

middle school



Lesson 1 / June 5, 2022

God's Team

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1



Lesson 1 Focus:

Spiritual gifts help us be a part of God's team.

Lesson 1 Bible Basis:

1 Corinthians 12:4-5

Lesson 1 Memory Verse:

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.
—1 Corinthians 12:4-5

Students will explore what types of skills are required to be a team member and how their spiritual gifts can help as part of God's team.

Materials:

- Whiteboard (or screenshared document)
- Dry erase markers

Prior to group time, write the words, "GO TEAM!" on a whiteboard. Supply markers so students (as they join your group time today), can write down the teams that they are a part of. (If your class is meeting online, write their team suggestions on the screenshared document.)

As students gather around the whiteboard, remind them that teams are far more than sports, although sports teams are great team experiences. Some examples of other teams may be: school sponsored clubs, church groups (youth group included), student government, National Honor Society or other academic clubs, band, choir, etc. Invite students to be creative and see how many different teams they can come up with and write down on the board.

Ask:

➤ **What makes you an important part of the teams you represent?** (Answers will vary. Depending on the teams represented, athletic, musical, or academic skills will be high on the list. In addition, skills such as leadership, enthusiasm, loyalty, honesty, reliability, communication, etc. are an important part of every team.)

➤ **Why is it important to have all of these skills represented on a team?** (Answers will vary. Help students to see that if everyone was skilled as a quarterback and no one was skilled as a receiver or a linebacker, the team would be in trouble. If the team lacks any of the skills mentioned in the last question, it weakens their position.)

Read this story out loud to your students:

"The Great Rift Valley is home to many of the iconic animals of the African savannah...This beautiful area is also home to the Maasai tribe, an indigenous group of shepherds and livestock herders that's inhabited the Great Rift Valley for over 500 years.

Tribal culture and tribal religion run deep in this nomadic group, so though Christian missionaries have been sharing the gospel with the Maasai for more than 150 years, it is only in the recent past that some have responded. Today, more than 40% of the Maasai are Christians and follow the Shepherd who died to save them.

One of the David Caleb Cook Foundation’s church partners has established churches in the Great Rift Valley, with some strong congregations of faithful followers of Jesus. But while many adults attend church, most of the children are left in the fields watching the herds or are considered unready to learn what it means to be a Christian. Though DCCF’s denominational partner has been trying to establish children’s ministry in this critical area, they haven’t met with success.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, the foundation’s Africa coordinator, Serah, recently traveled to this remote region to train ministry leaders to serve the children of the Maasai community—and God, in His faithfulness, opened new opportunities for ministry.”

➤ **Who were some of the different people who worked together to bring children’s ministry to the Maasai tribe?** (Local denominational church partners; Serah the Africa Coordinator; donors who funded her work; God.)

In this story, we saw an example of different people coming together to accomplish God’s work in the Maasai tribe—local church partners near the Great Rift Valley who began evangelizing to the Maasai tribe, Serah the Africa Coordinator who led training, and donors who funded her work and the materials she provided.

Just as working together on a sports team requires a variety of skills, working together with our various spiritual gifts makes us stronger as the Body of Christ. Let’s take a further look at this concept.

Story Source:

<https://www.davidcalebcook.org/2021/12/09/gods-word-for-the-great-rift-valley/>

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher’s guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

God's Team

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STEP 4 

Lesson 1**Focus:**

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Lesson 1**Bible Basis:**

1 Corinthians 12:4-5

Lesson 1**Memory Verse:**

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Materials:

- Index cards
- Pens/pencils

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring index cards and pens/pencils to class.

The Bible has many passages about teamwork. Some are related to the body and how its parts work together (1 Corinthians 12:12-27). Other passages, such as today's lesson Scripture (1 Corinthians 12:4-5), look specifically at spiritual gifts and how the same Lord distributes them even though the gifts themselves are different.

We've explored the spiritual gifts God gives us as part of His team. It is important to discover what spiritual gift or gifts you have been given and then use those for the team—otherwise, the team isn't all it can be. But before you can discover and utilize your spiritual gifts, you need to know for sure you're *on* His team.

Joining God's team is the best decision you will ever make. Hand out index cards and pens or pencils. Have students find a spot in the room (or at home) where they can think and write about when they became part of God's team. If they know a date, they can record that or they can write about where they were and how they felt. Then, on the other side of their index cards, invite students to write about what talents, spiritual gifts, and strengths they bring to God's team.

If a student has yet to join God's team, encourage them to come up to you after class or later this week and ask you for more information on how to receive Christ as Savior. Instructions for leading a student to Christ can be found on the inside cover of the teacher's manual. Students may also want to talk with a pastor or parent or guardian about this matter.

Continue by inviting students to think about a spiritual gift they may have been given by God. Students don't need to share this information with others, but have them write down one gift they believe they have been given and how they might be letting down their team by not using what God has given. Have them make a plan to intentionally use their spiritual gift this week.

As they think and write, have them listen to this music video [3:18]:

Great to be on God's Team Lyrics

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xd7Uk8DZVmU>

Regroup, and if time permits, replay the music video clip and sing along. The song is catchy and fun. Allow students to stand for the singing of this song and invite them to be engaged in the music by clapping and joining in where actions are invited.

Close in prayer thanking God for being a dependable Coach we all can lean on this week.

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