EVERYONE MATTERS

Key Verse:
1 Corinthians 12:20-25

Materials Needed:
• Honey
• Toothpicks or Popsicle sticks if you want to let people taste the honey

Object Lesson
(Hold up the jar of honey.)
Does anyone know what this is? Would anyone like to have a taste? (Offer small samples of the honey.) Did you know that bees must visit over 2 million flowers in order to make one pound of honey? Honey that is stored in an airtight container will never go bad! Did you know that they found honey in sealed containers in King Tut’s tomb and it was still edible even though it was over 2,000 years old? Bees have to fly about 55,000 miles in order to make one pound of honey. But most important is that it takes about 560 bees to make 1 pound of honey.

Many of us take honey for granted. In fact, the process of making it is quite complex. When bees have a full load of nectar, they return to the hive where they pass it on through their mouths from bee to bee until it gradually softens and turns into honey. The bees then store it in perfectly formed little cells made of honeycomb. The cells act like tiny jars, holding the honey while the bees fan it with their wings until it is dry. Amazing!

How do you think it would work if one bee decided to fly off on his own and make honey all by himself? Do you think that would be a good idea? Of course not! He would only ever be able to produce a few drops on his own.

In 1 Corinthians 12:20-25 says God’s word reminds us that The Body of Christ is like a beehive or a team. Every bee (person) is important and we are all supposed to work together to accomplish the Great Commission of spreading the Good News about Jesus.
MANY PARTS, ONE POTATO

Key Verse
1 Corinthians 12:12-20

Materials Needed:
• Mr. Potato Head Toy

Object Lesson

Have you ever played with a Mr. or Mrs. Potato head. (Show the toy) Let’s see how silly we can make him look (start putting the parts of Mr. potato Head in the wrong place). How does he look now? (Allow kids make suggestions as to how to make him look goofy).

Well, that was a lot of fun, but I don’t think that a real body would work very well if it was put together this way. Did you know the Bible calls Christians “The Body of Christ”? That means that all of us are supposed to work together to do the work of Jesus.

The Bible tells us in Romans 12:4-5 that there are many different parts of the body of Christ and each of us has an important job to do. Some of you may become preachers, others of you may be great encouragers while others might be prophets. God has also given each of you talents such as music, sports, art, etc. All of these gifts and talents can help you bring others to Christ.

Now let’s look at Mr. Potato Head again. Is there any part he has that is not important or doesn’t help him in some way? No! He needs his ears to hear, his mouth to eat and talk. He even needs his hat to protect his face from getting sunburned and rained on.

It’s the same way with us – those who love Jesus - the Body of Christ. We might not all be preachers or we might not all have beautiful singing voices, but we all belong to Christ’s body and each one of us has an important job to do for Jesus!
MY PIECE MATTERS

Key Verse
1 Corinthians 12:27 (NLT)

Materials Needed
• Puzzle
• Sturdy Cardboard
• Glue

Preparation
Assemble the puzzle, leaving just one piece missing. Glue the puzzle to the cardboard.

Object Lesson
(Show the kids the puzzle) Do you like my puzzle? (Allow response) Oh, it has a piece missing?! Did you ever make a puzzle and then realize that there is one very important piece missing? It ruins the whole puzzle doesn’t it? Puzzles can be fun to put together, but isn’t it disappointing when you come to the last piece and realize that you are missing a piece? That one missing piece ruins the whole puzzle. A puzzle isn’t worth much with a missing piece.

No other piece will fit into the empty space except the original piece. You can try and make a new piece from cardboard, but I bet no matter how good of an artist you are, the piece will still not be able take the place of the lost piece.

Like the pieces of this puzzle, the members of a church come in different sizes, shapes, and colours. You and I are an important part of the picture. 1 Corinthians 12:27 NLT says “All of you together are Christ’s body, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it.” Your service – the part you play, is important to the body of Christ.

