One Body, Many Parts

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BIG IDEA

God has made us one body in Christ, and shared life grows as we make room for one another.

KEY SCRIPTURES

1 Corinthians 12:12–27

1. When have you entered a group where you felt out of place? What helped you feel there was room for you?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12–14. Paul says that people from different backgrounds were brought into one body by the same Spirit. What does this tell us about the foundation of our belonging?

3. In verses 15–17, the foot concludes that it doesn't belong because it isn't a hand. When have you compared yourself with someone else and questioned what you had to offer?

4. Feeling out of place is not the same as having no place. What feelings or experiences can lead us to draw conclusions about ourselves that may not be true?

5. Read verses 18–20. How does knowing that God has placed different parts in the body challenge the idea that we need to become more like someone else to belong?

6. In verse 21, the eye says to the hand, "I don't need you." What makes it difficult for capable or independent people to receive help from others?

7. In the context of healthy teams and relationships, personal Christ-sufficiency can become communal self-sufficiency. Carrying a burden privately can leave people feeling like outsiders. How might keeping our struggles to ourselves affect the people who want to share life with us?

8. Read verses 22–26. Paul says the parts that seem weaker are indispensable. Who might be overlooked in our church or community, and how could we offer them greater honor and care?

9. Do you identify more with the foot, questioning whether you belong, or with the eye, finding it difficult to need others? What is one step you can take toward shared life this week?