**Connected: Created to Belong**

**Module 2: Invitation to Here and Beyond**

**Lesson 3: People Problems**

**Spiritual Aims**

Students will hopefully:

* recognize their place or significance in the body of Christ

**Learning Objectives**

Students will:

* recognize the challenges of togetherness
* understand the difference between being in community and individualism
* explore areas in their own lives that are preventing them from joining a community

**Materials Needed**

* Video equipment to show 3 clips [teaching tip 1]
* Flip Your Lid: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=jyxZ9KwkgdM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jyxZ9KwkgdM)
* Minute to Win It timer: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=97gfrmMZRp4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97gfrmMZRp4)
* Mustangs are Winners: [www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/gridiron-gang/mustangs-are-winners](http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/gridiron-gang/mustangs-are-winners)
* 1 plastic cup and 1 full water bottle per 2 students
* Large sheet of paper and markers for tracing a student’s outline (1 sheet per 8 students)
* Bibles
* Tape
* Optional: Recording paper and marker
* 1 sheet of paper and pen per 8 students

**Minds On** (approx. 10 min.)

Have the students play a Minute to Win It game of Flip Your Lid (see Materials Needed for a YouTube video of this game). For an added challenge, use the 60-second timer video (see Materials Needed).

**Leader’s note:** The purpose of this game is to have students work together to accomplish a task. It also serves as a way to burn off some steam and get kids focusing on the lesson material.

Show the “Mustangs Are Winners” video clip (see Materials Needed).

When the clip is done give the students 5 minutes to discuss the video by asking the following questions to the large group:

* What was the point of the coach’s speech?
* What is the significance of his statement that it’s about what he wants from them?
* How does this apply to your experience in the church?

**Prompt:** Similar to what the coach said in this video clip, when you join the church, you are no longer separated by what you can and cannot do or who you are. It is about you being part of a team that is focused on doing what God wants of us.

**Action** (approx. 30 min.)

Divide students into groups of 8 to 10 by numbering them into evenly-divided groups. This will be a key part of the metaphor that we will be discussing.

**Visualizing the Body:**

1. Each group will take 1 large sheet of paper.
2. 1 student will volunteer to be outlined on the paper.
3. As a group, read 1 Corinthians 12:12–27.
4. Label each part on the paper that was mentioned in the passage.
5. When complete, hang the paper on the designated wall.

**Optional:** Because these instructions are lengthy, you can choose to provide each group with a set of instructions or post them where everyone can see them.

**Prompt:** This passage is what we call a metaphor. It’s a picture of what it is like to be part of the community that we call church. To help us understand this passage we will go through 6 questions as a group. When I ask the question, take 30 seconds to think of your answer and then raise your hand if you’d like to share. I’ll ask for volunteers to answer before we move on to the next question. Questions:

1. What do you think when you first hear this metaphor?
2. What is happening in the story?
3. If you had to write a news caption for this story, what would it be?
4. What are the different parts of the body that are listed? How would those parts function in church (in other words, who are the hands of the church, who are the feet, etc.)?
5. How is the church described in this story?
6. How would you describe the body of Christ to your friend at school?

**Leader’s note:** It is important at question 3 to help them craft a short statement that reflects the heart of the passage, which is that, regardless of what we might think, each person is equally important in the body of Christ. You can choose to use the recording paper to write it out and edit as a large group.

**Prompt:** If there is one idea that I want you to take home tonight it is that no one is any more important in the church than anyone else. Some people might get more attention, but the truth is that the church would not function without everyone being involved. However, being part of a community is a hard thing to do.

Have students return to their small groups and compile a list of reasons why it is hard to be in a community.

**Suggested answers:** They may feel that they do not have anything to contribute. Perhaps they feel that it’s boring, or it’s something they do not enjoy doing. Sometimes we want to get rid of other people because we don’t like them or don’t want to hang out with them. Sometimes we want to be something that we are not (e.g., we may be a foot but we want to be an ear).

Give about 4 minutes to compile their list. Afterwards, have each group give 1 reason and see if the others had it on their list (if so, check it off). Go to the next group and continue until all the reasons have been given.

**Consolidate/Debrief** (approx. 10 min.)

**Prompt:** Is there anything you are doing, saying or believe about yourself that is preventing you from being part of the community? What would it look like if you started believing that you were a valuable part of the church?

Give students 2 minutes to think about this and consider what it means to them. At the end of the 2 minutes have students spend some time in prayer on their own. Invite them to talk to you or any other available leaders following the discussion if they would like to some help exploring what is preventing them from getting involved, or what steps they need to take to get involved in the church.

Close the session in prayer, asking for requests from the students. Pray that each student will understand that they are as important in your youth group as everyone else.