

## **Session Six**

### *My Role in the Church*

Essential Question: How can I use my talents and abilities to serve God?

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Materials or technology that may be helpful: Paper and pencil, tool box with regular tools plus a whisk, wooden spoon, pen, ruler and Bible.

As you begin this session, open the tool box. Pull out a tool, such as the hammer. Ask your child how this tool could be used by God and who might use it. Is your child surprised by the whisk, ruler, or Bible?

We expect pastors, elders and Bible study teachers to serve at church, but God has given each of us **gifts and talents** to glorify Him.

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

As a part of the church, God wants all believers to use their gifts and abilities to help others learn about Him. This pleases God. He also wants us to have a cheerful heart when we serve, and we should not expect anything in return.

What does your child do well?. Ask and explain that these are their gifts and talents. Have them use their paper and pencil to make a list. You can also tell them what you have noticed to be their God-given talents.

Jesus served others by feeding the hungry, healing the sick and blind, washing feet, and most importantly, forgiving our sin when we repent and ask Him. Jesus served people because He loved the Father and because He wanted us to know Him and ultimately to be a part of His family forever.

Once your child has identified gifts and talents, you want to help them identify ways that they can become involved in using their gifts both inside and outside of the church.

Some followers are really good at singing while others are good at teaching. Some have the gift of encouragement; some are prayer warriors or play a musical instrument well. There are also gifts of teaching, preaching, leading games, cleaning, organizing, acting, drawing, or serving others. Whatever our gifts, God has called us to use them to serve Him and to point others to Jesus.

Let's say your child has the ability to sing or play a musical instrument. Ask them how they would use that talent at church. What about in the community?

Examples: They could help **lead worship** for our Sunday morning Kids classes by playing the guitar. They could teach a friend to sing a song.

Continue discussing the different types of gifts and how they can use them both inside and outside of church.

**Encouragement** - sit with the new student, write them a letter to **encourage** or even introduce that student to friends.

**Service** - Assist the teacher in passing our snack or supplies. Serve during Reach Week, Room in the Inn, VBS, or the Single Mother's Oil Change. Help to restock the food pantry, donate clothes to Foster Love, help an elderly neighbor, wash dishes, or fold clothes.

**Prayer** - Write down all the prayer requests from their class and commit to pray for them during the week. They can join our current prayer initiative to pray for all of our local elementary schools.

**Sharing our faith** - This is a great way to serve God. Sharing your faith story. Your child can speak at their school FCA club, or help start a club.

**Teach** - They can help a classmate/friend learn how to use their Bible. Other ways include: explaining a math problem at school, teaching your friend a song, or showing a younger child how to tie their shoe.

**Help**- Assist an elderly neighbor by getting their mail or walking their dog. Sitting with them or committing to check on them from time to time are great ways to show Christ's love.

Identify some ways that you and your child or family can use your spiritual gifts, both inside and outside of the church this week.

There are just so many ways that we can love God and serve others. You are never too young to make a difference by using your gifts and talents for God.