

LEAD SHEET

REAL CHURCH : Week 4

My Place

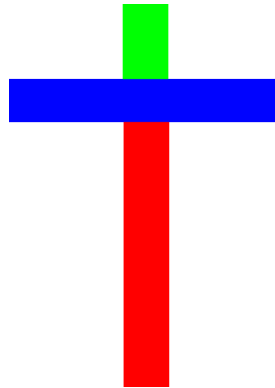
July 16, 2017

**THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL:
SHARE YOUR GRACE STORY**

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW GOD BETTER, TELL OTHER PEOPLE ABOUT HIM!

GETTING STARTED

(Have the students take a good look at the picture of the cross and then ask them the following questions.)



• Which of the three colors is the most important in defining the shape of this cross? *(All three colors are equally important, but allow for discussion.)*

• If we remove any of these important colors, will we be able to distinguish that this picture is a cross? *(No, each of the colors is needed to define the cross.)*

• Could we have created this picture of a cross using different colors than the ones we used? *(Yes, we could obtain the same goal using different colors.)*

The same is true with our spiritual gifts, just as every color was important in our picture, it is important for every believer to use his or her spiritual gifts for the Church to function properly.

DIGGING IN

Read Colossians 3:12-14

Discussion Questions:

1. Who are the chosen people to whom Paul refers? *(Paul is referring to the Church.)*
2. What are these chosen people called to "put on"? *(Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.)*
3. With which of these virtues do you struggle the most? *(Allow for discussion.)*
4. How do we "put on" these things? *(Allow for discussion)*
5. Of all the virtues, which one are we called to "put on" above the others? Why? *(Love, because it binds all the other virtues together in perfect unity.)*

If we are willing to submit our lives to Christ, we will practice compassion, patience, forgiveness, gentleness, humility, and love.

General Discussion:

- How can we love each other more?
- Is there anyone you need to forgive?
- Does anyone come to mind when I say the word patience?
- Can you show kindness to someone this week? Who?

Read Colossians 3:15-17

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it look like for us, as separate members of the Church, to function as one body? *(It means we peacefully blend all our unique gifts and talents together to glorify Christ.)*
2. What are some of the activities we will do together as a Church according to verse 16? *(Paul says we will teach, admonish, sing together, and give thanks.)*

Read Romans 12:3

Discussion Questions:

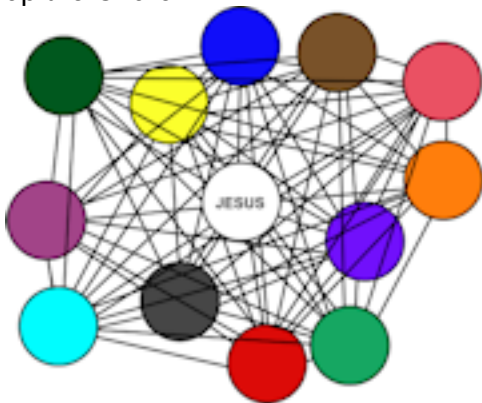
1. How does the world disagree with this verse? (*We live in a culture that lifts up unique individuals and tells each individual that no one else is as important as he or she.*)
2. How does the Christian view this passage? (*As followers of Christ, we are instructed not think too highly of ourselves.*)
3. What does it mean to think of oneself with sober judgment? (*Do not be arrogant, but rather consider how much Christ has done for you. You are not your own, you have been bought with a price.*)

MAKING IT REAL

Every person in the Church is important and every person has a place. This will lead us into two truths.

1. We all need to be part of the Body of Christ.
2. We are all needed within the Church.

Look at this illustration of all the many aspects that make up the Church.



God shapes every follower of Jesus to be a unique creation. As we submit our lives to one another, we form a distinct community. All believers have a common bond in Jesus, so although we may look different, we are unified in our goal to share the Good News with the world.

Here is a list of some of the things that make each of us a unique creation:

- Spiritual Gifts
- Calling
- Personality
- Gender/Race/Age
- Personal History
- Talents/Abilities
- Weakness
- Tradition
- Preferences
- Theological Understanding
- Penchant for Sin
- Earthly wisdom/Experiences
- Resources

The interesting thing about our local church is how it takes on a new appearance with every additional member. This is because we are all connected to each other. When we add or take away even one person, it affects the whole body.

General Discussion:

- What happens when the loudest person leaves the room?

- What happens when the friendliest person in the group is absent?

- How well could we function as a body of believers if all of us were alike?"

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray that students can understand their place in the Body of Christ and commit to living it out.