

The Body of Christ

Theme: God's Gym

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Primary Teacher's Manual

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The Big and Small of It

by Shannon Wilpitz

I never cease to be amazed by how small God is. Yes, I know I said small. Yes, I am talking about the God who alone created and completely fills the universe and beyond with the expanse of His greatness. That also amazes me. However, I find it even more amazing that this vast, limitless, unfathomable God is small enough to ride in my two-door car, squeeze into a crowded hospital room, and sit in a child's classroom. My God wants to be with me wherever I am. Not only does He want to be with me, but He wants to dwell in me! When I consider this whole world, my heart is quite possibly the smallest little space in it, but that is the very space that Jesus willingly gave His life to occupy.

This quarter, help students understand that the body of Christ is not the physical body Jesus had when He was born. It is the church—not the physical building, but the body of believers who have Christ's Spirit living inside of them. Born-again Christians are the body of Christ. We are His hands, feet, heart,

and mouth to this world. We are unique and unified members of His body. As the head of this church body, Jesus guides our every step. He is our mind, our vision, and our purpose.

Heaven is His throne. Earth is His footstool. His words spoke the universe into existence, and He holds the power of life and death in His hands. So how big is God? I cannot give you an adequate answer. How small is God? That I can tell you! He is small enough to dwell in man, and He is small enough to meet us wherever we are—in a prayer room, in a hospital room, in a jail cell, in a lion's den, in a pit, in a storm, in a battle, in a bedroom, in a courtroom, and in a classroom. God is here!

Sincerely,

Shannon Wilpitz

CUSTOMIZE THE CURRICULUM

The Primary Teacher's Manual is now available as PDF and DOC documents that can be customized to fit your teaching style, classroom setting, and schedule. Cut and paste, edit material out of or into the lesson, and make it your own using the following instructions.

Downloadable resources for both the teacher's manual and the teacher's resource packet (TRP) are available through access codes.

Downloadable Resources

1. Visit www.pentecostalpublishing.com to access the download site.
2. If you are an existing customer, click the *Sign In* icon to log in to your account. If you are a new user, click the *Create an Account* icon to open an account for the site.
3. Enter in the Search bar to find the appropriate download.
4. Click on the item to access the product detail page.
5. Click the *Add to Cart* button.
6. In the checkout process on the Order Summary page, enter in the Coupon box and click *Update Cart* to apply the coupon.
7. Complete the order process to access the download options. These downloads will be available until July 1, 2017.

8. Once the order is complete, you will see a screen with the item listed and a button with the name of the resource. Click on this button to download the resource.
9. You may also access the download from the *My Account* button and look under the *My History* section to see your orders and find the appropriate download button there to obtain the resource.

Teacher's Resource Packet Downloadable Resources

To access the reproducible items from the resource packet (TRP), see the resource packet instruction sheet. If you have not purchased a packet, you can do so by going to www.pentecostalpublishing.com or calling 866-819-7667.

Theme Development

God's Gym

Summer is here and it is time to hit the gym, God's Gym that is. Not to worry your dues have already been paid and membership is guaranteed by none other than the founder Himself, Jesus Christ. He is head of operations. When it comes to making a healthy, happy, and strong body, you could say He wrote the book on it. He has promised to give us personal, one-on-one training. All we have to do is accept, and then we are on our way to becoming just like Him.

Whether you have past experience or have never stepped foot inside a gym, Jesus has a plan for you. So make the decision to join God's Gym today. It will change your life!

Room Decoration

Based on the size of your room(s) and the number of students typically in attendance, it may be necessary to limit decorations to the walls or bulletin boards to reserve floor space for students and class activities. For this reason, decorations have been divided into two categories: basic and three-dimensional. Please keep in mind that not all 3-D suggestions require a great deal of space. So even if you are mainly interested in basic decorations, there may be something in the 3-D section that would work in your room.

Basics

Basic decorating includes covering each wall in the classroom with white butcher paper and using an overhead projector and transparencies from the resource packet to transfer the desired scenes. Once the drawings have been transferred to the walls, enlist some help and start painting.

