



# BEING A PART OF GOD'S FAMILY— FITTING INTO THE PUZZLE

## KEY VERSE

“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.”  
1 Corinthians 12:12

## BIBLICAL BASIS

John 13:14,15;  
Romans 12:4,5,10;  
1 Corinthians 12:12-27;  
Galatians 6:2;  
Ephesians 2:19,20; 4:16;  
Philippians 2:1-5;  
Hebrews 10:24,25;  
1 John 4:7,8; 3:16-18

## THE BIG IDEA

When you become a Christian, you become a part of the Body of Christ—the family of God.

## AIMS OF THIS SESSION

During this session you will guide students to:

- Examine what it means to be a part of the Body of Christ;
- Discover their own unique place and responsibility within the Body;
- Implement a decision and a plan to move into action to make a difference within the Body of Christ.

## WARM UP

### FAMILY PORTRAITS—

Students draw pictures depicting the Church, the Body of Christ.

## TEAM EFFORT— JUNIOR HIGH/ MIDDLE SCHOOL

### BEING AN INGREDIENT FOR GOD—

Students compare the importance of their role in the Body of Christ to the importance of the ingredients in a recipe.

## TEAM EFFORT— HIGH SCHOOL

### THE PUZZLE OF THE FAMILY OF GOD—

A comparison of how the individual members of the family of God are like the pieces to a puzzle—each one important to complete the whole.

## IN THE WORD

### THE BODY IN ACTION—

A Bible study on what our rights, responsibilities and attitudes should be as members of the Body of Christ.

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT (OPTIONAL)

Questions to get students thinking and talking about how to be effective members of the Body of Christ.

## PARENT PAGE

A tool to get the session into the home and allow parents and students to discuss how to encourage every member to carry out his or her responsibilities and feel a part of the family.

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## LEADER'S DEVOTIONAL

**"In Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others" (Romans 12:5).**

The National Football League finished its annual draft yesterday. The first round, top-five draft choices always draw big attention. These highly acclaimed and soon-to-be-well-paid college students are in a position to be the league's newest celebrities. The covers of sports pages across the nation will soon be pictorial and verbal trophies to these top kids. Virtually every time the new player and soon-to-be-star is picked, he is quickly issued a team jersey, team hat and number. Of course, the photo opportunity broadcasts the team as the victor of the spoils.

What would it be like if we, the Church, gave the same attention to welcoming new believers into the family of God? What if a new Christian received a party at the next church service? We would call her name, take pictures and speak clearly into the microphone for all to hear what a wonderful joy it is to have her on God's team. Churches would experience the incredible joy God has every time someone new is added to His family.

Funny, another sports tradition could be worked into the fabric of churches more readily than the draft celebration and that is the moment after a player is called for a foul or penalty. The referee states something like "Number 62: illegal use of hands on offense—10-yard penalty." Now there is a picture for the church. "Mr. John Doe, husband of Jane, father of Johnny and Joanie: illegal use of company funds—immediate dismissal from the job—continual sneers from church members behind his back—10-year penalty and recovery period."

In sports, the whole team suffers from a penalty. According to Paul's words in Romans, the whole Body of Christ belongs to each other, sharing in their pain and rejoicing in their success. According to what I see in many churches, when you go anywhere—up or down, you go alone even if you succeed. Why is it easier to desecrate a believer's sin than to celebrate a believer's salvation or success?

If we overlook God's Word, we miss the power of being a part of God's people. Christianity is not just a right relationship with God or a guarantee of going to heaven. According to Scripture, becoming a believer means stepping into God's family. When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to talk to God, He said to pray like this: "Our Father" and He remained in the third person using words like "us," "we" and "our." God has always and will always look at us as a family in faith with one Father. (Written by Doug Webster)

**"One truly affectionate soul in a family will exert a sweetening and harmonizing influence upon all its members."  
—Henry Van Dyke**



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## BIBLICAL BASIS

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## THE BIG IDEA

When you become a Christian, you become a part of the Body of Christ—the family of God.

## WARM UP (5-10 MINUTES)

### FAMILY PORTRAITS

- Give each student a piece of paper and a pen or pencil. On one side of the paper have them draw a picture that represents the Church/family of God.
- After they have drawn the pictures, either have each person share what his or her picture depicts, or have them get into groups of three or four and share about their pictures. Discuss the following questions:
  1. How is the Church like a family?
  2. How is our youth group like a family?

## TEAM EFFORT--JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL (15-20 MINUTES)

### BEING AN INGREDIENT FOR GOD

- Prior to your meeting, buy a chocolate cake or chocolate chip cookies and the following items: flour, sugar, eggs, chocolate chips or cocoa, milk, butter and baking powder.
- Display the above ingredients in bowls, along with the cake or cookies. Explain to your group that you have the ingredients needed to make a chocolate cake or chocolate chip

Fold

### SO WHAT?

1. What can you do to help people feel like they belong?
  2. What are some roles that you can fill in our group to make it be more of a family?
  3. What can we do to care more for others in our group?
- What will you do personally to care more for others in our group?

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT (OPTIONAL)

- Use the questions on page 106 after or as a part of "In the Word."
- 1. What area of giftedness do you see yourself adding to the Body of Christ?
- 2. What keeps us from reaching out to others who are in need?
- 3. What keeps you from reaching out to others?
- 4. What are some things which make you feel like you...  
Belong?  
Are needed?  
Are cared for?

## PARENT PAGE

- Distribute page to parents.

cookies and the final product. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12 and explain that just as there are many different elements or parts in the body, to make a cake you also need different ingredients.

