the church. Sarah is good at dancing and maybe she could use that for God, or is really good with little children and maybe could help with the crèche.

## PRAY

*Pray around the family for each other.* Thank you God that \_\_\_\_\_ is really good at \_\_\_\_\_. Help her to use these talents to serve you.

## LIVE

*Make a chain of paper dolls by taking a sheet of A4 paper for each person. Fold it in concertina form into four. Now cut out a figure (like a little person), so when unfolded the four people are connected. Get the children to colour one as themselves, and then the others they are connected to; people in their church or their family who are other parts of Christ's body.*

## FAITHBOARD



## OTHER IDEAS

**1** Find a photo of a family member in which their whole body fills the photo and then cut it up so the different parts of the body become different jigsaw pieces to fit together. Place the pieces in an envelope. Hand out pieces to each person around the table until all are distributed. Take turns putting a piece in the centre, fitting it with other pieces already there. As you place your piece tell everyone something important what this particular part of the body does.

**2** Watch the movie Toy Story or A Bug's Life. Talk about who was needed and how each character had a part to play.

**3** Sing "Heads, shoulders, knees and toes" – then try singing it without saying "heads" but instead pointing to your head. Try again singing "heads" and "shoulders" etc. See how fast you can sing it!

