

January 18, 2012

Dear parents,

Our small groups continued their series on the church this week by exploring 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, where the Apostle Paul presents a powerful analogy for the church.

Christians frequently refer to the church as the “body of Christ,” but most junior highers probably don’t understand the significance of that phrase. God designed the church to be a living, growing, healthy organism, and Paul’s analogy helps us grasp the truth that each Christian is called to play an important role in the church, as your students will discover in this lesson.

Our physical bodies are most effective when all the parts are functioning properly. That’s what it means to be healthy. God has a similar design for the church. The truth is that God’s design for the church has always been for us to work together like a body. In fact, without each other we are not the church. Just like our bodies are not complete without each part, no matter how big or little our part in the church, it is not complete without each person.

This week, I encourage you to talk with your teenager about our lesson. Consider incorporating these questions:

- Some people in churches think that certain people, such as a pastor, play more important roles than other people, such as unpaid volunteers. Do you agree or disagree with that, and why?
- Have you already discovered a role in our church that seems to be a good fit? If so, would you be willing to tell me about it? And if you haven’t found a good way to serve yet, how could I help you take that step?
- In Romans 12, Paul states that we “belong” to each other. What does that communicate to you about the body of Christ?

Have a great week!