

# *Volunteer Sign Ups*

*As you pray about activating and engaging in the church as part of the body of Christ, consider signing up to serve as a volunteer! It is an honor and true blessing to serve others and be an active part of the mission of the church. We currently have many areas in need!*



# EKKLESIA

RECAPTURING JESUS' VISION FOR HIS CHURCH

Week 5 | We Are One Body | 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

## IN A CULTURE SO DIVIDED, GOD'S CHURCH IS WHERE YOU SHOULD FIND REAL UNITY

What does a house, a farm, a temple, a bride, a family, a flock, an olive tree, and a human body have in common? If you guessed, they are all used as biblical metaphors for the church, you're right! These are some of the beautiful metaphors used to describe the community of God's people and I notice something that they all have in common. They are singular, or one. There aren't many temples, there's one temple. There aren't many brides, there's one bride. There aren't many bodies there is one body. When you were born again, you were born again into the church, the Body of Christ, where God intends you to be an engaged and active member, worshiping Him exclusively, building up your brothers and sisters through the use of your spiritual gifts, and reaching the world with the gospel. In other words, not doing Christianity on your own.

The current cultural climate of division militates against the solidarity that God desires among His people, which is why we need to be even more diligent in being engaged in God's church in a way that magnifies our unity.

**Leaders:** Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.



### PRAY (10 min)

As a Life Group, take time to reflect and pray over this weekend's message. Spend time asking God to unify your life group and to bring a deep and abiding unity to the church.



### REFLECT (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. Idolatry permeated the early Christian world. False deities were worshiped nationally in people's professions, and there were also household gods that were worshiped to bring favor to the family. When a person chose to be a follower of Jesus, they had to reject the worship of all these false deities, which immediately marginalized them. The only community that they fit into was the Christian community.

**How do you think this impacted the importance of being connected to the community of believers in the early church? What can we learn from them? What are some of the modern false gods that Christians must reject?**

**For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.**

1 Thessalonians 1:9

2. **According to the teaching, how does water baptism symbolize the spiritual change that has happened in your life? Are there any aspects to the old, unsaved life that you are still holding on to?**

**Christian baptism was a one-time rite that functioned to mark the separation of the initiate from his/her pre-Christian past and to signify transition into membership in the new faith community the *ekklesia* (the church.)**

**Larry Hurtado – *Destroyer of the Gods***

3. **How deep is your connection with brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ? Rate on a scale from 1-5, 5 being deeply connected. What has helped you take steps to be more connected? What is holding you back from being more connected, and what will you do about that?**

**And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.**

**1 Corinthians 12:26**

4. God wants you to use your spiritual gifts.

**Take time in your life group to discuss spiritual gifts. Share with your brothers and sisters what spiritual gifts you see evidenced in their lives. Discuss and pray as a life group about serving together in a way that would edify the church. Be creative.**



## **WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE**

### **Ephesians 4:5-6**

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.



## **REACH** (5 min)

Considering what God revealed to you this week, take steps to be more integrated into your Christian community. Be willing to let God stretch you.

**We will be waiting with anticipation to see the steps that God revealed to you and how you are choosing to be obedient.**