

1. Motivate

When has being part of a group really helped you succeed?

A video introduction is available. View it at https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_kwabbdvx

2. Transition

Working as a team multiplies our efforts as individuals.

- This is especially true as members of the Body of Christ, the Church
- Spiritual growth calls for regular interaction with and ministry to other believers.

3. Bible Study

3.1 One United Body

Listen for

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 (NIV) The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

According to this passage, in what way are Christians (the body of believers) like a *human* body?

The Human Body	The Body of Believers

In what way was the human body an apt illustration?

In what ways are believers bound together as one?

What are the benefits of unity in the church?

What are some ways we can maintain unity in the church?

3.2 Roles and Responsibilities within the Body

Listen for the attitude "I don't belong".

1 Corinthians 12:14-18 (NIV) Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be..

Why is every member of the church important to the church's ability to function effectively?

Why should members not brag about or disparage the gifts they have been given or minimize the value of the grace-gifts God has given to others?

Who arranged the parts of the body of Christ? Why is that significant?

What body parts come to action when you receive an injury such as a cut?

What elements of the Body of Christ come to action when our church communicates the Gospel message?

3.3 Each Believer a Necessary Part of the Body

Listen why every believer is needed.

1 Corinthians 12:19-24 (NIV) If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it,

What did Paul conclude would be the result if each body part were the same?

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Connected to Christ's Body

By implication, what would be the result if we all had the same gift or role within the Body of Christ? Why shouldn't all Christians perform the same function?

What would be the consequences of this kind of *disunity* in the church?

According to Paul's argument, which parts of a *physical* body seem to be treated most honorably?

Why do people often assume that certain duties *in the church* are more important?

Why should the "less honorable" parts be treated with special attention?

How can you honor the contributions of others in your church?

Application

Talk to someone new.

- Get to know someone in your church you do not know or do not know well.
- Make an intentional effort to build a relationship with the person.

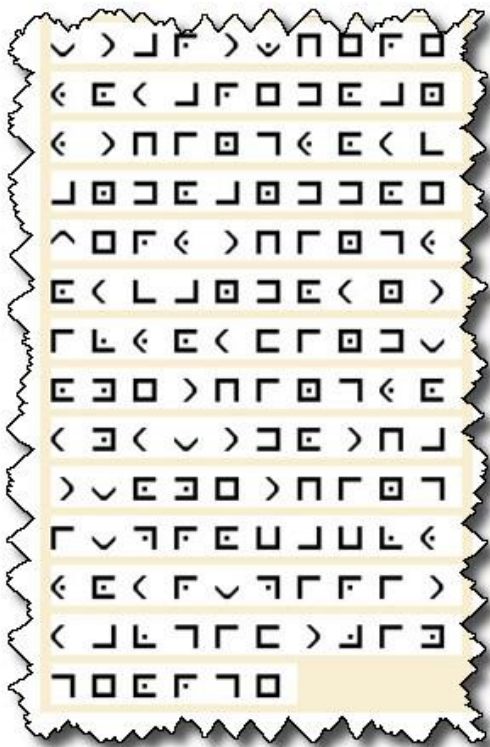
Restore a relationship.

- If you are at odds with someone in your church, get together with the person and seek to work the problem out.
- If you need to confess a wrong attitude or wrong behavior, then do it, and seek to restore that relationship.

Step out and serve.

- Use some of your vacation time to immerse yourself in a new culture and serve a people group that is unfamiliar to you.
- Be part of a mission work that serves the body of Christ in another culture or setting.

Cryptogram Puzzle



One of our agents in Zilny Egeor received this coded message at a secret exchange drop. Our decoding specialist has been banned from social media by his mother, so we need your help. The decoding key is shown below with a sample message to help you see how this works. When you complete the assignment, pass the results as covertly as possible to your Cradle Roll coordinator. If you get stuck go to tinyurl.com/2uccbmu9. Other Family Activities there will draw you into the Body of Christ.

Π Ο Ε Ε Ε v E F E □ = HELLO WORLD

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