

LESSON 16

What's the Recipe for Serving?

(Serving as the Body of Christ)

Lesson Objective:

To remember that serving in church takes more than one person to do it. God did not give us our S.H.A.P.E. to be used in isolation. It takes the entire body of Christ working together for God's glory. We are better together!

Prayer as You Prepare:

Lord, thank You for the unique S.H.A.P.E. mixture in my small group! You have gifted each of them in wonderfully unique ways and I am so grateful. I ask that You would help them to understand this idea that serving takes everyone's S.H.A.P.E.s working together towards one specific goal. Help us come together to expand Your kingdom here on Earth! Amen.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Begin the Journey:

Bring in an extra special treat this week—homemade chocolate chip cookies. Enjoy this special treat as you appreciate each person's uniqueness. Celebrate the differences!

ACTIVITY PAGE: ONE BODY

It takes a lot of different parts to make up the human body, from your eyes all the way to the toes on your feet. We are made of many parts that form one body. In the same way, the church is made up a lot of different parts. When those parts serve together, great things can be done for God's kingdom! Have your students use the clues to fill in the blanks. Once they fill in the blanks, the key message of this lesson will be revealed. On the other side of the handout will be the five Quiet Time Check-in review questions for Romans 14:1–16:27.

Did You Know?

Jesus had 12 followers or disciples that all played a unique role on the very first ministry team of the church. Take some time to see if your students can name all of Jesus' disciples. They are: *Peter, Andrew, James, John, Phillip, Nathaniel, Matthew, Thomas, James, Simon, Judas and Judas Iscariot.*

OBJECT LESSON: MOSAIC

Explain to your students what a mosaic is. Use this mosaic to illustrate the many different parts that are needed to make up one larger picture. A mosaic has many different pieces that are all so different from one another, yet when they are fitted together they make a complete picture. So it is with the body of Christ—many different S.H.A.P.E.s form one body, the church.

Seek the Treasure:

“And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:22)

Uncover the Truth:

Jesus showed us many things through His disciples. Two things that we can learn today are first, that we are better when we serve God together. Second, we are not limited to serving only in the church! Jesus wants us to serve outside of the church too!

You will take more time to talk about this more specifically in the next lesson. There will be some cool plans in store to get your students involved in Local PEACE, serving in the community. Hold tight!

- What does it mean to have the right combination of S.H.A.P.E.s to serve God?
Now that you have found your own S.H.A.P.E. think about what would happen if this class combined all of their S.H.A.P.E.'s together! Think about all that could be accomplished. When your S.H.A.P.E. is combined with another person's S.H.A.P.E. you are being the body of Christ. This is the world changing combination of serving God together!
- Why should we serve others in the community?
Jesus does not want us to hide the light of our salvation inside the church. He wants everyone to know about His amazing love. He never told us that once you are in the church you can only serve God and others in the church. NO! He wants everyone around us, especially in our local community, to know the love of God! We can show our local community the love of God when we go out and serve them.
- Write down the examples given in these verses (Ephesians 2:19–22) about working together.
Ephesians 2:19–22 says that we are members of God's household and that Jesus keeps this house held together. Each member of God's household is a part of this house and are being fit together. If we are part of the same house why would we not work together? We want to hold it together and keep it strong.
- Why does God build us together “to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit”?
God wants to build us up together over a strong foundation so we can be a dwelling place for His Spirit at all times. When we become a place for the Spirit of God to dwell then we can truly love God and others with all of our, heart, soul and mind! Imagine how big of a dwelling place for God's Spirit we would be when we are built together! That is a lot of love going on in a world that needs to know God's love.

Find the Purpose:

First, in front of the whole small group have each of your students give a brief summary of how God has S.H.A.P.E.d them. This will be a time for your small group to learn about each other.

- What do you notice about your small group leaders as far as teamwork and serving together? What do you appreciate about them?
Hopefully your students will notice just that—your teamwork and serving together. Each leader has a unique S.H.A.P.E. too and our prayer is that it is shining through in your weekly leadership in Kids Small Groups. Your students will notice how you work together (or do not) and appreciate each of your different strengths.
- Write a part of each person's S.H.A.P.E. that you appreciate or admire.
You will probably need a separate piece of paper to write down each student's name and then a part of his or her S.H.A.P.E. that you appreciate or admire. Coach your students on how to briefly summarize their S.H.A.P.E. by having a leader go first to set the tone.
- What are some things you could possibly do together to serve outside the church?
Be practical and specific. For example, you can serve at a specific food shelter by shelving food for a few hours on Saturday. Or you can gather together in someone's neighborhood to prayer walk, mow lawns, wash cars or recycle. The possibilities are endless. Think about organizations or people groups that you, the leaders, have particular hearts for or connections with. Brainstorm away and have fun.

GAME: T.P. STRENGTH

Objective—To reinforce that there is strength in numbers.

Materials—Toilet paper rolls

Instructions—Divide your students into two groups and have each group form their own line shoulder-to-shoulder. Pick two from each group who will be the “wrappers.” On “GO!” the “wrappers” will take the toilet paper roll and weave it in and out of each student in line. They must return in the other direction until the roll is out. The end result will be a line of students wrapped together. The first team to get through both rolls of toilet paper wins. After each group has been wrapped together have them try to move around the classroom together without breaking through the toilet paper.

NOTE:

- Make sure your students stay together with minimal movement. It will be a great illustration at the end to have the wrapped together students walk together.
- For a twist, the game will not be over until the students are wrapped together AND are able to walk to the other side of the classroom without coming undone.

Discussion

1. Was it difficult to work together in this game? Why or why not?
2. Oftentimes we do not notice the eyes or the hands in the body of Christ. But, God may have put one of these parts right next to us in our small group, at church or even at school. There are many different parts that are capable of great things when they come together as one body. What part of the body do you think you are? Why?
3. What happens when the body does not work together or ignores a part of the body? How can the body become healthy and work together again?

FOLLOW-UP:

Take a break from phone calls or communication. Keep the list of brainstormed ideas somewhere close so you can reference them at a later time. They could be great service project ideas for your group this summer, this month or even next year. Commit to come together as the body of Christ to make a difference sometime in the near future.