

1. Motivate

When have you felt most at home with a group of people?

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View it at https://watch.liberty.edu/media/1_mszej37m

2. Transition

For people who have come to faith in Christ we belong to a unique group

- Not only are we members of a local congregation ...
- We also become a part of the Body of Christ – that group of believers the world over.

3. Bible Study

3.1 Christ Head of the Church

Listen for Christ's relationship to the Church.

Ephesians 1:20-23 (NIV) which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

What two events related to Christ does Paul cite to describe the greatness of God's power given to those who believe?

Over what realms and for what times has Christ been exalted?

What does it mean for Christ to be head over all things to the church?

If Christ is the head and the church is His body, what implications does that have for how the church functions?

How is being a part of a church different from being a part of any other organization?

What happens when we forget that Christ is the head of the church?

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We Are Joined Together

How does the knowledge of God's authority and control make you secure?

How can we make Christ the Head of *our lives* as individuals?

When the Spirit of Christ *fills* our lives, how will our lives be different?

3.2 God's Grace

Listen for God's gift.

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV) For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

List the critical words you see in verse 8.

How do they relate to each other in the salvation experience?

For what purpose have we been saved?

What do these verses teach us about God's grace?

Why is it important for us to know that we are God's workmanship, God's work of art?

3.3 Members Together in God's Household

Listen for who we are in Christ.

Ephesians 2:19-22 (NIV) Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

What images did Paul use to describe the union of all believers in Christ?

Whom does he identify as the foundation of God's holy building?

What do you think is the significance of Christ as the corner stone?

What can we do to continually align ourselves with Christ, the Cornerstone?

Consider the importance of "fitting together" of different elements of the structure of a building ... prevents leaks, shifting, collapse. What kinds of attitudes or actions sometimes need to be adjusted in our lives so that we "fit together" with other believers?

Application

Confess.

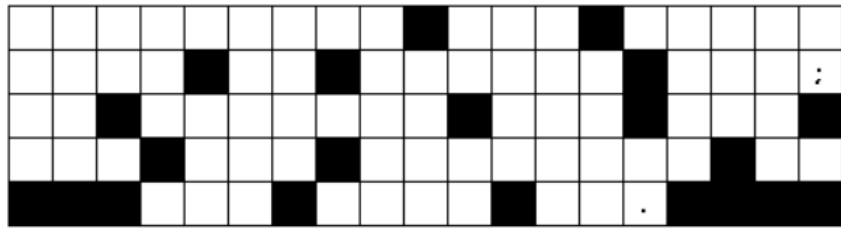
- Adopt a right mindset of your part in Christ's church.
- Confess any wrong attitudes you hold (or have previously held) about individuals in your local church.

Submit.

- Read Ephesians 1:20-23 again and reflect upon the power and authority of Jesus Christ.
- Submit your life to His authority and control.

Commit.

- If you're not a member of a local church, pursue membership to begin experiencing the beauty of living together" in the household of God.
- This might mean going through a membership class or talking to a pastor.
- If you're already a member, commit yourself anew to the covenant and mission of your church.



T E E

A E A L R E D K A O C E O E
 T N D A C R O R B Y P E I E E N E
 B O L D A T E A I X E A R T E O V E R
 W E L I E V E L S E C R M T N D N T O



Let's see this "TO" must go in that next to the last row all by itself. Then I'll look for two and three letter words and see what makes sense. All the letters in your puzzle fell straight down, so that's better than how those letters over there are all JOINED TOGETHER. Joni Eareckson Tada is the person who is quoted.

R U Stuck?
 Link to Solution
 More Family
 Activities

