

WEEK 2: CHURCH LIFE

DAY 1: ONE BODY

Read Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13.

Your spiritual growth depends on your being involved with the body of Christ (church). There should not be any "Lone Ranger" Christians in God's family. You give your life to Christ and to other people who are also Christians when you become a Christian.

Sometimes a family does not have a baby. But can you imagine a baby staying alive without a family to take care of it?

Babies cannot live without families. They need love, attention, and everything given to them. A baby to survive must have a family—people who are concerned about its survival. The same is true for Christians. You will not grow spiritually without the family of God (church). The family of God is called by several names: **church, called-out ones, body of Christ, and living stones.** (You will learn more about these names later.)

Open your Bible to Romans 12:4-5. These verses give one main idea about the family of God (the church). That idea can be written like a math problem. Fill in the missing letters below, learning from what you read in Romans 12:4-5.

M _____ **M** _____ (or parts) =
1 _____

An important idea about the church is its unity. The Bible says, "We are one body in Christ." The answer should be like this:

M a n y m e m b e r s (or parts) = 1 B o d y

Do you remember what you have learned about the hand and fingers? This will help you remember the materials in this SURVIVAL KIT. The **thumb** should be _____

Body. The **hand** itself should be _____

It is interesting to see the meanings together here. "CHRIST, LIVING IN YOU AND CONTROLLING EVERYTHING" means Christ lives in you. You are a Christian. He also lives in me. He lives in every Christian. So all of us together make the 1 BODY of Christ. Christ is in us. We are in Christ. We are "one body in Christ."

The main point about the one Body of Christ is like the thumb on your hand. The thumb works with each finger. The church works the same way with all of the other ideas you will learn. You must always mix the first idea, the Body, with the other ideas to become a growing, happy Christian.

Did you notice that Romans 12:4-5 you just read is one of your memory verses for this week? Here it is from the **New International Version**. See if you can finish it by writing in the words.

"Just as each of us has _____ with _____, and these _____ do

not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are _____ form _____

_____” (Rom. 12:4-5, NIV).

This is from the **New International Version** of the Bible. You use the four important words of Romans 12:4-5 will be the same, “many,” “members,” “one,” and “body.” You should have finished the verses to look like this: “Each of us has one body with many members. These members do not all have the same function. We who are many in Christ form one body.”

Now find 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 in your Bible. Read it carefully. What verse is

the most like Romans 12:4-5? It is verse _____

You see the same four important words in 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 as in Romans 12:4-5. Write them to make this right.

_____ = _____

Remember that “many members” make “one body.” Now look at verse 13. What was one of the first things the Holy Spirit did to you when you became a Christian?

The word **baptized** in 1 Corinthians 12:13 means **fully in over your head**. The Holy Spirit puts you fully in church **over your head**.

You must be deeply involved in your church if you will have a natural, healthy spiritual life. You will find in church the things you need for spiritual **growth**.

You should stand and tell people in your church that you have faith in Christ and have asked for forgiveness for your sins. You have been baptized in water in your church. You should do that as soon as possible. Don't think you have a choice about church. You cannot postpone it. IT IS THE FIRST STEP TO SURVIVAL AS A GROWING CHRISTIAN.



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DAY 2: THE CHURCH, A BODY

Read 2 Timothy 1:8-10; 1 Peter 2:9-10; Ephesians 4:1-4.

Do you know what the word **church** means? It translates a Greek word from one of the first language of the Bible. **Ekklesia** means people who are **called out** from other people.

Imagine a large group of people. All of them live the way they want to live. They do whatever they want to do. Christ comes to them. He says, "Follow Me! Be separate from other people and become my disciples."

Some people notice. They don't pay attention. Others decide to follow. They come to Christ.

These are called the "called-out people." They are the church.

You will see the words *called* and *calling* in all three of the Bible verses you are to read for today. First read 2 Timothy 1:8-10. Find the answers to these questions.

Who calls us? _____

In whom are we called? _____

God calls us out in Christ Jesus. Does this remind you of one of the verses you learned last week? Write that verse here.

(Find 2 Cor. 5:17 if you need to check your memory.)

Now read 1 Peter 2:9-10. These verses tell us what Christians are supposed to do. What is it?

We are supposed to tell others how God has called us out. We are supposed to tell people about our Lord.

List several of the titles 1 Peter 2:9-10 gives to people who are "called out."

(v. 9) _____

(v. 9) _____

(v. 9) _____

(v. 9) _____

(v. 10) _____

The last two say almost the same thing. We are "called out of darkness into His great light"; "the people of God."

The people of God are explained in Ephesians 4:1-4. Find and read these verses now. List here some things the people of God should do.

The way Christ wants us to live is clear. Humility, gentleness, patience, love—these things will show in the lives of people whom God has called.

