

STUDY GUIDE

Oct 18 2026

START WITH PRAYER

Use this Prayer Prompt



Heavenly Father, thank You for making each of us a unique and vital part of Your body. Forgive us for the times we compare ourselves to others, doubt our place, or hold back from getting involved. Help us to deeply understand that we belong to You before we ever serve, and give us the courage to step in, step up, and share the gifts, experiences, and stories You've given us. Unify our church so that together we can faithfully unite, grow, and inspire those around us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

STUDY THE BIBLE

Think through and discuss your reactions as you read through Scripture:

- 1 Corinthians 12:12-21

STIR UP DISCUSSION

How does this week's teaching affect me personally?

1. Pastor Ben used the illustration of putting together a Blackstone griddle to show that "every piece matters." How have you experienced the feeling of trying to figure out where you "fit" in the larger picture of the church?
2. Verse 13 highlights that we "were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body." How does knowing that you *belong* to Jesus before you ever *serve* change your motivation for getting involved in the church?
3. In 1 Corinthians 12:14-20, Paul uses the humorous image of a foot wanting to be a hand or an ear wanting to be an eye. Why do you think we often struggle with comparing our gifts to others, and how can we better celebrate our unique

differences as "the point" rather than a problem?

4. In a culture that heavily values self-sufficiency and independence, Paul reminds us that "the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you.'" What are some practical ways we can move away from independence and actively depend on one another in our church community?
5. Pastor Ben emphasized that "you belong before you serve" and that church isn't just about watching, but active participation. What is one barrier—such as feeling inadequate, busy, or unsure of your place—that might be holding you back from stepping into deeper involvement, and how can the group encourage you in that?

STEP INTO ACTION

Let's try to apply this by taking some Next Steps.

- **Identify Your Unique Piece:** Take 10 minutes this week to reflect on how God has wired you—your unique gifts, hobbies, background, and life experiences. Ask yourself: *"How might God want to use my specific story or abilities to encourage someone else in our church body?"*
- **Move From Independent to Interdependent:** Reach out to someone in your group or church community this week to either share a practical need or offer a word of encouragement, prayer, or support. Intentionally choose to connect rather than relying solely on self-sufficiency.
- **Commit to Consistent Presence:** Recognize that simply showing up regularly is a powerful act of contribution. Make an intentional commitment to prioritize attending weekend services and group gatherings in person over the next month, understanding that your presence alone encourages and strengthens the rest of the body.