One option is to use painters drop cloths with a thin plastic backing, which can be purchased in eight-foot widths. Cover the walls with the drop cloths, place transferred scenes on top, and paint. The drop cloths provide protection from paint seepage. In addition, these are easily folded and stored for later use. If you live in a humid area or teach in a basement, be aware that mold and dampness could form behind the plastic.

Another option, which saves time but is more costly, is to use colored art paper—blues for skies and seas, browns for mountains and sands, greens for grass and trees, and gray for buildings and roads. Some art supply stores have paper with cloud designs already printed on them.

Teaching Wall

This is the wall with the writing board where you teach the Bible lesson. Remember to keep all important items at the students' eye level. Anything higher than the writing board should simply be for show, not for interaction or teaching. Mount the Kids in Missions map to this wall as a reminder to pray for our missionaries.

Wall 1: Membership Information

Using the provided God's Gym poster (TRP), cut out the logo and center it on the wall. To the left of the gym logo, mount the Membership Information banner (TRP). Using the

Are you running short on time? Find a senior saint, teenager, or parent who wants to help, and ask them to make copies and cut out items for lessons.

Tip: Reduce wall ideas to a bulletin board should shared spaces prohibit the use of entire walls.

provided transparencies (TRP), create the four starbursts out of bright paper and mount them below the banner. To the right of the gym logo, mount the Members Sign-in banner (TRP) and mount the attendance chart (TRP) below it.

3-D Variation

Set up a small table with tracts, Bibles, church business cards, prayer requests, tithing/offering envelopes, pens/pencils, and church visitor packets. Consider creating a binder called “Member Testimonials.” Ask students and other church members to tell how joining God’s Gym has changed their lives. Write down their testimonials and add them to the binder.

Wall 2: Workout Zone

Cover the wall with aluminum foil to simulate the mirrored wall of a gym. Using the transparencies (TRP) and black butcher paper, create and mount silhouettes of exercise equipment, exercisers, and weightlifters. Hang the Workout Zone banner (TRP).

Students sometimes come to class feeling tired or sluggish. Consider creating an energizing playlist to start off each class. Have upbeat, lively music playing from the workout zone when students arrive. Invite them to “enter in and give me ten . . .” push-ups, sit-ups, jumping jacks, or lunges. Starting class with exercises or an action song could be what students need to get their blood flowing and what you need to get their minds focusing.

3-D Variation

Bring some actual items that you might find in a gym workout area (bench, barbell, free weights, gym bag, towels, tennis shoes, sports bottle, exercise ball, yoga mat, and so on). Display them all at once, or change them out with each unit to keep things fresh. Use caution when letting students handle the exercise equipment. Provide supervision and insure proper use so that your students do not hurt themselves or their classmates.

Wall 3: Grow Right Refreshments

Simulate a wall of windows behind a juice bar counter. Cover the bottom half of the wall with brown butcher paper up to countertop height. Use a brown marker or paint to draw horizontal wood planks. Cover the top half of the wall with preprinted cloud paper or light blue butcher paper. Use black electrical tape to create vertical lines from the ceiling to the brown paper (countertop), spaced about two feet apart to create the illusion of large window panes. Using the transparencies (TRP) and various colored paper, create and mount silhouettes of a blender, bowl of fruit, bottles, and glasses for the countertop. Hang the Grow Right Refreshments banner (TRP).

3-D Variation

Arrange a mini bistro table and chairs with a basket of healthy snacks on top. Alternate the snacks with each class (fresh fruit, granola bars, raisins, pretzels, goldfish, juice boxes, and so on). Set up a water station and make water available at each class. Consider bringing a blender and making fresh fruit smoothies during a class.


Wall 4: Pro Shop

Create racks of T-shirts using the transparencies (TRP) and making multiple T-shirt silhouettes in different colored paper. Mount the first shirt high up on the wall. Stagger the

Note: When bringing food into the classroom, ask beforehand if students have any food allergies.

other shirts downward from that point. Make as many shirts as you want/need to create the look of a full rack and the illusion of depth. Use aluminum foil to form hangers for each shirt and the metal clothes rod. Use the transparencies (TRP) to create silhouettes of God's Gym duffle bags and sports bottles. They can also be in different colors of paper. Mount the duffle bags to the wall near the floor. Create a shelf out of brown butcher paper for the bottles. Hang the Pro Shop banner (TRP).


