



Date: _____
Series: Holy Spirit Blaze
Summer Year 1, Lesson 4

The Holy Spirit Equips Us to Serve

Take Home Point: *The Holy Spirit equips us to serve. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 14-19, 27

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:11, "There is only one Spirit who does all these things by giving what God wants to give to each person."

We will help kids know:

- The Holy Spirit gives each person unique gifts to serve others.
- We need each other so the church can function well.
- Our spiritual gifts are used to build people up in Christ.




We will help kids feel:

- Privileged that God counts us worthy to serve him.
- Empowered to make a difference.

We will help kids do:

- Work together to complete a pathway.
- Decorate a puzzle piece with words and pictures illustrating a spiritual gift.
- Fill out an inventory sheet of spiritual gifts they feel they have been given.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids do a pathway challenge where one person in a triad will be the hand, one the eyes, and one the mouth. Together they try to complete the pathway.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “pathways”—one set per triad (<i>p. 12-14</i>) pencils blindfold—one for each triad
Large Group 	5 8 10	Overview Teaching Point: 1 Corinthians 12:7-14 is discussed as a bow is placed on the head of kids who may have been given the mentioned gifts. Kids help demonstrate the concepts in 1 Corinthians 12:14-19 about the different body parts and how they are all important for the body to function.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> coach's outfit: a baseball cap, whistle and a t-shirt or jersey with—HOLY SPIRIT BLAZE on it five gift wrap bows old linen sheet with holes cut out to reveal body parts (<i>or poster board with a hole</i>)
Small Group Application 	5	From a list of spiritual gifts, kids find pictures and words to illustrate a particular gift and glue them onto a puzzle piece. When all the puzzle pieces are put together, it resembles the shape of a church.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> puzzle pieces to form a church shape, made <u>in advance</u> out of cardstock (<i>see appendix p. 15</i>) old newspapers and magazines scissors glue spiritual gift inventory (<i>one per student p. 11</i>) pencils

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Summertime Options

Easier Summer Option: Instead of having kids in small groups with an assigned shepherd, the kids can meet all together and divide themselves into triads (groups of three). This allows for larger ratios between students and shepherds. Shepherds will monitor the kids' activity as needed by roaming from group to group. The questions and directions for all the kids and their groups are by the large group presenter. If this is used, go to the introduction of large group to introduce the main character used in this series.

Regular Shepherd Option: Do the Warm-Up activity as a small group. If you like, you can still divide into triads within your small group. This helps each child participate more.

Supplies:

- *“pathways”—one set per triad*
- *pencils*
- *blindfold—one per triad*

Pathway Challenge

As the kids enter, the large group presenter, who is dressed as a coach, blows his whistle and gives the following directions.

In each one of your triads, two people need to sit on the floor with their backs to each other and three feet apart. The third person needs to kneel so he/she can see one person and be close enough to whisper directions to the other person.

Each one of you will have a special role in the activity. One person is the “hands” and will be blindfolded, but will need to have the pencil. This person will be given a piece of paper that has a pathway on it. His/her responsibility is to draw a line in the middle of the pathway. This may be a bit difficult since he/she will not be able to see it. This is where our next person comes in.

The person kneeling will be the “eyes.” He/she can see where the hand is placing the line. He/she will whisper directions as to how the pathway can be completed to the “mouth.”

The “mouth” is the third person. He/she must repeat the directions out loud so the “hand” knows where to draw his/her line.

Let’s get into position and blindfold the “hand.” “Eyes,” pick up one of the pathways and place it in the hands of the “hand.” Give him/her a pencil.

“Eyes” begin whispering directions to the mouth having the “hand” start from the bottom of the pathway to the top. Remember, only the “mouth” can speak the directions out loud. Work slowly to try and stay within the lines of the path.

Let’s begin.

After a few minutes or after kids are successful, have them switch roles.

Change positions. Once again, when the “hand” is blindfolded, the “eyes” will give the “hand” the pathway and pencil. Are we ready? Begin.

