

LEAD SHEET

REAL CHURCH : Week 1

We Are The Body

June 18, 2017

THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL:

DIALOGUE WITH GOD

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW GOD BETTER, TALK TO HIM!

GETTING STARTED

Today's lesson will lead us to realize that every person is important in the Church. The apostle Paul uses the illustration of the human body to compare to the Body of Christ.

Read Romans 12:4-5

General Discussion:

- What makes up a healthy body? *(All parts [members] are functioning and working together.)*
- What do you believe is the most important part of the body? *(Allow for discussion.)*
- If you could do without one body part, what would you give up and why? *(Allow for discussion.)*

Have you ever had a headache that ruined your entire day? If our bodies get out of line even in the slightest of ways, it affects everything we do. Our scripture today tells us that we should offer our lives to each other. In doing so, we become the Church.

DIGGING IN

We know that the Church is not only a building. It's not only some place we go. We know it is more than an event. Today we're going to discover that in fact, the church is an organism. It's alive. It is even compared to an actual living body.

Read Romans 12:1-2

In the previous chapter of Romans, Paul described the wonderful news that we are saved through Jesus. Now, in these verses, Paul tells us that our actions cannot save us, nor can the law save us. Everyone is a sinner (Romans 3:23) and our sin leads us to death (Romans 6:23). However, Jesus saves us. He gives us new purpose. He forgives our sin. We don't have to fear death anymore and we don't have to fear hell. In fact, we are granted eternal life in Heaven. Through Jesus, God displays His continuous mercy. It is through this lens that we should view our lives. (Read Romans 12:1-2 again.)

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the mercy of God? (Allow for discussion)
2. What does it mean to "offer our bodies as living sacrifices"? (Allow for discussion)
3. How has God shown you mercy? (Allow several students to respond.)
4. What does it mean to conform to "the pattern of this world"? (Allow for discussion.)

Read Romans 12:3

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to "think more highly of yourself than you ought to"? (*To be prideful, self-centered, etc.*)
2. What can happen when we have too high of a perspective of ourselves? (*We may feel we don't need the help of others, we may become ineffective.*)

Read Romans 12:4-8

Discussion Questions:

1. What are Spiritual Gifts? (Supernatural abilities beyond natural talents used to build up the Body of Christ.)
2. Why do we have different gifts? (Allow for answers.)
3. What Spiritual Gifts would you add to this list? (Allow for answers.)

MAKING IT REAL

The Holy Spirit gives the members of the Church gifts in order to fulfill the mission of Jesus. When you receive the Holy Spirit, you also receive an identity within the Church body. It is important to understand that this gift is much more than a personality trait. It is much more than your background and story. This gift is a Holy Spirit-given talent to use with other members of the Church for God's Work.

The Power of God will fill and equip us so we can effectively carry out the mission of Jesus. Spiritual Gift tests can be very beneficial to help you know where your talents or interest lie, but in the end, God will declare what you are to do and He will give you the power to do it.

Many times, when we think about giving to the Church, we immediately think of giving money. However, there are many other ways to give.

General Discussion:

- What has God called this group (Powerhouse and your Small Group) to do?
- Why do we need others to fulfill God's Mission?
- How do you feel you fit into this group?
- What Spiritual Gifts do you think you have right now?

What I want everyone to take away from this lesson today is this: When we share our lives and submit to others, we will begin to experience the full joy of being the Church. However, if we isolate ourselves and refuse to share, then we will miss out on all that God has for us.

CLOSING PRAYER

Close in prayer, asking that God help students discover their identities within the Church.