3-D Variation

Hang various colored T-shirts on wire hangers. Create a three-dimensional shelf from the tube of a roll of wrapping paper, and mount actual sports bottles atop it. Use this area to display small prizes on a narrow shelf. Throughout the quarter, create opportunities for students to visit the pro shop for prizes they won or earned. Small, inexpensive prizes can be found at dollar stores or ordered online from companies such as Oriental Trading. Full-color Scripture bookmarks  are available via downloadable materials. Print them on cardstock and laminate them before cutting them apart. Then hole punch them and loop a ribbon or yarn through the hole.

Bulletin Board Ideas The Ultimate Fitness Plan

Refer to this salvation board each class period. Discuss how our bodies were created to be the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. In Him we live and move (Acts 17:28), and His Spirit lives and moves in us when we follow the plan of salvation and path of holiness. Help your students get spiritually fit by following the ultimate fitness plan!

Exercise Daily—Walk with God

Use the sneaker pattern  to create one sneaker per student. Let students color and decorate a sneaker and add it to the board. Discuss how walking with the Lord every day keeps us on the right path.


Lift the Name of Jesus

Encourage students to daily lift the name of Jesus by praying in that name and thanking Him for the power He has given to us through His name. Review Scriptures that lift the name of Jesus (Matthew 28:18; John 12:32; 14:13; Acts 4:12; and Philippians 2:9).

Healthy Food Choices

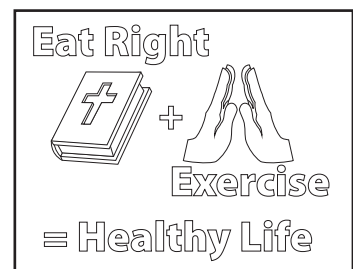
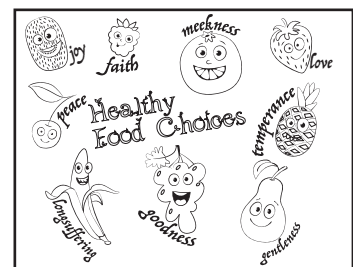
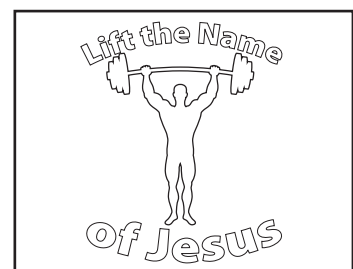
This board encourages students to make healthy choices in their words and deeds. Use it to stimulate discussion about the fruit of the Spirit and how they apply to your students' lives. Ask students to share examples of how they have chosen good "foods" throughout the week.

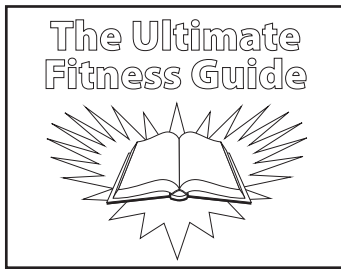
Eat Right + Exercise = Healthy Life

Use the transparencies (TRP) or the Bible and prayer hands patterns  to create this board. Explain how the Bible is the bread of life and nourishment to our soul. Discuss how we can make prayer a part of our daily life and exercise our ability to talk with God. Prayer and Bible reading add up to a healthy spiritual life!

His Pain Our Gain

Use the transparencies (TRP) to create this board, which serves as a reminder of what Jesus did for us on Calvary. Had it not been for Jesus willingly giving Himself as a sacrifice for






Note: A few lessons have certain activities which specify that they can be done outdoors. If the weather permits, do an entire lesson outdoors! Just be sure to have adequate adult supervision if you are taking a large group of children outside the church building.

our sins, we would be the ones destined to suffer and die. Jesus Christ bore the weight of our sins and endured the pain of the cross so we could gain eternal life.

The Ultimate Fitness Guide

Make this an interactive board to help students learn the books of the Bible. Print and laminate the books of the Bible . Cut them apart, and use double-sided Velcro to affix them to the board. Allow students to take them off the board and attempt to put them back in the correct order/divisions.