Do this one more time so everyone in the triad has a chance to try each position. The presenter will blow his whistle to get everyone’s attention when the activity is finished.

Have kids sit down with their triad to discuss the following questions. Give them one question to discuss at a time. After a minute, go on to the next question.

What was hard about working together and doing this activity?

How did your team get better with practice?

Each person share the part you liked doing the most.

What could the “eyes” or only the “hands” or only the “mouth” do if they had to work alone?

Wrap Up Questions

Today we will learn how each one of us has special gifts that the Holy Spirit gives us. Using these special gifts, we work together as the body of Christ.

****The Holy Spirit equips us to serve by giving us gifts like abilities and talents that we use to serve others.***

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Teaching Point: 1 Corinthians 12:7-14 is discussed as a bow is placed on the head of kids who may have been given the mentioned gifts.

Kids help demonstrate the concepts in 1 Corinthians 12:14-19 about the different body parts and how they are all important for the body to function.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 in their Bibles. You may have one or more read these verses out loud while the rest follow along.

There are many different gifts, but who gives the gifts? (*The Holy Spirit.*)

What are the purposes of the gifts given to each person? (*Verse 7, for the common good of everyone.*)

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

1 Corinthians 12:27 says, “*You are Christ’s body and each of you is an individual part of it.*” When a person believes in Jesus as his Lord and Savior, he becomes a part of the body of Christ. Just like all the different parts of our physical body work together, so the whole body functions properly. Many parts of Christ’s body are meant to each be different but work together for the whole.

The Holy Spirit gives each of us a unique gift. These gifts can be used to help the whole church work together to serve others. Just like the key verse from 1 Corinthians 12:11 says, “*There is only one Spirit who does all these things by giving what God wants to give to each person.*”

Application Activity:

Supplies:

- *puzzle pieces made from card stock paper (one unique puzzle piece per triad. See instructions on p.) MAKE IN ADVANCE.*
- *inventory page—one for each kid*
- *pencils*
- *newspapers and magazines to cut out words and pictures*
- *glue*
- *scissors*

Give each student an inventory page and read through the list of different gifts with them. Then say:

These are gifts of serving that the Holy Spirit gives. Your triad is to pick one of these from the list. Use the magazines and newspapers to cut out words and pictures to illustrate the gift of service you have chosen.

I will also give you a puzzle piece to write the name of the gift and to glue all of the words and pictures that you find to illustrate it. I will give you ten minutes to work.

After ten minutes, blow the whistle.

Look at the back of your puzzle piece and find the number. When I call your number, bring your puzzle piece up to the front and we will assemble the puzzle.



Put the puzzle together and it should be a picture of a church.

Then direct the kids to look at the inventory sheet again.

What gift do you think you might have? Check one, two or three things that you think might be a gift of yours. Don't show it to your group. Let's see if the members of your triad can guess which ones you have marked.

Allow time for each person to complete the inventory and share with each other.

As a triad, I would like you to pray that each one of you would use your gifts to build one another up in Christ. Also, pray that more people would come to know, love and follow Jesus because of you serving with the gifts the Holy Spirit has given you.

Closing Prayer:

Let kids pray for each other to use the gift God has given them to serve others. Then conclude by thanking God for giving us all different and unique gifts to work together in serving him and others.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

The character for this series is dressed in a coach's outfit including a baseball cap and whistle. Across the presenter's t-shirt or jersey is the team's name—HOLY SPIRIT BLAZE. This could be as simple as taping the words to the t-shirt or as elaborate as painting them on. The coach is a visual reminder of the Holy Spirit as one who teaches and coaches us. His/her name is Coach Philip/Phyllis Widaspirit. (Saying the first and last name together will sound like "fill up with the Spirit" or "fill us with the Spirit.")

Supplies needed:

- *five gift wrap bows (sticky on the bottom so they will stick on kids' heads)*
- *old linen sheet with holes*

Introduction of Philip (or Phyllis) Widaspirit

I want to welcome each of you back to training camp again this week. I am Coach Widaspirit. Once again we are being filled with the Holy Spirit. Today we will learn about the gifts and talents the Holy Spirit gives us to help us serve others.

