

1. Motivate

What are some of your first memories of church?

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View at https://watch.liberty.edu/media/1_xks7amfi

2. Transition

Regular attendance as a family required commitment.

- God calls us to commitment not just to the church but most importantly to Christ.
- And commitment to Christ includes a commitment to His Body, the Church.

3. Bible Study

3.1 One Body in Christ

Listen for a comparison to the human body.

Romans 12:3-5 (NIV) For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

How should Christians think about themselves?

Note the analogy he used to describe the diversity with unity that is essential to health. How did he apply that to being one body in Christ?

How does the analogy of the human body help us better understand how the church should work?

Agree or disagree

Agree	Disagree



⇒ The point is, that both are equally important ... Paul is saying no one believer is more important than the other ... *all* are equally important.

How should these concepts keep a person from feeling superior or inferior to other Christians?

What does it look like when a believer *underestimates* his or her value to the church?

How could that kind of thinking hinder spiritual health ... both for the church and for the individual?

What should be our attitude about service to the church provided by fellow believers?

3.2 Using Gifts to Support the Body

Listen for using Spiritual gifts in the church.

Romans 12:6-8 (NIV) We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7 If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; 8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

On what basis are persons gifted?

How should that affect our attitude toward the gifts we have, that others have, and the way we use them?

What are some words or phrases which Paul uses to tell us the attitude with which we should use a Spiritual gift.

What obstacles often prevent us from using our gifts as God intended?

When have you seen the benefits of someone using his or her spiritual gifts in the church?

3.3 Serving the Lord Together

Listen for attributes that enhance the unity in the church.

Romans 12:9-16 (NIV) Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

What are some ways Paul identified for how love will manifest itself in relationship to others?

How might these actions contribute to the unity of the body?

Consider three of these commands. How might they be either the easiest or the hardest to obey?

Command	Easiest to Obey	Hardest to Obey
Hospitality		
Joyful in hope		
Praying for each other		

⇒ We must take care neither to take these commands lightly nor become cynical in attitude. They are all important to the growth of the Body of Christ, the Church

What would your church look like if all members loved each other in the way described in these verses?

