



# Primary Collective Worship Resources

## The Body of Christ

### Step 1: We gather

Gather the children and begin your session by introducing some music to create the mood. Since this session is about the Body of Christ, you might use the refrain and the first verse of “Bind us together”. Suggest that the children listen well for the line “there is only one body”.

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.  
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, bind us together with love.  
There is only one God. There is only one King.  
There is only one body; that is why we sing.  
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.  
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, bind us together with love.

In this session on the Body of Christ you can talk about the many different parts of our body that make up our body – or the number of ingredients that go into making a meal or a fruit salad.

### Step 2: What the Bible says

You now move to the Sacred Place for the Scripture-based part of the session. When they have settled, you might listen to or sing the hymn or, perhaps, just the refrain, to “Be still for the presence of the Lord is here” by David Evans as a way of preparing to listen to Scripture.

Be still for the presence of the Lord, the holy one is here.  
Come bow before him now, with reverence and fear.  
In him no sin is found. We stand on holy ground  
Be still for the presence of the Lord, the holy one is here.

Explain to the children that Christians believe that God speaks to humans through the words of the Bible, and they show this by treating it with great reverence.

The reader picks up the book and, holding it up high, reads a simplified version of the reading from St. Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians 12:14-20 reverently and clearly to the whole group:

Different parts of our bodies have different jobs to do.  
Each part is different; each part is important.  
A body needs all the parts to work together.  
You need a head to think, eyes to see, hands to hold,  
feet to walk, ears to hear.  
If your whole body was just an eye,  
how would you hear anything?  
If your whole body was just an ear,  
how would you smell anything?  
All these parts make up one body.

The reader says, “The Word of the Lord”. The response is “Thanks be to God”.

Tell the children a little bit about the passage they have just heard. It was written by Paul, who was a follower of Jesus at a time not long after Jesus lived. Paul travelled around telling people about who Jesus was, and he also wrote letters to people. Some of his letters are in the Bible. Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthians, who were disagreeing among themselves. To help the Corinthians solve their problems, Paul uses the idea of different parts of the same body, to show that they needed to get along with each other. Paul said that each Christian is part of the Body of Christ.



In this letter, St. Paul is telling us that we each have a part to play in the Body of Christ – in our Christian community here at school, in our parishes and in our homes. Get the children to talk about the different roles people play in the parish: Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Welcomers, Musicians, Altar Servers, those who do the Collection. In the church, there is also the priest and maybe a deacon; at school, there is the teacher and at home, there are parents and carers.

You might ask the children what they do in their parish, or what they might like to do. Likewise, ask them what they do at school to contribute to the school community, or what they might like to do. And, lastly, ask them what they do at home to contribute to the family community, or what they might like to do.

The Catechism says that baptism made all Catholics members of the Body of Christ. It incorporated us into the Church “for by one Spirit, we were all baptised into one body” (1 Cor. 12:13; CCC 1267).

You might bring this part of the session to a close by singing the refrain to “Bind us together” again.

### Step 3: Our life experience

In this session, you can either make a real fruit salad or use the activity sheet for a less messy activity. Divide the children into different groups:

- One for each type of fruit you will be using (i.e., an apple group, a banana group, a grape group, a tangerine group) and an organising group. The fruit group will work together to prepare the fruit for the salad by cutting the fruit up or peeling it and breaking bits from it. If you choose to do this, please emphasise the importance of health and safety and careful behaviour to the children, and have adequate adult supervision in place. You might add some fruit juice when the salad is done.
- The organising group can be given a large bowl and some small bowls so that they can combine the ingredients. The fruit salad will be shared out at the end of the session.

If you use the activity sheet, the children can colour in the fruits and cut them out and then place them in their bowls.

Let this part of the session be relaxed and fun. You might encourage conversation by asking the children why fruit salad is good to eat and how it is made special by adding all the different fruits.

### Step 4: How God’s word affects our lives

Ask the children to respond to what they have experienced – possibly while they can enjoy some of the fruit salad!

Remind the children that each piece of fruit, though different, is important for the salad to be what it is. Just as they appreciate the different pieces of fruit, they can enjoy and appreciate the gift of the others in the class (and in their parish and at home). The Christian community is like the fruit salad: it is made up of many different people, who do many different jobs within the community.

You can end the session by thanking God for the many gifts he gives us, the many talents we share, and the friendships we enjoy.



## Activity Sheet: The Body of Christ

### The words to the songs in this session:

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.  
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, bind us together with love.  
There is only one God. There is only one King.  
There is only one body; that is why we sing.  
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken  
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, bind us together with love.

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Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.  
Come bow before him now, with reverence and fear.  
In him no sin is found. We stand on holy ground.  
Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

### Colour the pieces of fruit, then cut them out and, using a glue stick, put them in the bowl:

