

Wednesday

Read: *1 Corinthians 12:27-31 Members of one body*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What are the “greater gifts?” Do you feel that striving for these promotes unity in the church?*
2. *God appoints these gifts to us. Do you feel you have a gift that is specifically yours?*

Prayer Focus Empowering God, we give thanks today for all those who embraced and used your gift to enlighten our lives and to serve us, even when we didn't see or understand. We see the power of your Spirit in us, too, and we commit today to using it to reach others in ways that heal and transform your world.

Thursday

Read: *1 Corinthians 13:1-3 Without love*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why is love necessary for applying our gifts?*
2. *When has love led the way for you to use your gift?*

Prayer Focus Faithful God, without your love, we are nothing. Without accepting and sharing that love, we are hollow. Help us to be rooted, grounded, and steadfast in our love, every day.

Friday

Read: *1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 13 The greatest of all*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Which of love's characteristics is most important to you in your life today?*
2. *Where would you like to see more faith, love, or hope in our church, our community?*

Prayer Focus Loving God, with faith and hope and in all our diversity, weave us into your loving purpose. Make us one whole body that is solidly based in your great love, which never ends and never fails.

Body of Christ

Pastor's message: *1 Corinthians 12:4-14, 27-31; and 13:1-7, 13*

Message Notes:

Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *Is there a gift or talent that you wish you had?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: *1 Corinthians 12:4-14, 27-31; 13:1-7, 13*

- Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)



BODY OF CHRIST *October 1, 2023*

Monday

Read: *1 Corinthians 12:4-11 One Spirit*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why does Paul emphasize the Spirit in this passage?*
2. *What does Paul mean by "the common good?"*

Prayer Focus Breath of God, Giftgiver, we're amazed at the vast variety of gifts you give us. We're amazed that you trust us to use those gifts for the good of all, for the sake of God's plans. And we're grateful that you're with us to guide us as we work to serve all God's people.

Tuesday

Read: *1 Corinthians 12:12-14 One body*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What does it mean to you to be a member of Christ's body?*
2. *How do you understand the idea of all members of the body being one, no matter our status?*

Prayer Focus Uniting God, may we drink in your Spirit and grow in our efforts to see and value the gifts and lives of others. We ask for more understanding of what is needed to keep the body of Christ whole, healthy, and strong.