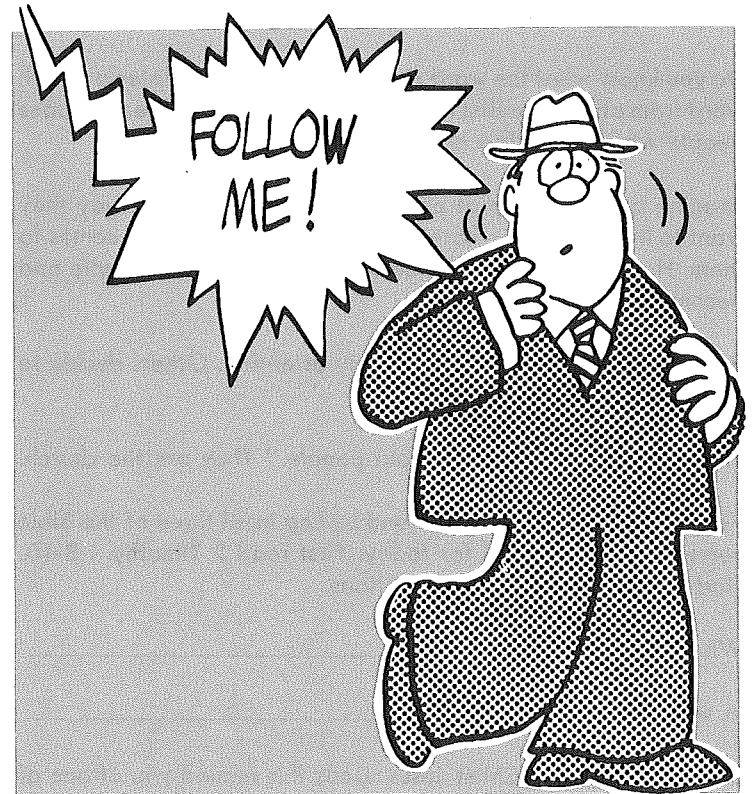
Which things do you want to show the most in your life today? Put a circle around the one you want the most.

Think about this: Christ does not give you these things; Christ is these things. Christ is humble, gentle, patient, and all the other things. You will show these things to other people when you let Christ be Lord and live in you.

Did you notice a two-word idea in Ephesians 4:4 you have seen before? That is **“one body.”** Tomorrow you will continue to think about this idea.

You have finished memorizing another verse that tells you about “one body.” That is Romans 12:4-5. Write as much as you can remember here.

Be sure to check your memory. Be sure you remember this verse right. Don't waste time memorizing a mistake.



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DAY 3: NO DIVISIONS IN THE BODY

Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-27.

People used stories many times in the Bible to help other people understand the point. Jesus used stories called parables. Paul also used stories. The Bible reading for today is a story Paul told.

Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:14-27 compared Christ's called-out people to parts of a human body. Each part is special and different. It is also connected to the other parts of the body. No part of the body can live without the help of the other parts.

A hand cannot live in the air alone. It must have an arm. There cannot be **division** in Christ's body (the church). There is no reason for jealousy. (Can you imagine your hand jealous because of the ear?)

A man wrote to his friend: "Pardon my handwriting. I have a bad case of gout in my foot." Only people who have experienced gout can know how pain in the foot can affect the handwriting.

Each part of the body is related to one another. Each affects one another. Your growth in the Christian life is related to other people in the body of Christ. All hurt when one suffers. All are happy when one rejoices.

That is the reason baptism and the Lord's Supper are celebrated when all the members of the church are **together**. All members celebrate together when we witness a baptism. All members in the Lord's Supper share memory with you of the Lord's death to give us new life. These are part of the life of the body of Christ. They cannot be enjoyed by any who are not a part of the body.

How much do you know about baptism and the Lord's Supper? Stop now. Read the material below. Maybe you prefer to finish and come back later. That is fine, too.

BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

Write **B** for **baptism** and **LS** for **Lord's Supper** beside each of the following:

