



# Church and Saints

## OBJECTIVE

To help groups understand and experience themselves as members of the body of Christ with gifts to share for the good of the body.

## FOCUS THIS WEEK

We are not outcast souls walking through time alone with our beating hearts. We are members of Christ's body. We are precious to God. Don't let anyone leave this session without being confronted by this thought: You belong. Jesus nourishes you and gives you unique gifts to build up the body. Will you share your gifts?

## FAITH5 SMALL GROUP TIME



**SHARE** highs and lows to set the stage for a more open and meaningful discussion. Pair group members up one-on-one to share the best and worst things that happened this week. After a short while, return to small group and invite each person to share their partner's highs and lows. Encourage youth to write their personal highs and lows, those of their partner, and a short prayer on their FAITH5 Small Group Time Handout.



**READ** and highlight the theme verse, Romans 12:4-5, in your Bibles and circle key words. A musical version of this Scripture verse can be found at [www.faithink.com](http://www.faithink.com), FINKlink AC08.



**TALK** about how the Bible reading might relate to today's highs and lows. Supplement your discussion with some of the following.

### A. IMAGES IN WORDS AND ART

Take a look at the theme art and cartoons. What do you see in the art? Ask youth where they are in the art. How might the art and the theme verse apply to your group highs and lows today?

### B. CATECHISM ENCOUNTER

Scan Luther's Small Catechism looking for words that might describe the work of the church. Circle them and write five of the best words here: Accept and affirm all thoughtful answers.

## C. QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. **What is one thing you love to do? What is one talent or gift you possess?** Affirm all thoughtful answers.
2. **How might you use the passions and gifts above to strengthen the church? To bring God's love to the world?** Affirm all thoughtful answers.
3. **What are three different functions and systems of a human body?** Systems exist for breathing, pumping blood, heating, cooling, digestion, etc.
4. **How are these functions like functions of a church?** Like our bodies, the church is made up of many parts working together. Every part has gifts and talents to share to keep the whole body healthy and alive.

**D. QUOTATIONS** Ask youth to choose a quotation and share their thoughts and questions about it.

**E. TERMS OF THE WEEK** Review these key terms and write definitions.

**catholic (with a lowercase "c"):** With a small "c", it means "universal." With a large "C" it refers to the Roman Catholic Church.

**Christian:** Believers and followers of Christ.

**Church:** For the purposes of this lesson, believers are the church—not the building.

**Communion of Saints:** The unity of all who trust in Christ, both here on earth and with God in heaven.

**Saint:** Martin Luther says all believers are saints (and all of us are, at the same time, sinners).

## F. GROUP BUSINESS

**1. Servant Event Idea:** We are all members of the body of Christ and this makes us members of one another. Unfortunately, in our culture there is a thing called prejudice and it means we intentionally or unintentionally exclude people from the body. As a small group, work up a presentation about who is excluded and ways the church excludes members of the body of Christ. Next, talk about ways your congregation can work toward helping all to feel welcome and included. Present your project during an education forum, to the entire confirmation class or to the church council.

**2. FAITH5 Home Huddle:** Encourage youth to take a few minutes for FAITH5 with their families each night at home, using the FAITH5 Journals or the Home Huddle Handout.

**G. WRAP UP** Summarize the event with your group, assigning someone to share what you learned at closing.

- One new thing we learned today
- One thing we already knew that is worth repeating
- One thing we would like to know more about
- The highest highs and lowest lows which our group will bring to the closing prayer



### PRAY

for one another. Praise and thank God for your highs. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you in your lows. Include your friend's highs and lows in your prayers. Toss a newspaper into the center of the group or invite youth to think of something going on in the world that calls for prayer. **Tip:** Gather in a circle. Hold hands, lock arms or go shoulder-to-shoulder to bond your group!



### BLESS

one another by name. Trace a cross on each hand or forehead. Look them in the eyes and give them a smile. As for their blessing as well!