God creates the Body of Christ, His church, to be like interlocking puzzle pieces. Each of us has been given unique gifts and abilities. When we use those abilities, we help to build up the body of Christ. Our piece is needed in order to function within the church. We are designed to fit together and if our piece is missing, there is a noticeable gap.

(Put in the last piece of the puzzle). God’s family is not complete without your piece!
THE POWER OF ONE

Key Verses
Matthew 28:18-20
Acts 1:8

Materials Needed
• Box of dominoes
• Masking tape
• Marker to make a face on one of the dominoes

Preparation & Object Lesson
A chain reaction is a perfect illustration of the power of one! We want to challenge you to make the biggest chain reaction possible. You can make this chain reaction with all the materials you can think of: dominoes, Lego, small toys, craft sticks, blocks, marbles, balloons, tracks, etc... anything you can find in and around the house or corps building! Use your imagination and creativity! Find family, friends, people from the neighbourhood, corps or even people from other corps to create your masterpiece, then let us see it by posting it online!

Need some inspiration? Check out these chain reactions:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyrz2G1mP0I
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qybUFnY7Y8w (don’t try this at home!)
A Boy and His Lunch

Key Verse: John 6:5-14

This is a miracle story. Jesus and his disciples are trying to escape the crowds and need a place to rest and relax. However, when drawing near to the shore, Jesus sees the crowd. Jesus loves the people and takes pity on them, because they are so desperate to hear the word of God. Jesus stops and teaches them. In time, the people appear to be getting hungry. Once more, Jesus is moved to compassion for the people and wonders what they can eat. A miracle takes place when a young boy offers Jesus his lunch of five loaves of bread and two fish. That small offering is all Jesus needs to bless more than 5,000 people. A powerful reminder that Jesus can use a one child to do great things for the kingdom. He loves them and can use their offerings now.

Materials Needed:

- A paper bag
- Five crackers and couple of pieces of fruit
- PowerPoint Story Slides: A Boy and His Lunch (see media page)

Object Lesson:

Are you hungry? I am! Sometimes I get really hungry during church. What would you think if we had a little snack this morning instead of a children's sermon? I brought a bag with my snack in it. Let's see what is in here. Oh wait. We have a problem. All I have is five crackers and a couple of pieces of fruit. I don't think there is any way that would be enough to feed all of you. Let's see (start counting the children). One, two, three, four, five... no way. There just isn't enough for all of you.

That reminds me of something that happened to Jesus and his disciples one day. Jesus and his disciples were very tired and needed some time to relax. They got into a boat and went away to a quiet place to rest. When they reached their destination, there were people there waiting for Jesus. The Bible tells us that there were five thousand men and who knows how many women and children! They wanted Jesus to teach them and heal the sick. Jesus needed to rest, but when he saw the people, he loved them so much that he forgot all about being tired. He healed the sick and taught the people about the kingdom of heaven. Soon it was time to eat. The disciples went to Jesus and said, "It is getting late and we are hungry. Send the people away so that we can go and get something to eat." Jesus answered, "They don't need to go away," Jesus said, "you feed them." "Feed them? How can we feed them? We have five loaves of bread and two small fish. That is all the food we have."
Jesus told the disciples bring him the loaves and fish and to tell everyone to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the loaves and fish and looked up to heaven and gave thanks. He then gave the food to the disciples to give to the people.

If I were to share my snack with you today, there might be enough for each of you to have one tiny bite. But when Jesus blessed the loaves and fish, the Bible says that everyone ate until they were full! Wait! That’s not all! “They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers.” Matthew 14:20 (NIV)

After they had eaten until they were full, there were leftovers! Can you imagine taking these five crackers and two pieces of fruit and feeding everyone here today and still having food left over? We couldn’t do it, but God could.

God used the offering from one little boy to make a difference in the lives of 5000 people that day. Imagine what God can do with your life!

God’s word says, “I know the plans I have for you...” (Jeremiah 29:11). When we give what we have to God, he can take it, bless it, and do more than we could ever imagine. Even though we may not have very much, little becomes much when it is placed in God's hands.

Prayer