Attendance

Use the attendance chart (TRP) and the supplied attendance stickers (TRP) to track attendance. If you award attendance prizes at the end of the quarter, remain sensitive to students who may be unable to attend class due to circumstances out of their control. Providing opportunities to win prizes for things such as class participation and Christian character may be a way to include all students, regardless of attendance.

Memory Work

In an effort to help students retain Scripture in their long-term memory and apply it to daily living, students will study and commit to memory a Scripture verse or passage (two or three verses) for each unit. The intent is not only to improve retention but provide understanding of Scripture and how it applies to life today. This is more than memorizing in the moment; this is planting in the heart.

The outside wrapper of the activity papers serves as the memory work tracker. One page has the unit Bible verses on it, which students may take home. The other page has a thirteen-week circuit training routine. Each week after students work on memorizing their unit Bible passages, they will check off a circuit training station. Just as circuit training builds strength and endurance in the natural body, memorizing Scripture builds strength and endurance in the spiritual body.

Offering

Offering is being collected in a gym sock this quarter. However, consider challenging students to an offering weigh-in contest. Divide students into two groups. Have groups deposit their offerings into a gym sock designated specifically for their group. At the end of the quarter, weigh the socks. The sock weighing the most is the heavyweight champ.

Volunteers

Drawing names as a way of selecting volunteers can help maintain order and expedite things in your class. This quarter, purchase sports bottles for each student, or ask them to bring one to keep in class. Write their names on the bottles and put them in a gym bag. When a volunteer is needed, all you do is pull a bottle out of the bag.

Theme-Related and Seasonal Ideas

Include a holiday or seasonal-related craft, game, or snack in lieu of or in addition to one of the optional activities. There are many websites dedicated to such ideas, specifically for the classroom. Ask others (youth, seniors, parents, and so on) to sign up for a week to prepare a snack for the class. Often, there are people within your own congregation who would like to help but do not know how they can.

Summer Photo Journal

Consider making a Primary class photo journal this summer! Capture your students' creative, inquisitive, and completely random moments over the next twelve weeks. Compile everything into a photo book or video presentation for the last class period. As your class takes a look back at their summer, take an opportunity to review the lessons learned. Do they remember the game, the skit, the Bible point for that day? Make each lesson count and each memory last this summer!

Activity Papers Practical Stories

This quarter, spend your Sunday mornings with eight-year-old Abby Vetter and her friend from church, nine-year-old Michael Priestly, as they tag along with their parents to God's Gym. You will be taken straight to Funland, the childcare center located in the gym, but not to worry, you will not be there for long. Abby and Michael have earned the trust of the people in charge and made quick friends with the trainers. Get ready to meet an interesting and diverse mix of people who all share a common goal and who have all assembled for one purpose—to improve their health and strengthen their bodies. Along the way, you will discover just how much our spiritual bodies happen to be like our natural bodies. And you may also discover there is more to this gym than meets the eye.

If time allows, read the stories aloud in class and discuss them. Otherwise, encourage your students to read the stories with their parents and siblings at home to stimulate family discussion.

Costumes and Props

Keep a prop box available with a variety of scarves, sashes, and robes, which can be used in multiple Bible lessons. A crown, fake food, play money, baskets, goblets, and tablecloth are good generic props to keep on hand.

Kids in Missions

The *Kids in Missions* newsletter and map are available in the resource packet to help students focus on missions.

Facebook

Join us on our Facebook group, “Word Aflame Primary Teachers Curriculum.” Interact with editors and Sunday school teachers. Share tips and gather ideas. Post pictures of your class and encourage others by posting what God is doing in your students' lives. We teach together; now, we can interact together.

Teacher Training Resources

Visit our website for valuable teacher training resources. These include a child information form that allows you to collect pertinent information on each student, as well as the parent or guardian's permission to take and share the child's photo. You will want this signed form on file if you share pictures on Facebook or any other public site. Go to <https://pentecostalpublishing.com/t-TTLT.aspx> and click on the “Teacher's Training” button.

God's People Are the Body

Unit 1: The Church as the Body of Christ

Unit Bible Verse: "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many" (I Corinthians 12:12-14).

