

✘ Religious Community ✘

YOUNG PERSON IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT HER OR HIS PERSONAL FUTURE.

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Bethany, originally from Clinton, Minnesota, is a Youth and Family Ministry major at Augsburg College in Minneapolis. After working in youth and family ministry for a while, she plans to get her M. Div. and become a pastor. Bethany loves working with junior and senior high students and developing new ways for them to understand God's Word in a real way.

1 Corinthians 12:12-26 If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong..."

???? WOULD YOU RATHER ????

Be too hot? ---OR--- Be too cold?

Live without your hands? ---OR--- Live without your legs?

Have four arms and hands? ---OR--- Two eyes in front and two in back?

Do a big project by yourself? ---OR--- Work as part of a team on a big project?


Work hard behind the scenes and be unknown? ---OR--- Be up front and seen by all?

- What part of your body is most crucial for you to accomplish your favorite skill or talent? Why?
- What parts of your body if missing would prevent you from accomplish this skill or talent? Why?
- What does "the body of Christ" look like? What does that phrase mean?
- How do you see yourself fit into the body of Christ?
- Who represents the eyes, ears, hands, and feet that help you be the best you can be in life?
- What do you think is one of the greatest needs or problems in the world?
What can you do by yourself to solve this?
Who else and what else would you need to solve or make such changes?
- Do you feel needed or important to the ministry of your church? Why or why not?
- How does your church make use of the gifts and talents of youth?
- How could your church best use your talents and what you enjoy? Is your church willing to?
- How might your church help you develop or improve what your talents and gifts?




So What?

Break into groups of three. Invite participants to name for each other a gift or talent that they recognize and to share how these gifts and talents are (or could be) of vital importance for the ministry of your church. How can your partner use this gift in the church?



Candle Time

Use a Mr. Potato Head doll. Give a body part to each person. Ask each to place their piece on the body as they name a gift or talent offering a prayer of thanksgiving.



EXPLORE



- Galatians 6:10 ...let us work for the good of all...
- Romans 12:5 ... so we, who are many, are one body...
- Acts 2:46-47 Day by day, as they spent much time together
- Ephesians 4:11-16 ...speaking the truth in love, we must grow up...
- Acts 20:32 ... I commend you to God and to the message of his grace...
- Colossians 2:19 ... the whole body, nourished and held together...



Leader Page

Discussion Goal

Everyone has gifts and a place.

Background

Youth will either be leaders or they will be leavers. Adolescents will feel excluded from the church if they are not given opportunities to use and develop their gifts. Only when youth are valued as ministry partners in an accepting, supportive, willing-to-risk-new-things environment will they remain. When they do not find this in the church they will seek and find it elsewhere.

In 1 Corinthians chapters 12 and 13, Paul is responding to a letter he received from the Christians in Corinth. The Corinthians thought some spiritual gifts were more valuable than others, but Paul points out that the spiritual gifts are of equal value because they all originate from the Holy Spirit. Although not all people have the same gifts, Paul says all are very important in order to have a complete religious community. To illustrate this, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 compares the necessity of different gifts to the importance of varied members of one body working together. It reveals that all believers make up the body of Christ. The Bible encourages the religious community to include all people using their unique spiritual gifts. If the church wants youth to value it, the church must value youth by also including their unique gifts. This session explores how teens do and don't perceive how they are valued as vital participants.

Motivate:

Prepare large cartoon-looking cutouts of a foot, hand, ear, eye, and nose. Ask for five volunteers to hold each of the cutouts. Ask another volunteer to stand still with arms and legs spread out. The various body parts are moved in puppet fashion around this person acting out 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 as a narrator reads the story.



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