

WE NEED THE COMPLETE SET

SCRIPTURE:

For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. (1 Corinthians 12: 14-18)

MATERIALS LIST:

- (2) different sized bolts
- (1) set of wrenches

MAIN MESSAGE:

When there's a job to be done around the house, one tool is usually not enough. Each tool is designed for a different purpose. So it is with in the Church. We are all different, yet valuable to God's designed purpose. Be the tool He's created you to be.

SONG: "God's Family"

LESSON:

Anytime there's work to be done of the mechanical nature, be it fixing a car, a lawn mower, or even fixing the dishwasher, there are a variety of tools that are needed. Sure there are some tools that are labeled "multi-function" tools, but even they aren't usually up to completing the entire task on their own. There are other tools created for specific jobs, and sometimes you can't complete the task at hand without them. I learned this all too well when I naively tackled the task of assembling a wooden swing set for my children one spring.

It came in 7 boxes, that should have been my first clue that I possibly had gotten in over my head. However, I was not going to be intimidated by the appearance of an overwhelming feat. I opened all the boxes, separating the pieces out, doing just as the instructions had commanded, counting each piece as a special component of the final project. Once I did this, with wide eyes, I looked at the bag of hardware, the screws, nails, nuts, bolts, washers, and whatever else they included. There were small ones, fat ones, tall ones, and short ones. Some of the screws were phillips head and some were simply flat. A group of the bolts were larger than others and all of them required a certain sized washer as an accompaniment. With my children and wife watching, and my male ego hanging on my shoulders, I "confidently" began.

As I began assembling the swing set, I quickly learned the entire set of tools was needed. Only having one or two tools in my tool pouch wasn't really cutting it. The drill worked in some places; however, in others, I needed the screw driver. Some of the bolts required a large wrench, while others required smaller ones. The task might possibly be able to be completed with only a few tools; however, I quickly realized the task was going to be much easier if I used the right tool for the right job, and I was right.

God has wisely designed the Church in this fashion as well. In 1 Corinthians 12, we learn there are many different parts of the body and each does a very important task. The eye sees, and without the ear, the body doesn't hear. One part can't do what the other one does; therefore, all are so very vital to the overall function of the body - the Church. God has placed us where He desires.

Just like all the tools were important when it came to building the swing set, all the different people in the Church are important to accomplishing the task God has given us.

PRAYER: Use our family in the Church in such a way that would best accomplish God's purpose.