

More Than a Name

Module: NOW WHAT?

Lesson 2: THE BODY OF CHRIST

Objectives:

- Students will look at how Christians should work together
- Students will demonstrate that we need each other and trying to do things all our own is not what God had in mind.
- Students examine their own gifts and ponder how they can be used to benefit others.

Materials Needed:

- ☐ Some kind of platform is best, however, Hula hoops, or rope will work
- ☐ Bible per student

Minds On

This lesson will begin with a game called “All Aboard.” If you have a platform of some kind, that will be best, however a small hula hoop or rope will also work. If it is a platform, be sure that it isn’t too high (we don’t want people getting hurt!). The idea is to have a space too small for everyone to stand in. If you have a very large group, you may want to divide your group in two, however it isn’t necessary. Tell the group that they have ten seconds to get everyone standing on the platform (or in the hula hoop or rope circle). No one can fall off, or step out or they must start again. The idea is, your group can’t all fit in, and they will have to hold on to each other, and support each other, in order to have everyone standing.

Action

Hopefully you had some success in the cooperative game. Ask your students if this game made you think about anything? How did it make them feel? What was the key to winning this game? [Answer: supporting each other.]

Say something like: The people in the centre, did you have to hold onto anyone in order to stay on the platform (or in the circle?) Technically you didn’t, however if you weren’t holding on to someone, then there was almost no way to make this work. The church is similar to this: we need to support each other. Sometimes we may feel like we don’t need someone, sometimes we feel like having someone in our circle even makes it harder. Paul has a lot to say about this, and we are going to look at what he writes in the Bible about this idea.

Read Romans 12:3-8

Start a discussion here. What does it mean to be part of the body? It may even be a good idea to get some students leaders asking questions and facilitating discussion.

Suggested follow-up questions:

- What different gifts do you see in the church?
- Which ones are more noticeable or prominent?
- Which ones do you think are more important?
- What do you think would happen if someone decided someone else wasn't needed?
- What would happen if someone felt that their gift wasn't important enough to even bother doing anything at all?

Have students take turns reading Ephesians 4:25-32

Ask, “What is Paul getting at when talking about the Body in this passage?” Allow students time to answer. [Answer: He isn't talking about using each others gifts here, he is talking about how we should treat each other.]

“What does this mean then, how should it apply to us?” Give time for students to answer.

Say something like: *Being one body is important. Just like that game, we weren't meant to do it alone. Even if we are in the middle, if we let someone fall off the edge, we lose. We need to recognize each others gifts, and support each other in that. If our identity is in Christ, then we are part of his body; every one of us. This means that we need to treat each other with respect and love, the way Christ has treated us.*

Consolidate/Debrief

Have students break into small groups of about 3-4. In their groups, have each person identify a gift they feel they can bring to the church. How can this gift be incorporated into the body of Christ? After each student has identified a gift, have them discuss practical ways that they can support each other in these gifts. Another approach would be to have students take turns identifying the gifts that they see in each other. Make sure that there is a leader, either a student

or an adult, to ensure that no one gets left out and all are encouraged. Then be sure they take time praying specifically for one another, and any specific needs they may have in their lives.