

The Gathering

1 Cor 12:14-26

Week of November 19, 2023

BELONG

Ask this Ice Breaker Question: What is the best team you have ever been a part of? Sports? Work? Volunteer organization? Other?

BELIEVE

Have someone in your group read aloud: 1 Corinthians 12:14*26

Ask these questions to prompt group discussion:

- 1. The NIH (National Institute of Health) has identified “team dynamics” as one of the greatest factors contributing to a positive community development in American culture. Why do you think teams, as opposed to individual leadership, are such an effective force in contributing to positive social development?**

Leader Context: *Answers might include the following:*

- *Burden sharing*
- *Resourcefulness*
- *Collaboration*
- *“We’re better together.”*

- 2. Why do you think Paul encourages us to work together in the local church body? How is Paul’s encouragement similar and different than what the NIH might recommend?**

Leader Context:

- *For Paul, there is an eternal component.*
- *Community development is a earthly value, not a heavenly one. Its temporal.*
- *Paul encourages us to work together not just for the building of an earthly community, but to build heaven’s community as it comes to earth.*

- 3. Paul instructs the Corinthians to earnestly desire the higher gifts. What do you suppose that Paul means here?**

Leader Context:

- *This is likely Paul’s way of bringing up supernatural elements.*
- *Paul knows that any community can have laborers.*
- *Paul wants the church to make space for the uncontrolled, the supernatural, the OTHER.*
- *Paul wants the local church to be a community of ordinary with an expectation of extraordinary.*



BECOME:

- 4. Groups Challenge: Continue discussion about the ways that your group can use their gifts to serve our church body during the Christmas Season.**
 - a. The Christmas Festival: December 16-17
 - b. Men's Ministry Fire Night: December 10
 - c. Serving on Christmas Eve

