



MIDDLE SCHOOL RESOURCE

The God Who Sends: Session 1

The Body of Christ

Key Statement: The Body of Christ Is United 1) In the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:12-20), 2) In suffering and rejoicing (1 Cor. 12:21-26), and 3) In service (1 Cor. 12:27-30).

::CONNECT::

- Option 1: These things are alike...
- Break your students into groups of 3-5. Each student is now to find a physical object in the room and go touch that object or pick it up. One object per student, and one student per object.
- Each group should now have 3-5 objects assigned to it. Their job: to come up with as many ways that those three objects are alike as possible. The winner is the team who can come up with the most connections.
- Note: if they need help making connections, they could point out that all their objects are man-made, or they are all lightweight, or something similar.
- Note 2: If all the students in your group have phones, you could tell them each to find a random picture. They then have to do the same exercise, pointing out as many connections across their pictures as possible.
- Let the groups share their commonalities. Points to the team with the longest list of similarities in their objects.
- Debrief: Point out that the students found ways to make connections in these random objects. Perhaps some of their connections were a bit stretched (all our objects are solid!). The Holy Spirit takes random, different people and connects them together in the Body through Himself. Our common connection is treasuring Jesus and the indwelling Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit never needs to “stretch” our connectedness, because we are all united in the Body.

- Option 2: Dream Team
- Choose something that your students enjoy that would involve people with different skills, and tell them to compose their “dream team” for that arena. For example, if your students are really into football, tell them to write out their dream line-up (they can use anyone from any team, any time). Same thing could be said for baseball, or any other sport. However, here are some other possible “dream teams” they could make:

- Dream movie cast
- dream video game: what all different kinds of people would they need to make it
- dream theme park
- dream band
- It'd probably work best to have your students do this as individuals, though you could also do it in small groups.
- Have your students share their "dream teams." Ask them why they chose whom they chose.
- Point out that most of the great things in the world required tremendous teamwork. Whether it's a magnificent work of architecture, great scientific discoveries or achievements, military victories, or even a good music video, lots of people with very different skill-sets had to work together to make it happen. (You could show them just thirty seconds of the credits for a TV show or movie to see how many people it takes to make such a feature.)
- In the same way, the Holy Spirit ordains people with many different but complementary skill sets in the Body. We are THE Dream Team. Yet our power comes not from ourselves, but from the gifts of the Holy Spirit that he ordains to each of us according to His sovereign wisdom. Just as none of their dream teams would work with the same person trying to do everything, likewise, God has ordained diversity in the Body so that His beauty is more fully displayed and the glory is sure to go to Him, not to any one person or set of people.

::CONVEY::

If you are pressed for time this week, consider only covering points one and three of the session.

Remember, this is merely a suggested outline adaptation for a middle school group. If you decide to incorporate one or more option into your group time, you will likely have to be very selective on the material you decide to teach through. Keep in mind that each class is different, and as the leader guide suggests, personalize the lesson content for your class by determining what elements are most applicable. Don't feel pressured to teach through all of the content in a single meeting, but instead help middle school students to see the main overall point and big picture the lesson is conveying.

::COLLIDE::

See Leader Guide