

Respond to the call to serve: *Edifying the Body of Christ*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

I wonder...

- What is the Body of Christ?
- What responsibility do I have in the Body of Christ?
- How can I appreciate the gifts of others in the Body of Christ?

I believe...

- The Body of Christ is made up of all those who are baptized, believe in, and profess Christ. (Catechism Q&A question 375)
- I am called to use and develop the gifts that God has given me to edify and build up the Body of Christ.
- Many different gifts are necessary and I can recognize and affirm them in others.

Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- Catechism
- *The Body of Christ* video on RightNow media
<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/illustration/97944>

References:

- Bible: Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-31, Ephesians 1:22-23, Ephesians 2:10, Ephesians 4:11-16
- Catechism Q&A questions 374, 375
- Catechism 6.2.3.1

PRE DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENT (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

What does it mean to be a part of the Body of Christ and what role do I have as a member of it? Join us tomorrow for small group at _____.

POST DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

Facilitator Notes:

- Please keep the main message intact, but feel free to add local information as necessary.

Dear Parents,
 This week the "I Wonder..." questions were about the Body of Christ. What is the Body of Christ? What responsibility do I have in the Body of Christ? How can I appreciate the gifts of others in the Body of Christ? In this lesson, the students learned about what it means to be a part of the Body of Christ, that they've been equipped by God with spiritual gifts, and that they cannot fulfill their calling without the help of others. Ask your student what gifts and passions interest them, and discuss with them what you can do together to edify others. As always, if you have questions about the topic, feel free to contact us.

Your Youth Leaders

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?
- What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?
- So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
- Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

HOOK (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- How are you and how are you feeling today?
- Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week?
- Watch the *Body of Christ* video:
<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/illustration/97944>
- In our world today, there are many who are in need.
 - What needs have you witnessed?
 - Who can help those who are in need?
 - What can happen when those who have been called together by Jesus Christ work together?

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

- Preview the "I wonder" questions with the students.

I wonder...

- What is the Body of Christ?
- What responsibility do I have in the Body of Christ?
- How can I appreciate the gifts of others in the Body of Christ?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Use the referenced CNAC Q&A questions and Bible references to help answer the student questions.

- Ask the students to describe what they think of when they hear "Body of Christ."
 - Read together 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Student Question #1 What does the image of the Body of Christ mean?

- The Body of Christ is an image of the church of Jesus Christ. (Catechism Q&A question 374)
- The image refers to all those who belong to Jesus Christ because they are baptized, believe in Him, and profess Him as their Lord. (Catechism Q&A question 375)
- The image picks up on a common metaphor of the time, in which the state was envisioned as an organic body and the individual as a member of it. (CNAC 6.2.3.1)
- Christ is the head of the body: the church stands in the service of Christ just as the body puts into action the decisions of the head. (Ref. Ephesians 1:22-23)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The term “edify” is derived from the term edifice: a building or structure. The verb “edify” means to build-up, construct, uplift, or cultivate. Remind the students that their gifts and passions will change throughout their lives. 	<p><u>Student Question #2</u> What has God given to all who are a part of the Body of Christ?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ephesians 2:10 – ...<i>we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.</i> ➤ Ephesians 4:11-12 – <i>And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ...</i> ➤ For the edification of the body, God has given individual gifts and services. (Ephesians 4:11-13; Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11) ➤ We believe that every member in the Body of Christ is equipped with spiritual gifts to help them live out the purposes that God has called them to. <p><u>Student Question #3</u> How can you edify the Body of Christ?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ephesians 4:13-16 – ...<i>till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ – from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.</i> ➤ When each member understands how their gifts edify the congregation, we will see a maturing of faith, renewed appreciation for each other by accepting each one’s strengths and weaknesses, and a growing understanding of our purpose in the church and in our communities. ➤ God has given us spiritual gifts for many purposes. However, the most important thing we can do with our spiritual gifts is to bring glory to God. We bring glory to God when we use our gifts to edify others. ➤ To engage our spiritual gifts is to live a life of service. It is an intentional and individual calling for which God has equipped us. <p><u>Student Question #4</u> How can you appreciate the gifts of all who work along with you as members of the Body of Christ?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ By understanding the image of “the body,” we can see that many different gifts are necessary, and can recognize and affirm them in others. ➤ You are called for a specific purpose in the Body of Christ, and in order to fully walk in that purpose you must be aware of the gifts you have been given, develop and grow in them, and learn to appreciate the gifts of others. ➤ The members of the body are all different: they may not have the same duty to perform (Romans 12:4); however, they work together and serve one another. ➤ The gifts of the individual members of the congregation vary, as do their tasks. However, they are all interconnected and serve one another. Accordingly, the church is an organism in which all are dependent on each other. (CNAC 6.2.3.1)
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WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

Wrap up the lesson with what the Body the Christ is, and the role that each one has as part of this relationship.

Close with the "I Wonder..." questions

- Ask a student to read an "I Wonder..." question and invite another student to answer with an "I Believe..." statement or an "I Believe..." statement in their own words.
- As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.
- Remind the students on their Confirmation day that they will or have already promised and committed to surrendering themselves in belief in God.

I wonder...

- What is the Body of Christ?
- What responsibility do I have in the Body of Christ?
- How can I appreciate the gifts of others in the Body of Christ?

I believe...

- The Body of Christ is made up of all those who are baptized, believe in, and profess Christ. (Catechism Q&A question 375)
- I am called to use and develop the gifts that God has given me to edify and build up the Body of Christ.
- Many different gifts are necessary and I can recognize and affirm them in others.

Point to Ponder...

- Think about your gifts, passions, and godly purposes as part of the congregation, your family, and community.

A Call to Action...

This week, read the **FLASHPOINT: Maturity** in your IGNITE Bible on page 1237. Think about the people you have been called to serve with in the congregation, and write two of them a thank you note showing your appreciation and thankfulness that you can serve God together with them.

Weekly Reflections

What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?

What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?

So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Point to Ponder...

Call to Action...

Respond to the call to serve: *Edifying the Body of Christ*

I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is the Body of Christ? ➤ What responsibility do I have in the Body of Christ? ➤ How can I appreciate the gifts of others in the Body of Christ? 	I believe... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Body of Christ is made up of all those who are baptized, believe in, and profess Christ. (Catechism Q&A question 375) ➤ I am called to use and develop the gifts that God has given me to edify and build up the Body of Christ. ➤ Many different gifts are necessary and I can recognize and affirm them in others.
References: Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-31, Ephesians 1:22-23, Ephesians 2:10, Ephesians 4:11-16; Catechism Q&A questions 374, 375; Catechism 6.2.3.1	

1. What does the image of the Body of Christ mean?

2. What has God given to all who are a part of the Body of Christ?

3. How can you edify the Body of Christ?

4. How can you appreciate the gifts of all who work along with you as members of the Body of Christ?

Point to Ponder: Think about your gifts, passions, and godly purposes as part of the congregation, your family, and community.

A Call to Action: This week, read the **FLASHPOINT: Maturity** in your IGNITE Bible on page 1237. Think about the people you have been called to serve with in the congregation, and write two of them a thank you note showing your appreciation and thankfulness that you can serve God together with them.