- Invite students to sample the individual ingredients, describing how they taste. Then have the students sample the final product, describing how it tastes. Discuss the following questions:

1. How does this illustrate what it means to be a part of the family of God?
2. What would happen if we forgot one or more of the ingredients?
3. How important are each of the ingredients?
4. What do you feel is your part (ingredient) in the family of God?
5. What are some of the advantages of being an active part the family of God?

### **T**EAM EFFORT—HIGH SCHOOL (15-20 MINUTES)

#### **THE PUZZLE OF THE FAMILY OF GOD**

- Buy or borrow a small child's puzzle (with approximately 12 pieces).
- Hand out the puzzle pieces to volunteers (one piece per volunteer).
- Ask each student to describe in detail from that one piece what the picture of the puzzle is.
- Then have the group of volunteers come together and build the puzzle.
- Discuss the questions which follow.
- Option: At the end of the lesson, give each person in the whole group a piece of another puzzle to symbolize that he or she belongs to the group and to God's puzzle—the Body of Christ.

1. What are some similarities between the puzzle and being a part of the family of God?

Possible answers:

- Each piece is needed to make the picture complete. We are all needed in the family of God to complete God's design.
- Each piece is not independent from the others. We are not independent from each other; we need each other to help each of us find our place and to work together to complete the picture—God's plan.
- Without every piece the puzzle is incomplete. Each person is essential and valuable in the Body of Christ.

2. What are some other items that are like a puzzle which can represent an aspect of the Body of Christ?

Possible answers:

- Tools (each has a different and unique use);
- Keys (each one is unique and opens different doors);
- Sports team (each person on the team has a different role, position or responsibility on the team).

3. Is being a part of a church necessary to a Christian? Why or why not?

4. What are the advantages of being plugged into the family of God?

### **I**N THE WORD (25-30 MINUTES)

#### **THE BODY IN ACTION**

- Divide students into groups of three or four.
- Give each student a copy of "The Body in Action" on pages 103-105 and a pen or pencil, or display a copy on an overhead projector.
- Have students complete the Bible study.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. What does the passage say about being a part of the Body?

#### **EVERYBODY BELONGS (vv. 12-20)**

1. What are some things that keep people from feeling like they belong to a group?  
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2. What are some words that describe how you feel when you belong?  
.....
3. What does verse 18 mean for our group and for you personally?  
.....
4. Why did God give different roles to people in the family of God?  
.....

#### **EVERYBODY IS NEEDED (vv. 21-24)**

1. Why is every part needed in the Body?  
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2. Part of being needed in the Body is having a responsibility to one another. From the following passages, what are some of our responsibilities to one another? Also, how does that apply in real life?  
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John 13:14,15

Romans 12:4,5,10

Galatians 6:2

Ephesians 4:16

Philippians 2:1-5

Hebrews 10:24,25

1 John 4:7,8

#### **EVERYBODY IS CARED FOR (vv. 25-27)**

1. From vv. 25-27, what should our attitude be toward others in the family of God?  
.....
2. Read 1 John 3:16-18. We are called to love in deed and truth, not merely in words. What are some things that you can do to put love into action and care for those around you?  
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**THE BODY IN ACTION**

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. What does the passage say about being a part of the Body?

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**Everybody Belongs (vv. 12-20)**

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2. What are some words that describe how you feel when you belong?

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3. What does verse 18 mean for our group and for you personally?

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4. Why did God give different roles to people in the family of God?

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**Everybody Is Needed (vv. 21-24)**

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Romans 12:4,5,10

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1 John 4:7,8

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**Everybody Is Cared For (vv. 25-27)**

1. From vs. 25-27, what should our attitude be toward others in the family of God?

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2. Read 1 John 3:16-18. We are called to love in deed and truth, not merely in words. What are some things that you can do to put love into action and care for those around you?

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**So What?**

1. What can you do to help people feel like they belong?

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2. What are some roles that you can fill in our group to make it be more of a family?

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3. What can we do to care more for others in our group?

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What will you do personally to care more for others in our group?

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## **T**HINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. What area of giftedness do you see yourself adding to the Body of Christ?

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2. What keeps us from reaching out to others who are in need?

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3. What keeps you from reaching out to others?

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4. What are some things which make you feel like you...

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**P**ARENT PAGE

**FAMILY BODY LIFE**

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 together as a family.

When we become Christians, we become a part of the Body of Christ—the family of God. As a part of God's family, we have a responsibility to accept, love and care for one another. The Body of Christ is like a family. Just as in the family of God the family members need to feel like they belong, that they have unique parts or responsibilities and need to feel that others care about them. Below is an inventory and discussion questions for your family to help you examine the essential areas of being a family.

On a scale of 1 to 10, have each person in your family rate your family on the following areas (1 = needs a major overhaul, and 10 = running like a champ):

Everybody belongs (everyone is of equal value).

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

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Everybody is needed (everyone has a unique part or responsibility).

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

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Everybody is cared for (everyone has their needs met).

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

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1. What can we do as a family to make sure that everyone is of equal value?

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2. What can we do in our family to make each person feels more a part of it?

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3. What can we do as a family to make sure that each person has a vital and unique responsibility or role in our family?

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4. What can we do to care more effectively for each person in our family?

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5. In which of the three areas—belonging, being needed, being cared for—are we doing well as a family?

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Which of the three areas do we need to improve?

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6. What are three action steps that we will take?

Action Step

When

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7. A big part of being in the family of God is encouraging each other spiritually. What does our family do now to encourage spiritual growth in each other?

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What else can we do in the future to encourage each other to grow?

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“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone” (Ephesians 2:19,20).



Session 7: “Being a Part of God’s  
Family—Fitting into the Puzzle”

Date .....