When we understand the gifts and talents we have been given, our team will really be "BLAZIN."

There Are Different Gifts but Only One Giver of These Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:4-5 says, "*There are different spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, and yet the same Lord is served.*" Each one of us has spiritual gifts that are unique and different. The Holy Spirit has given these spiritual gifts to us. He chooses what gifts to give.

The purpose of the gifts is to build one another up in Christ. In 1 Corinthians 12:7 we read, "*The evidence of the Spirit's presence is given to each person for the common good of everyone.*"

The reason we are given spiritual gifts is not so we look good, but, rather, the gifts are used to help others grow in their relationship with Christ. Our bodies are made up of many different parts, just like the church. The different gifts that the Holy Spirit gives us make up these many different parts of the church body. The entire church body benefits when we use our spiritual gifts.

Samples of the Gifts—1 Corinthians 12:8-10

Have the gift wrap bows available for this next section. When referring to the different gifts, place a bow on different kids who possibly may have that gift.

There are many gifts listed in the Bible. These gifts are listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. I am going to try to help you understand what just a few of those gifts are.

First of all, is there anyone here who can tell me a way we could help the senior citizens in our church? Does anyone have an idea?

Take an audience response.

It is possible that you have the gift of wisdom.

Place a bow on this kid's head.

Faith is another gift. Who is willing to pray with faith and believe that God can do a mighty thing right here in bringing more kids to church to meet Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior?

Allow kids to respond.

If you believe God can do big things, you might have the gift of faith.

Place a bow on the head of the person who responded. *It is all right if no one responds, because all the gifts may not be present in this room.*

Who knows how to help someone who has a stomachache?

Allow someone to respond.

You might have the gift of healing, especially if you have a heart that is very sensitive to hurting people. This bow is for you.

Place the next bow on his/her head.

Giving medicine heals in a natural way. Do you believe that God can heal in supernatural ways? Yes.

Who would love to pray for someone who is sick and see him/her miraculously cured?

Allow kids to respond and place a bow on his/her head.

Sometimes this gift is seen when a person has the special ability to pray and God does miraculous things.

Another gift is prophecy. Prophecy means you tell others what God has told you. It could be a prediction of what will happen in the future, but often it is what God wants done in a certain situation. This bow will be put on someone who is really listening carefully to God.

Is there anyone here who has ever stopped and really listened to God?

Allow kids to respond and place the bow on this person's head.

Maybe you have this gift!

Body Parts—1 Corinthians 12:14-20

This section of 1 Corinthians will be read as body parts are depicted in one of two ways. The first is to use a linen sheet with holes in it as four kids are lined up behind the sheet showing the various body parts through the holes as mentioned. For example, two eye holes for eyes that someone looks through, and holes for a foot, hand and an ear. Two additional helpers are needed to hold the sheet up.

If this seems too complicated, a large piece of paper or poster board with a hole in it could be used. This would be moved around one kid to highlight the different body parts.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-20. As you do, point out the different body parts mentioned.

1 Corinthians 12:14-19 says, “As you know, the human body is not made up of only one part, but of many parts. Suppose a FOOT says, ‘I’m not a HAND, so I’m not part of the body!’ Would that mean it’s no longer part of the body? Or suppose as EAR says, ‘I’m not an eye, so I’m not a part of the body!’ Would that mean it’s no longer part of the body? If the whole body were an EYE, how could it hear? If the whole body were an EAR, how could it smell? So, God put each and every part of the body together as he wanted it. How could it be a body if it only had one part? So there are many parts but one body.”

Conclusion:

Kids return to their triads or go back to small groups to continue with the application.

The Holy Spirit Equips Us to Serve

This is a list of gifts that the Holy Spirit gives us so we might serve others.

