

**Bible Verse:**

1 Corinthians 12:18 (NRSV) "But as it is, God arranged the members of the body, each one of them, as he chose."

Materials needed:

The chapel talk attachment pictures or the actual articles mentioned (a badge, a stethoscope, music notes or pages, a board eraser, a calculator, BFF, a heart) Bible, an easel, poster-size paper for your list of phrases.

Chapel Talk

I have a few pictures in front of me. Let's see if you can guess who they are meant to belong to:

[Show pictures one at a time: the badge=policeman, stethoscope=doctor, music and violin=musician, board and eraser=teacher, calculator=related to business]

Great! We have a policeman, a doctor, a musician, a teacher, and an accountant. Now stand up (or raise your hand) if you feel that you are meant to be a police officer. [Continue with the other occupations]

Jobs are important, but they're not all we're meant to be! Let's see if we can figure out what you are meant to be.

[Write "Meant to Be" on the paper]

[Hold up the BFF sign] The letters on this page mean something. What does BFF mean? Correct! It means "best friends forever!" This is a great thing to be.

[Hold up the picture of a heart] Look at this symbol. Pretend it has something to do with your parents and how you treat them. What would you think it means? Correct! You should love, and be loving, to your parents. This is a great thing to be.

These are great ideas and worthwhile goals, but these are not all you are meant to be! God tells us that in 1 Corinthians 12:18 [read 1 Corinthians 12:18]. You are each a member in the body—his body, the Church. As members of the body of Christ, you each have a very special part to play – a wonderful life that God carefully planned out just for you.

The most important thing that you are meant to be is a Christian who loves and serves God and the people God puts in your life!

I have heard some people say that to be a Christian, you must be perfect. Is this true? No, it is not true. Christians are not perfect, they are just forgiven! You don't have to be perfect to fulfill your role as a faithful, loving part of the Church body.

Chapel Talk

Even if someone has a 'disability,' God can use them in a mighty way! St. Paul, one of the most amazing men of all time and a leader and teacher of all Christians, had a disability. He asked God to take it away from him, but God decided that it was better for Paul to keep it. Maybe he did this so he would be more humble as he did his job in the Church body; we are not exactly sure why. We are not even sure what the disability was! Maybe that shows how unimportant that detail is to God. He uses all of us, no matter what we can or cannot do physically! Even though Paul had a disability, he could still tell others the good news! God loves us so much, that he sent his son Jesus to die for us. Our sins are forgiven and we can live with him forever. What are you meant to be? You could be a teller of good news, like Paul. [Write "teller of good news" on the paper]

Let's look at another verse in the Bible. **[Read 1 Samuel 16:7]** What do you think God is saying here? [discuss] God is more concerned about what is inside or who you really are, than what is on the outside or what you may look like. A disability, like being blind or having autism, doesn't keep you from being useful and valuable to God.

In the human body, all of the parts are different from each other. The hands, ears, heart, and kidneys all look and work very differently, but each one helps the whole body be healthy and work well together. The eyes can't say to the feet, "We don't need you!" God made us all just the way we are so we can do the special things he plans for each of us to help run his body, the Church. What are you meant to be? A special, useful part of Christ's body, the Church. [Write "part of Christ's body, the Church" on the paper]

Let's look at more verses in the Bible **[Read Matthew 22:37-39]**. What does Jesus say are the two most important things for us to spend our lives doing? Right! **Love God** and love **each other!**

- Can you love God and love other people? Yes!
- Can a person who wears glasses love God and love other people? Yes!
- Can a person who uses a wheelchair love God and love other people? Yes!

So what we are saying is, God loves everyone just as they are.

- What are you meant to be? A person who loves and serves God and other people. [Write "loves and serves" on the paper]
- What are you meant to be? A Christian who knows it's the faith in the heart that counts [hold up the heart], not what you look like.
- What are you meant to be? A member of the Church who appreciates and values all of the other members, just as they are.
- What are you meant to be? A person who knows that disabilities are temporary; they are only part of this world. Faith and love are the things that last forever!
- What are you meant to be? A member in the body of Christ, the Church, just as he made all of us to be.













