



THE SABBATH CIRCLES HOME SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Unit Theme: Illumination of mind and heart

Lesson connected to Sunday, January 26, 2020

Today's Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 27-31

Key Verse: “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.” 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Contexts of the Scripture:

- 1 Corinthians is one of the letters Paul wrote to a church he founded after members of the group reached out to him regarding several matters over which there was a dispute within the group.
- It was written in approximately 54CE, which means it is older than the oldest Gospel Mark.
- This congregation was predominantly Gentile, not Jewish as many of the other early church gatherings were. This meant the people had no real education in matters of faith and little acquaintance with the God of Israel.
- Scholars believe this is the second letter Paul wrote to the church in Corinth even though tradition has it as the first. It is believed the first letter was lost, along with the letters to Paul asking for him to settle disputes and clarify theological matters

Questions to go deeper:

- What does Paul list as the “manifestations” or gifts of the Spirit in verses 8-10? Would you add anything to his list? What? Why?
- What do you think Paul means when he says in verse 27: “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it”?
- This is followed by Paul’s list of functions within the church. What are they? Do any surprise you? Why? How do you see these functions as present, or not, in our church?
- Paul ends this text by saying, “...strive for the greater gifts and I will show you a still more excellent way.” What do you think the greater gifts might be? Are they part of his list or something else? What do you see as possibilities for the “still more excellent way” Paul articulates?

Activity possibilities:

- **Family activities:**
 - Where would this fall on the bible timeline? Hint: Check out the context info above!

- Take a large piece of white paper and fold it in half lengthwise so you end up with two columns. Then work together to make a list of Paul's spiritual gifts as he describes them in the left hand column. Then, in the right hand column, re-write Paul's list in words that make sense to you. Repeat this with the second list of church roles Paul makes in verses 28 – Paul's roles in the left hand column and the same list in your own words on the right.
 - Find a copy of our People Plan for 2020. Then compare it to Paul's two lists. How do Paul's lists line up with what we do in our church? Who can you think of in our church who possesses the gifts and carries out the roles Paul describes?
 - Pull out a recent family portrait of your family. Who in your family possesses any of Paul's gifts? How are they being put to use in your family, in the church, in the community?
- **Younger children activities:**
 - Check out some wonderful crafts for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit on [pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com).
 - **Older children and youth activities:**
 - Learn more about Paul and the ancient city of Corinth in this youtube.com video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jiRM_FEqJmI

Remember, Rev. Ruth is always happy to answer your questions and help you find more information on anything in the Bible that interests you! Catch up with her through the church or come to the Savoy Bookstore and Café any Thursday afternoon between 2-4pm.