_____ **Encouragement:** the ability to encourage others

_____ **Knowledge:** explaining truths about God

_____ **Wisdom:** understanding what the Bible says

_____ **Evangelism:** talking to others about Jesus

_____ **Prayer:** praying for others

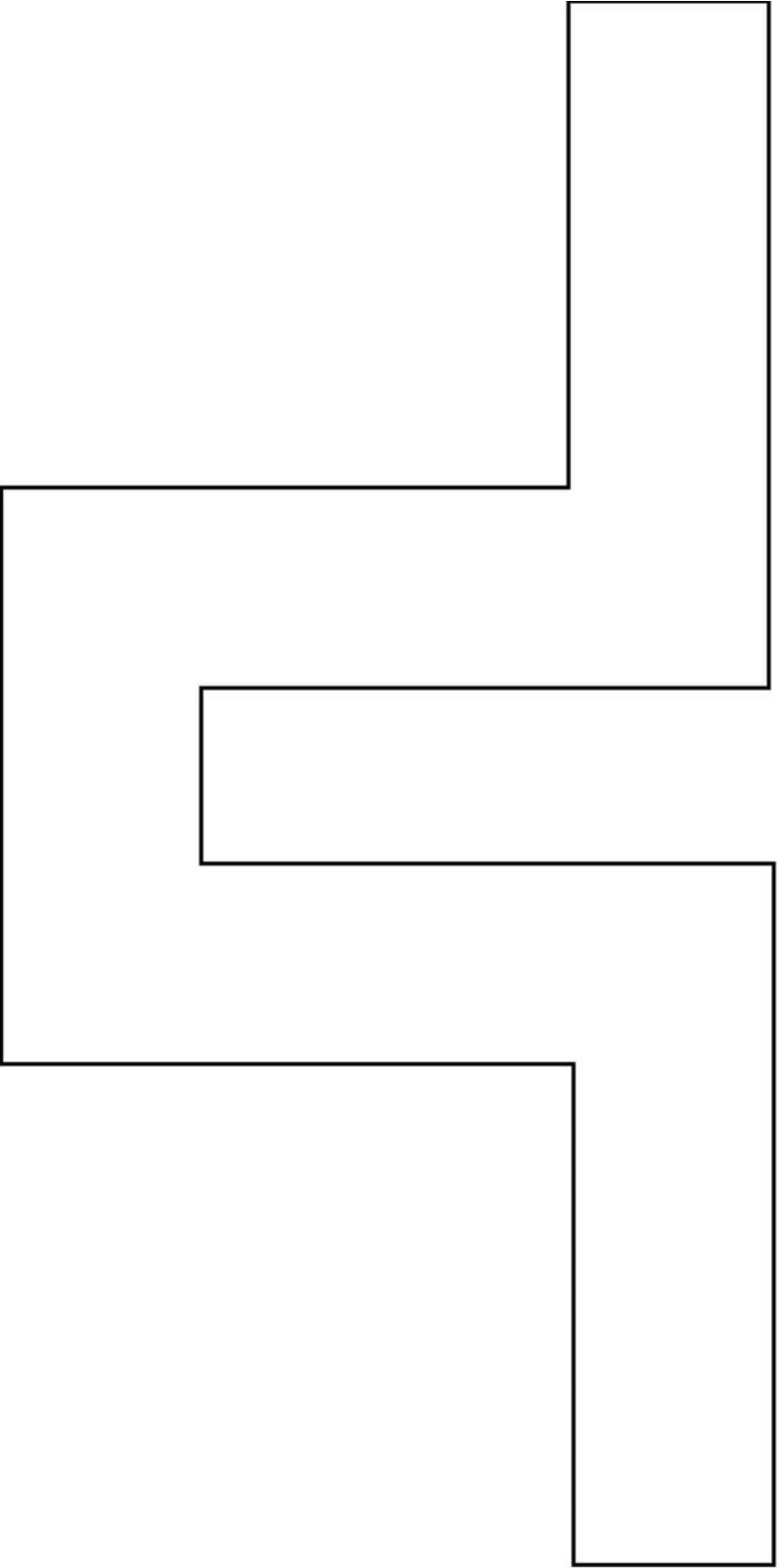
_____ **Leadership:** leading groups of people