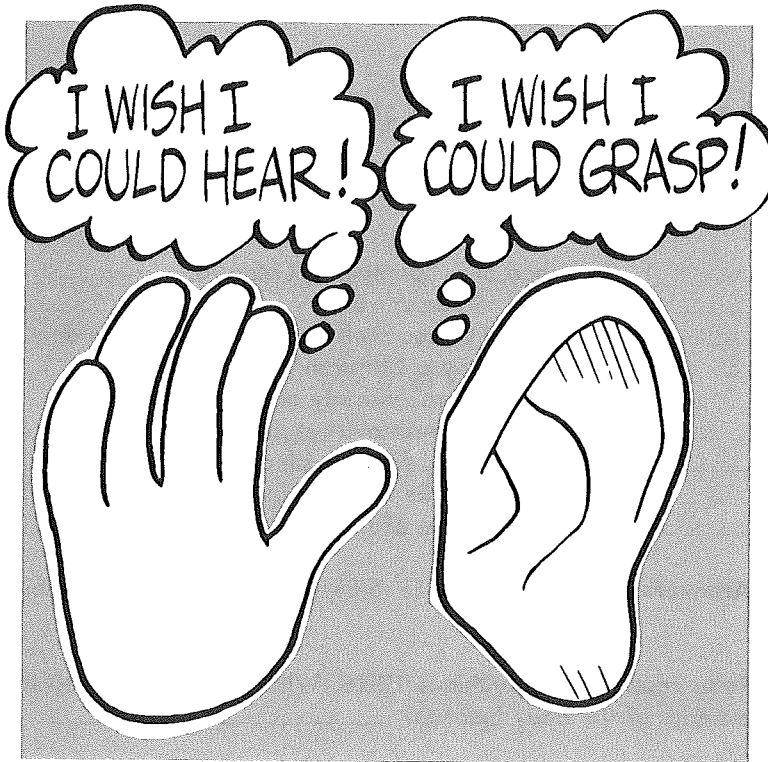
- _____ 1. Described in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.
- _____ 2. Described in Romans 6:4.
- _____ 3. Experienced personally by a Christian one time only.
- _____ 4. Experienced by a Christian many times.
- _____ 5. Shows Jesus' broken body and shed blood.
- _____ 6. Shows Jesus' death and resurrection.
- _____ 7. Shows a person's death to sin and new life in Christ.
- _____ 8. Commanded to be done by all who follow Christ.
- _____ 9. Described as one of the ordinances of the church.

Answers: 1-LS; 2-B; 3-B; 4-LS; 5-LS; 6-B; 7-B; 8-either or both; 9-either.

Read carefully 1 Corinthians 12:18. Who decides where each member of the body belongs? _____

Did you notice that 1 Corinthians 12:18 is the second memory verse for this week? Today the week is half finished. You should start memory work on the second verse today.

You may sometimes wish you were some other person. You may wish you could do things other church members could do. But there is no reason to be jealous of any other member of the body. God put you exactly where He wants you to be. Think about that as you memorize 1 Corinthians 12:18.



Now read slowly 1 Corinthians 12:25-27 one more time. Think about what it means. Here are two questions for you to think about from these verses.

1. Are Christian people in the church the only people who live like these verses say? Is it common to find this same way to live in people who are not Christian?

2. "Culture shock" is the experience people have when they are in a group of people who have new ways to talk (languages). They have new ways of doing things and new thinking. All are different from the way they are used to. What "culture shock" did you have when you first become an important part of the church? (Think deeply before answering.)

(Maybe you want to pray about these things in your Quiet Time even if you don't write answers to them.)

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DAY 4: THE CHURCH, A BUILDING

Read 1 Peter 2:1-10; Ephesians 2:19-22.

You already know the Bible uses several different names to describe the church. One of the most important names is the one you use when you look at your thumb.

The church is _____ in Christ.

You are learning two Bible verses that talk about "1 BODY" made of all people who follow Christ. Fill in the words at the right places in these two verses.

Our _____ are made up of _____.

None of these _____

have the same use. There are many _____ who

belong to _____ (Rom. 12:4-5, NLV).

But God has put all the _____ of the
_____ just as He wants to have
them. (1 Cor. 12:18, NLV).

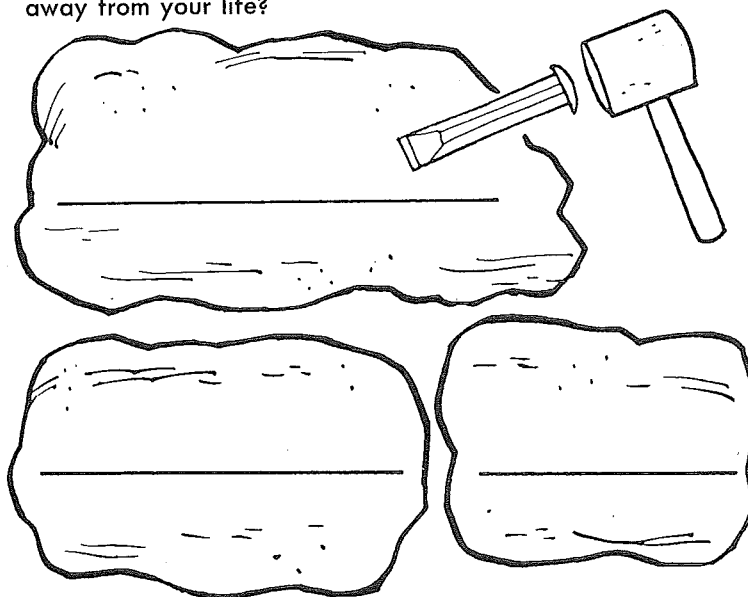
Read the verses in 1 Peter 2:1-10 and Ephesians 2:19-22 after

