#### **Journal**

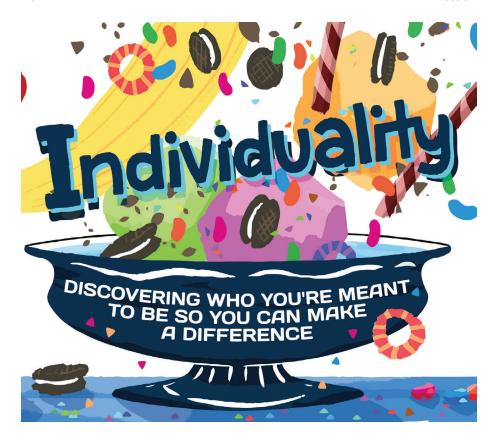
Spend some time thinking about the question below and journal your thoughts or share them with a parent.



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October 2021

Week Five Preteen



## Day 1

Go to bit.ly/SundaysAtHomePreteen and watch this week's episode of The So & So Show.

Even if you already saw it at church, feel free to check it out again!

After watching, write one thing that:

1. You liked:

2. You learned:

3. You'd like to know:

#### Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

As you read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, underline each time you read the word 'body' and circle each specific body part that is named.

Then draw a picture of each body part that is mentioned. You can either do this in the margins of your Bible or on a separate sheet of paper.

Lastly, re-read verses 15-26 and then, on your drawing, circle the parts of the body that are more important than the others.

Trick question, right? Paul makes it very clear that just as no part of your physical body is more or less important—or is able to do a job that isn't theirs to do—the same is true of the body of Christ: that is, those of us who follow Jesus. Each of us has been given gifts that only we can do, and when we use them together, we make a great difference than working alone!



#### Day 3

When Paul was talking about the body in 1 Corinthians, he was using our physical bodies as a metaphor to the body of Christ, which just means those of us who follow Jesus.

Today, you can use your body in a similar way as you pray and ask God to use you and your gifts. Start at the top of your head and ask God to use each part of you to make a difference. Here is an example, but personalize each part in parentheses based on the gifts you know God has given you! And don't forget to think about the ways that you can include others... using your gifts as a team always makes a bigger difference!

"Dear God, thank You for giving me the gift of being able to see (people who are in need or ways to improve systems or organize better). Help me to use my voice (to speak up for people who are overlooked or to speak kindness and encouragement to people who are struggling). Please guide me to use my hands (to serve meals or sort supplies at a shelter, to help a younger sibling with homework, etc.) Give me strength in my legs and help me move my feet (to meet the needs of others or do extra chores around the house). Thank You for all the ways that You have gifted me. Please help me use those gifts to work with others and make a difference in the world in Your Name. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen."

#### Day 4

# Think back to that prayer you prayed yesterday.

Who came to mind when you thought of someone you could use your gifts to help? Who came to mind as someone who you could team up with to help others?

Dig a little deeper on both of those people: first, do some research to figure out what would be most helpful to the person in need. Maybe that means calling a local shelter to find out if there's an item they need or a volunteer service that would be helpful. Or maybe you ask your mom or dad what would be helpful to them above and beyond your regular chores.

Next, interview a couple of people who could help you make a difference in that situation. Think about others who have different gifts than you. Maybe you're really strong and fast, so physical labor is easy for you, but your best friend is really funny and doesn't meet a stranger: they might be a great partner for volunteering at the shelter. Or maybe you are good at planning meals, but your brother has great knife skills in the kitchen—you could come together to make dinner for your parents.

Today is all about the plans, so talk them up with others and figure out how you can use your gifts together to make a greater difference.



### Day 5

#### What makes a great team?

It's time to put feet to those prayers and plans—not just lip service. (See what we did there?) What did you decide on yesterday with your friends and family? Make it happen today. But don't be afraid to invite others to join you either. The more people who join your team and contribute their gifts, the better!

After you've completed your project together, take a few minutes to celebrate the individuality of everyone who participated. Share with each other the way that each person's unique gifting made for a great team—and made a greater difference than if just one of you had done the task. Then talk about what's next... you can keep making a difference as a team!