



My Prayer

Thank You, Jesus, for my family and my church family. Help me to be a good member of each and share Your love with everyone. Amen.



Library

- "All of you together are the body of Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:27).
- "And in the church God has given a place first to apostles, second to prophets, and third to teachers. Then God has given a place for those who do miracles, those who have gifts of healing, those who can help others, those who are able to lead, and those who speak in different languages" (1 Corinthians 12:28).



My Friend Ellen Wrote

"In calling His people together in church ..., God designs that they shall form one Christian family and daily be fitting for membership in the [heavenly] family above" (In Heavenly Places, p. 283).

Penny for Your Thoughts

List a few more ways you can help your church and church family.

Bible Adventures for Young Readers

LESSON 12



One Big Happy Family

I Can Read Text

"You were all baptized into Christ.... Now, in Christ, there is no difference between Jew and Greek.... slaves and free men.... male and female." —Galatians 3:26–28




Have you ever attended a family reunion? That's when you and your family, your cousins, your aunts, your uncles, your grandparents—anyone who is related to you—get together to talk and laugh and remember old times.

One thing you may notice when you look around at all those people is that most of them don't look like you, sound like you, or even act like you. Some are tall. Some are short. Some are large. Some are small. You may see blond hair, black hair, brown hair, or even no hair. You might find a loud person in your family sitting right next to a very quiet person. They all look and sound different, yet they are all related to you.

There may be some people at your family reunion who are

having a hard time with money or health or even their marriage. They may be sad and worried while others are happy and laugh all the time. You'll find rich people, poor people, and everyone in between. But they're all family, and you get to love each one. That's what makes families special.

Create a little family photo album here. You can use actual pictures, copies of pictures, or drawings to show the members of your family. Be sure to give the name and relationship (Uncle Todd, Aunt Megan, brother Bill, etc.) for each person. Look at the example; then make your own.

<p>Uncle Todd</p> 		

Did you know that you can go to a family reunion each and every week? That's right. When you put on your cleanest clothes and head for the church near you, you are getting together with a bunch of people who are your family. Think about it. At church, you all have the same Father—God! Jesus is God's Son, which makes Jesus your Brother. Right? And since we're all related to earth's first people—Adam and Eve—we're all related to each other.

Just like at your family reunion where you see your aunts, uncles, and cousins, at church you can enjoy spending time with your brothers and sisters in Christ. You can sing praises to your Father in heaven and study the Bible together to see what advice He has for you that day.

So, don't be surprised to find short people, tall people, loud people, quiet people, sad people, happy people, sick people, and healthy people in your church family too. The best part? You get to love each and every one of those people at your church. After all, they're family!

My Bible **Adventure**

What does the word church mean? Let's find out. Look up the text in the **LIBRARY** and then fill in the missing words below.


"All of you _____ are the _____ of _____"
(1 Corinthians 12:27).

"And in the _____ God has given a place first to _____ (those who help run the church), second to _____ (those who help the church reach its many goals), and third to _____ (those who explain the Bible to other members). Then God has given a place for those who do _____ (those who help the Holy Spirit work in the church), those who have gifts of _____ (those who bring hope and healing to body and mind), those who can _____ others, those who are able to _____, and those who _____ in different _____" (1 Corinthians 12:28).

After reading the above texts, what loving service can you give to your church family both today and in the future? Think about it, then put your answers below. Maybe you can encourage people, help those who are sad, share your musical talent, teach a Sabbath School class, or even preach a sermon. Perhaps you'd like to read the scripture or offer prayer. Write it down; then find a way to do it!

Today I can _____ for my church.

In the future, I can _____ for my church.



Fun Facts

A BIG FAMILY!

- Over four million babies are born each year in the United States.*
- A British man is claiming a world record for the biggest family tree after tracing nearly 10,000 relatives and ancestors![†]