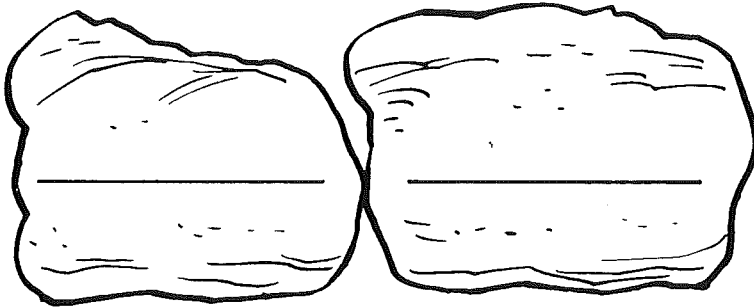
you have checked to be sure you filled in the words right. How do these verses describe the church?

We are called a **building** rather than a body in these verses. Christ is the "head of the church" (Col. 1:18, NLV). But He is also the chief corner stone of the building. We are each living stones that are being used to build a spiritual house, a holy temple.

The builders must cut and shape stones where they use them. The stone must fit with the other stones. This shows a reason you must be a part of a church to grow properly. God is shaping your life. This means you must fit with other living stones, people.

Read 1 Peter 2:1. What are some things God may want to cut away from your life?





Really, two kinds of stones are mentioned in 1 Peter 2:1-10. You and I are like rough stones. They need some cutting and shaping. But Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, is the chosen and precious corner stone. (See v. 6.)

Read verses 7-8. What kind of stone is Christ to people who refuse to believe in Him?

It may feel strange to think about Christ's causing men to stumble. That is what happens when people reject Him.

Now look again at Ephesians 2:19-22. What joins together Christians to make up the church?

Christ Jesus joins us together. Read verse 22. Why are we joined together?

It is a great thought to know we are being joined together as a

building for God's Spirit to live in. Are you beginning to understand how much you need the other Christians to help you grow properly? List two parts of your spiritual life that will not grow without fellowship with other Christians.

Pray about the two things you wrote today during your Quiet Time. Ask God to help you grow in relationship to other believers.

Also, don't forget to review all four of the verses you have already memorized. Place a check mark beside each one you can say right now.

Psalm 119:11 _____

2 Corinthians 5:17 _____

Romans 12:4-5 _____

1 Corinthians 12:18 _____

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DAY 5: NEW LIFE IN THE BODY

Read Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35.

These verses cause many people to be confused. Then they learn for themselves the true meaning for the word **church**. These verses do not teach us to live together. They do not say that all Christians should sell their things and give their money to the poor people. The verses do say that **sometimes** the people in the church sold some of their things. They shared their money with other people in the church who had serious needs.

Notice, also, they shared more than their money. They shared their **lives** with one another—eating, praying, sharing in Bible study, and teaching. Their life was proof that they had been “called out” from other people. They did not have a closed and selfish attitude like non-Christians. They had a special family life together.

Remember: This is the **thumb** of your SURVIVAL KIT hand. Christ’s church is “1 BODY.” The thumb must work together with each of the fingers. The fellowship you share with other people is important to your growth in Christ. Do not ignore it. Become deeply involved with your brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Now compare the verses in Acts 2:42-47 and the verses in Acts 3:32-35. Both of them have important things to teach us about

the church. Try to finish the sentences below.

ACTS 2	ACTS 4	
44	32	Church members are _____ _____ in Christ.
45	34-35	Church members should _____ their lives.
42-43	33	Church members should _____ their Lord.

Maybe you had a hard time remembering that church members are **one body** in Christ. You recently read that church members should share their lives. What did you write on the third line? **Proclaim? Witness for? Tell people about?** Any of these would be right.

Read Acts 2:45 one more time. Which is hardest for **you** to do? Is it hardest to **sell** something to help a poor church member? Or is it harder for other people to sell things to help you? Why do you think it is harder?

There is no right answer. This is a question to help you think. Now try this question. Acts 2:46 says that people often visited in one another’s homes. How can you follow the Bible and do the same things today?

Now is test time. Remember the hand. Write what the thumb and the whole hand mean.

Thumb: _____

Hand: _____

Now write 1 Corinthians 12:18. This is one of your memory verses about the church as one body in Christ.

Write Psalm 119:11. This is your memory verse that tells you why it is important to learn God's Word by memory.

