



Sermon-Based Group Discussion Guide

Hope Declared - Family Worship Service

By Children's Pastor Nate Travis

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During our quarterly Family Worship service this weekend, we experienced some aspects of what it means to be part of a church body. We witnessed people being baptized, making a public proclamation of their inner transformation- being dead to sin and alive in Christ. (Eph. 2:4-5) We also shared Communion together, remembering the body and blood of Christ, fuel for the people of God. We took an additional offering to help those with financial need in the community. Because of our shared hope in Christ, we live out the *Story of Hope* in our lives and in our community, for the good of others and the glory of God. As the apostle Paul taught, each of us is a valuable member in the body of Christ, and we each have a role to play in the Kingdom of God.

Opening question: Have you ever had a part of your body not work well due to sickness or injury, etc? How did it impact you? Share briefly.

Read together 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

I. Understand the Body is under Christ

Jesus reveals the heart and character of the invisible God. Jesus is also our model for how to live here on earth. As believers we are called children of God, co-heirs with Christ, and invited to participate in the ministry of His Kingdom. Yet we must always be submissive and accountable to Christ as our supreme authority, both as individuals and as a church.

Colossians 1:15-18a (NIV) "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible... all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church..."

Ephesians 2:20b-22 (NIV) "...Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."

- 1. What does Colossians 1:15-18 tell us about the role of Jesus Christ in relation to creation? In relation to the Church? In relation to the world?**
- 2. Ask someone to look up the definition of "cornerstone" and read about its critical function in constructing a building. What does it mean for Jesus to be the "chief cornerstone" as described in Ephesians 2:22?**
- 3. When we declare that Christ is the head of Calvary Community Church, what implications does that have for how we make decisions, conduct ourselves, or relate to one another?**

II. Understand the Body has a role for everyone

Ephesians 2: 10 (NIV) "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance."

Romans 12:4-5 (NIV) "Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

1 Corinthians 12:18-20 (NLT) "But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. How strange a body would be if it had only one part! Yes, there are many parts, but only one body."

1. **Why does Apostle Paul use the image of the body to talk about the church?**
 - How does the analogy of the body help explain how a church functions?
 - How does the analogy of the body help explain the role of spiritual gifts listed in 1Corinthians 12:27-31?
2. **How have you have seen God use your "part" to bless the Body of Christ here at Calvary or at another church or ministry in the past? Share your story.**
3. **Calvary has so many ways to plug in to serve God and others. Where do you sense the Holy Spirit nudging you to serve, whether in the church or in your community?**
4. **Consider participating as a group in the upcoming Serve Day on May 21st. Go online to calvarycc.org and find a project that you and others in the group can do together.**

III. Understand that the Body is made of imperfect people

Ephesians 4: 15-16 (NIV) "Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

1 Timothy 1:15 (NLT) "This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners'- and I am the worst of them all."

1. **Since the church is full of broken people, we can get hurt or hurt others. Sometimes, people are wounded spiritually by a church or a Christian leader and choose to walk away from a life of faith in God. Has this ever happened to you? What brought you back?**
2. **In a large church like Calvary, some people choose not to serve or give because they mistakenly believe, "They don't need me; there are plenty of other people who can do it." But the Bible is clear that we need to engage and serve in the body of Christ. What happens in the church when you are not participating or exercising your spiritual gifts?**
3. **Christian unity is essential! We build trust when we encourage one another. What can we do to encourage and serve each other, as well as other in the body of Christ, this week?**