

Tenth Grade- The Body of Christ

Last session introduced our study on the nature and identity of the Church! Our students are in the midst of discerning who they are, and so a deeper study of who the Church is critical if we hope for them to continue in lifelong fellowship with the Bride of Christ. This session looks specifically at the Church as the Body of Christ. We want students to understand that the Church isn't just a thing that Jesus loves, it is a deeply interconnected body composed of every single member, every believer! It unites us as believers with every other believer in history (and even those to come!) We want students to understand that since they are a member of the Body, they have an impact on the Body whether they like it or not. And we want to discuss together ways to have an impact that honors Christ who loves His Bride.

Introducing the Topic

We want to start off by opening up conversation and dialogue in your group, and then give students a place to talk through what they already know about this topic! There's no right answers here, so simply encourage everyone to share!

-What's the worst injury you've ever gotten? Share the story with the group if you're comfortable!

-Why was that injury so troublesome for you?

-Have you ever heard the Church referred to as the Body of Christ? What do you think that means?

-Why do you think God used the image of a body to describe His church?

Scripture Study

As you transition to the Scripture Study portion of this session, remind students that Scripture is where we turn for truth. We want to continually reiterate that we study Scripture not just for the "Christian take" on a matter, but God's revealed word, given to us out of love for our good.

-Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 together.

-What stuck out in this passage?

-What do you think that author's main point is?

-What's true of us as Christians and as the Church according to this passage? *(We are united under the same goal, we are all part of each other, we are all equal in worth, we are all different, but that is good)*

-How does this passage say we are supposed to treat each other?

-Do you see the church doing that today? Why do you think that is?

Practical Application

We want to give students time to reflect on the Scripture they just read and talk through what it would look like lived out in their own lives. We want to encourage honesty and transparency during this time, as well as working together towards tangible application steps.

-What are ways you take care of your own body? Do you find it easy to take care of yourself?

-Do you think the way you care for others is better or worse than the way that you care for yourself? *(Our culture has a weird relationship with self-care, and sometimes that spills over into the way we view caring for others as well. Encourage your group to talk about this disconnect!)*

-Look back over the passage in Corinthians. What would it look like for teenagers today to love each other like that? Give some practical examples you can think of! *(If they're struggling to get practical, think of some examples of your own of when people in the church loved you well!)*

-What gets in the way of loving and valuing others like that? *(Busyness, individualism, and selfishness are three common themes for many of us. As your students share, ask them follow up questions to get to the root of their excuses. Lovingly remind them that we all have the same amount of time in the day, we weren't created to live alone, and there is more joy in sacrifice than there is in "getting what you want")*

-Come up with some practical things you can do this week to love the body well. They can be things you do as a group or things your students can do on their own!