

Thursday MORNING: Teammates

INTRODUCTION

- We have now had three full days of experiences together
- In that time, we've paid attention to our environment, to how we interact with others, and to how we see ourselves (and each other).
- Due to our shared experiences, our awareness of what's happening and the sharing of our observations of those experiences, we are transitioning from a group to a *team*.
- Here's how the apostle Paul describes a team:

READ 1 Cor 12:14-17, 26-27

14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one part but of many. 15 If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

26 If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. 27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

ASK (answers in parenthesis)

- Is the whole body a foot? (no, because the body has more than one part to it)
- But if you stub your toe, does the rest of your body hurt? (In a weird way, yes)
- Are there some things that your ears can do but that your fingers cannot do ... and vice versa? (Yes. For example, ears can hear and fingers cannot. But fingers can type and ears cannot).
- And what/who do the parts of the body answer to? (the mind/brain)

TELL

- A group and a team are different.
- People in a group do not know each other well enough to succeed beyond the abilities of their most gifted member.
- But people in a team know each other well enough that they can succeed beyond the abilities of their most gifted member. A team happens when the sum is greater than its parts.
- As this week progresses, we are becoming a team – we are learning to work together.
- **The challenge of the day** is to look for ways that we are functioning as a team, as one body. Look for how we are combining our different skill sets to complete tasks.

CLOSING PRAYER *Recommended format:* Adult Leader asks for prayer requests and then leads the prayer (start to finish) in a pretty succinct matter that mentions the named prayer requests, maybe mentions something from the scripture story and then asks/invites God's help and guidance and blessing into the work day. Amen.

Thursday EVENING: Teammates

DECOMPRESS

- We're going to go around the circle, now, and share with each other one thing that you did today that you keep thinking about, that surprised you or that made you uncomfortable.
- When it's your turn, start by saying your name.
- RECOMMENDED FORMAT: Adult leader starts. Then proceed around the circle. Everyone is expected to share. If someone can't think of something, pass them by and then come back.

REFLECT

- This morning, we read and briefly discussed Paul's description of a team by using the human body as a metaphor.
- Our challenge for the day was to look for ways that we were functioning as a team, as one body, to see how we are combining our different skill sets to complete tasks.
 - So, what did you see?
 - **Suggestion for adult leaders:** Here's another opportunity to be very affirming of the youth by sharing how you see how they support one another and work together.
 - RECOMMENDED FORMAT: This is meant to be more of an open discussion format. No need to go around the circle. And people might respond to what is shared. Other questions/topics might be raised. As the leader, there might be experiences that you'll want to raise and ask for responses about.

TELL

- When Paul wrote the excerpt that we read this morning, he wanted to describe how the Church, made up of many different people, could work together.
- As a small group, we can see both the challenges of and the rewards that come with learning to work together as a team.
- But if we think about what we've learned and experienced with each other and then think about getting an entire church community, like [*name of your church*], or even an entire denomination, like [*name of your denomination*], to experience and learn the same thing, then it might start to feel a little impossible. There are too many people! It's too big!
- This is why it's important to remember that in Paul's metaphor the leader/head of the Body of Christ is Jesus.
- And, because we have been doing the very same things that Jesus taught his disciples (discussing how to pay attention to God with the study of scripture, discussion and prayer), I believe this has strongly helped us become the amazing and incredible team that we've become.
- So...yay for us! But, something to keep in mind for future reference: If we want a larger church community to experience what we are experiencing – it starts with learning how to pay attention to God. The activities are just icing on the cake.
- Let's close with (song and) prayer.

MUSIC/SINGING (optional)

CLOSING PRAYER

Recommended format: Adult leader will start the prayer, and then say something along the lines of, "At this time, God, we lift to you our joys and concerns both outloud and silently." This then provides opportunity for everyone in the group to pray. When it feels like enough time has passed, Adult leader then closes the prayer. NOTE: The introductory part of the prayer by the Adult leader can be pretty succinct – some naming of joys and thanksgiving. The closing part of the prayer can be a place where the Adult leader can lift up the concerns of the group that were raised in the sharing time. The closing part of the prayer can also be a good place to give thanks to God for the individuals in the group.