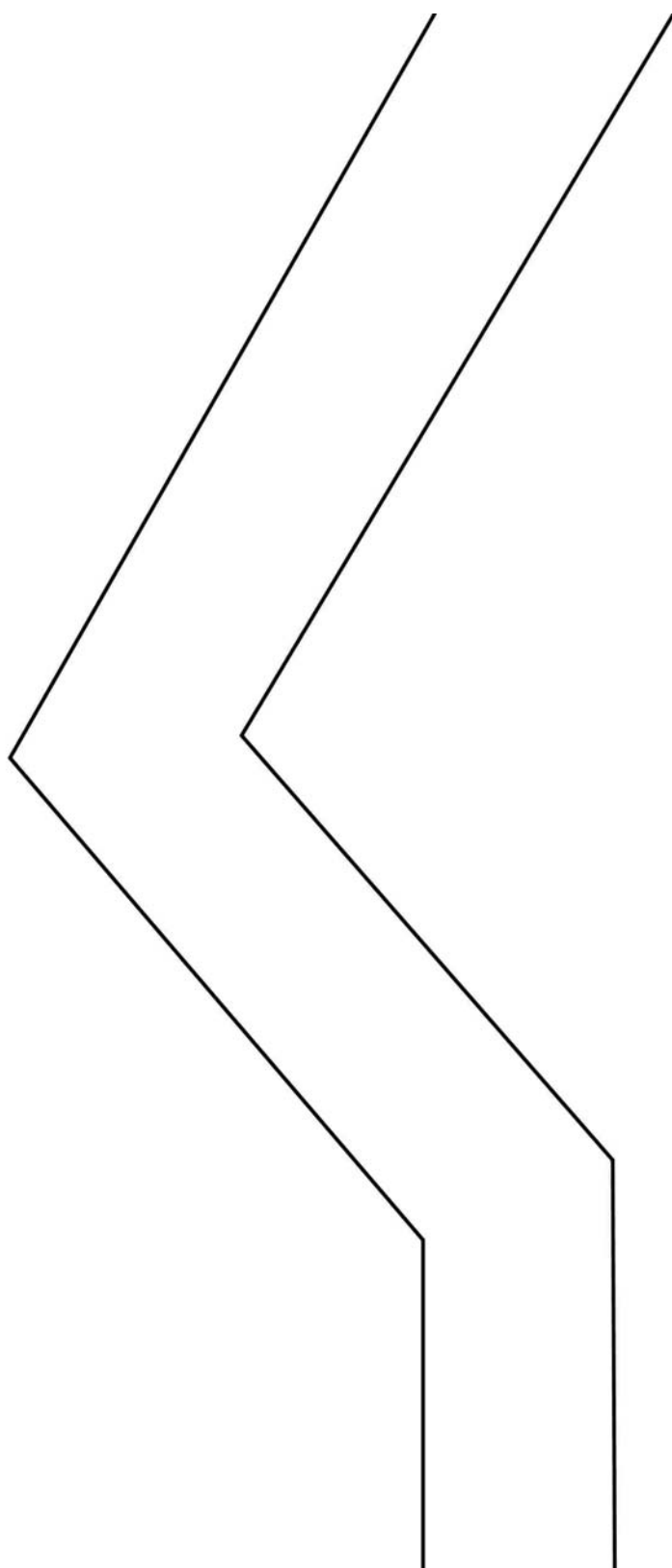
_____ **Helps:** helping people feel included

