



## OBJECT LESSON

Designed for Teamwork

[10 min]

### Supplies

- toothpicks (5 per small group, plus a few for you)
- drinking straws (1 per small group)
- disposable plastic dinner plates (1 per small group)
- disposable cups (1 per small group)

### Easy Prep

- Fill the cups a little over half full with water.

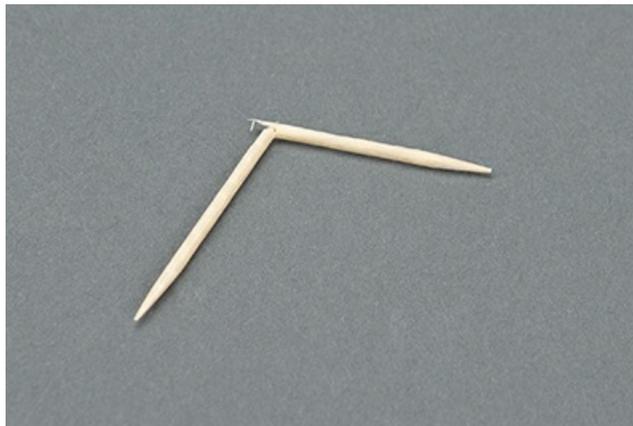
### Tip

- If you're using the Craft block today, do this object lesson first. You can reuse the cups and straws for the craft. You can also use the cups in the Low-Energy Game block before making the craft.

### Watch a Toothpick Star Take Shape

Say: **We've been talking about how the church is God's family that works together like parts of a body. God designed us to need each other and work together. Let's dig in to that more with a fun teamwork experiment!**

- Give each small group five toothpicks, a straw, a plate, and a cup of water.
- With a couple of your toothpicks, demonstrate how to break toothpicks in half while leaving the wood fibers still connected at the break—so the pieces don't entirely come apart, as shown below.



- Kids can carefully break their group's toothpicks.
- Then have each small-group leader guide his or her group in laying out the broken toothpicks on the plate so the broken edges almost touch in the center.



- Next, kids can use the straws to draw water from the cup and slowly drop water from the straws into the center of the toothpick design and watch what happens.



- As more water is added, the toothpicks will move into a star shape. Kids can take turns adding water and may need to adjust the toothpicks a little to help the star take shape. It helps to drop water at each broken point to make the toothpicks spread out.



- If too much water comes out of the straw and drowns the star, have kids remove the water from the plate and try again.

### Talk About It

Have small groups discuss these questions.

Ask: • **How did the toothpicks work together to make the star design?**

• **What was helpful about working with your group?**

Say: **As the toothpicks moved with the water, they were held in place by the other toothpicks on either side, and that's what made the star take shape. But it also took some teamwork within your group, so it wasn't only the toothpicks working together!**

**We can do a lot more together than we can on our own—we need each other. God works through us in big ways when we work together with the spiritual gifts he's given us.**



## What Role Do Kids Really Play in the Church?

---

### Supplies

- Bibles
- shirts with buttons (1 per small group)
- paper
- pens
- tape
- water bottles (1 per small group)

### Easy Prep

- Make the following signs to hang around the room: “what you say,” “the way you live,” “your love,” “your faith,” and “your purity.”

### Set It Up

Say: **We’re learning that everyone who believes in Jesus is part of the body of Christ, the church.**

**And we need each other!**

Ask: • **What do you know about what the adults in our church are doing right now?**

Say: **We say that we need each other, but right now you’re here, not with most of the adults. Are we really part of the same body? What role do kids really play in the church? Let’s dig in to that.**

### Dig Deeper

Read 1 Timothy 4:12.

Say: **This verse lists five ways someone who’s young—like you—could set an example for older**

**Christians.**

Have small groups discuss these questions.

Ask: • **What’s a way you could set an example in what you say?**

- **How could you set an example by the way you live?**
- **What would it look like to set an example in your faith?**

Say: **Those are all great ways kids can set an example for older Christians. In fact, there were some kids in the Bible who did that very kind of thing.**

**In the first story we’ll look at, there was an army commander from a country where they didn’t worship the one true God. And this commander had a bad skin disease called *leprosy*. But he had a servant who *did* know and love God. She was a little girl! Listen to what happened.**

Read 2 Kings 5:3.

Say: **And you know what? Naaman went! He found the prophet Elisha and was healed!**

Ask: • **How would you describe the kind of example this girl set?** Kids can go to the signs that indicate their answers and then explain.

Say: **Thank you for sharing those ideas! I think she set an example in her faith in God—and it led to Naaman getting to see God at work! So cool!**

**Let’s find out what a young boy did when there was a hungry crowd of thousands of people.**

Read John 6:9-11. Have small groups discuss these questions.

Ask: • **Why do you think the boy shared his lunch?**

- **What kind of example do you think he set by sharing?**

Say: **Because that boy shared his lunch—which definitely wasn’t enough to feed such a big crowd—the crowd got to see Jesus do something amazing! Plus everyone got a delicious lunch. That boy set an example in the way he lived—sharing what he had.**

**Both of these kids did things that seemed small but had a big impact. And you can do the same thing! We may have our own Sunday school time just for kids, but we're all a part of the same body as the teenagers and adults.**

**You may be younger and smaller, but you're an important part of the body! Let me show you what I mean.**

### **Don't Use Thumbs**

Ask kids to give you two thumbs up.

Say: **The thumb...not a very big part of your body, is it? Not nearly as big as your head or your leg. It's just one little part on your hand, just a couple of inches long.**

**And yet it's pretty important! Let's see what the thumb helps us do.**

Have small-group leaders distribute paper and pens. Have kids try writing while holding their thumbs out in the air, not using them to touch the paper or pen.

As some kids practice, others can try to button and unbutton their group's shirt or to pick up the water bottle with one hand without using their thumbs.

Kids can also try to turn the pages in their Bibles without thumbs.

Kids who have shoelaces can attempt to tie their shoes without thumbs. And kids who have phones can try to send a text message.

Let kids experiment with other basic tasks they think of to see how not having thumbs impacts those tasks.

Discuss these questions as a large group.

Ask: • **How often do you *think* about using your thumb?**

• **Now that you've tried to do basic things without your thumb, how important do you think it is?**

Have small groups discuss these questions.

Ask: • **How are kids like the thumbs of the church?**

• **Why are kids important to the church? Why are teenagers? Why are adults?**

Say: **You may be small, but you're important! Like the servant girl and the boy who shared his lunch, you can do big things in this body you're a part of. We need each other, and that includes kids!**