Scripture Text: Acts 2; I Corinthians 12:12-14

Key Words: body, church

Bible Lesson Verse: "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit" (I Corinthians 12:13).

Bible Point: I can be part of God's church.

Students will:

- » Compare the body of Christ with the human body.
- » Identify connections between being born again and becoming a member of the body of Christ.

Welcome to the Word

Welcome Purchase sports bottles for each student. (Or ask them to bring one to the next class, and postpone drawing for volunteers until next week.) Write students' names on the bottles and put them in a gym bag. Bring a white gym sock for offering (or two if students are doing the offering weigh-in challenge). Write students' names on the attendance chart (TRP) and mount it within students' reach.

Attendance stickers (TRP), tape

Activity Paper, pencils

Worship Learn songs and signs, if applicable.

Prayer On name tag stickers, write the names of church leaders your students will recognize.

Open the Word

Memory Work Detach the memory tracking portion of the activity papers wrapper. (Send the Bible passage page home with students.) Before class, cover each "one" on the unit 1 Bible passage poster (TRP) with masking tape. Tape the poster where students can easily read it and you can write on it.

Bibles, markers, highlighters

Reveal the Word

Bible Lesson Unit 1 Bible passage poster (TRP), A Body Can Be poster (TRP), slips of paper, pencils, small paper bag, small prize, Bibles

Do the Word

Life Application Ask a church member to visit the class and testify how being born again and becoming a member of God's church changed his or her life, stressing how it feels to be accepted and to belong. If no one can come in person, ask for a written testimony that you can read to the class and for some before and after pictures emphasizing the changes in his or her life after being born again.

Whiteboard and marker

Activity Paper Activity papers, colored pencils

Kids in Missions *Kids in Missions* map and newsletter (TRP)

Optional Activities

Option 1 Small exercise equipment: such as jump ropes, light weights, rubber stretch bands, etc.

Option 2 Paper, tape, art supplies

Option 3 Bibles, concordance

Bible Background

Corinth was one of the largest, richest, and most sinful cities of the Roman Empire. It was a great trade center where the vices of the East and West met. On his second missionary journey, the apostle Paul established a church in this city. New converts brought much baggage into the church from their heathenistic and materialistic lifestyles. As a result, factions divided the church.

Paul's analogy to the Corinthian church gives us a beautiful picture of how the members of Christ's body should work together by divine design.

Teacher Insight

The need to belong is a basic human need. Children who do not feel accepted as part of a family will seek a place to belong. It could be a church, or it could be a neighborhood gang.

By your words and actions, model for your students how to welcome visitors. Encourage students to help them find a place to sit and to include them in each activity.

As the body of Christ, it is up to us to invite others into the body. Every child should leave your classroom knowing: "This is where I belong!"

WELCOME TO THE WORD

Let students explore their new room while you introduce the theme. Have students add stickers to the attendance chart. Draw volunteers to lead everyone in saying the Bible point and collect offering.

Activity

Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a pencil and paper; appoint one student on each team as the scribe (recorder). One team lists parts of the body. The other team lists positions in the church, such as prayer warrior, secretary, teacher, or musician. Allow one to two minutes. When time is called, each team reads their list aloud. Which team's list is the longest?

Which part or position on your list do you consider to be the most important? Why?

Discuss how seemingly unimportant parts of the body or positions in the church are necessary for the body or church to function.

Worship

Suggested songs: "The More We Get Together" action song and "I'm in This Church" by the Hemphills

Prayer

Play Who Am I? Stick a name tag to the back of each student's shirt. To discover their identity, the students circulate asking one another yes and no questions: "Am I a man?" "Will you find me on the platform?" Once a student discovers his identity, he removes the name tag.

Use this time to pray for the people on the name tags. Let students take turns standing in the middle of the prayer circle, holding their name tags. Give students a prayer focus for

Welcome Supplies:

- Sports bottles
- Gym bag
- Permanent marker
- Gym sock(s)
- Attendance chart
- Attendance stickers
- Tape

Activity Supplies:

- Paper
- Pencils

Prayer Supplies:

- Name tags stickers
- Marker