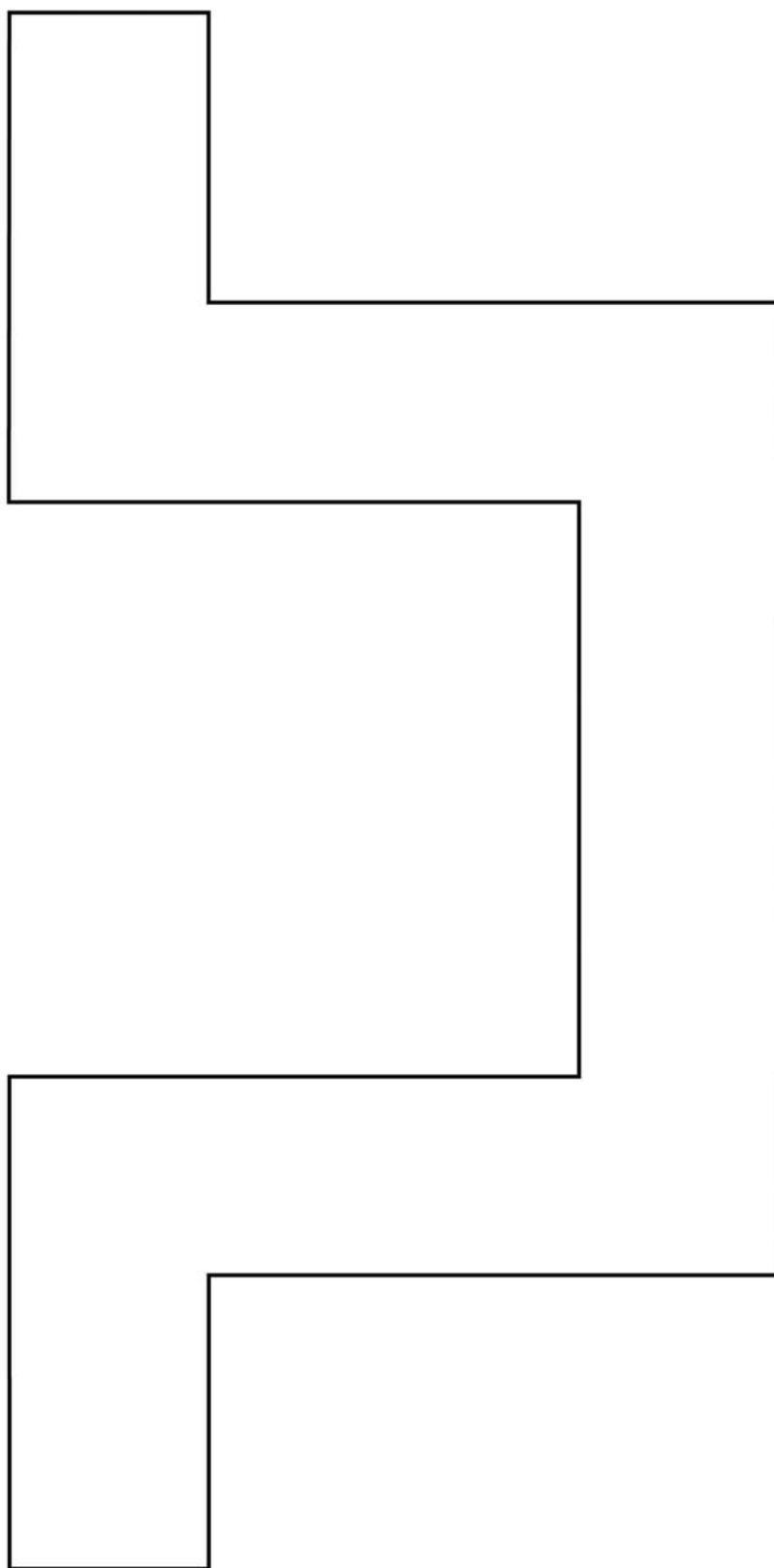
_____ **Compassion:** caring for someone who is hurting

_____ **Generosity:** giving to others

_____ **Exhortation:** helping steer others back to God







Instructions for making the small group application puzzle pieces:

Take several pieces of cardstock. Lay them on a table or floor and make them look like a church. Take a stack of pre-cut circles and place them randomly along the inner edges of each puzzle piece and tape. Using these circles as patterns, cut the half circle out of its neighboring piece, creating the look of a jigsaw puzzle. Place numbers on the back of each puzzle piece. Mix up the pieces and have them available for the application activity. Also make a cross out of the cardstock.

