

“Pray For Your Body Of Believers” by Carol Duerksen

MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION:

- 1 Copies of your church directory or a list of your church families
- 2 Bibles for each student
- 3 Brightly colored index cards and pens for each student

SESSION GOAL

You will lead the students in spending the session praying for families in your congregation. Depending on the size of your congregation, it may take several sessions to do this.

FOCUS

Invite students to open their Bibles to I Corinthians 1:4-7 and read it together.

Then say: *In the next verses of this passage, Paul shares his concerns and admonishments with the church at Corinth. But before he does that, he praises God for them and he affirms them. Despite all of the difficulties, divisions and disagreements the Corinthian church was facing, Paul saw the church as the work of God in the world. The body of believers is God’s body in the world—God’s hands, feet, eyes, and ears. Broken and messed up though we may be, we are all God has to use in this world.*

One of the most important things we can do for the body of believers is to pray for them. Today we’re going to spend time doing that as we go through our church directory.

PRAYING

Explain the following procedure for the session: Start at the beginning of the church directory, naming the first person or family out loud. Any youth who know them and have a comment about those persons should say a few words. (Example: “He’s my mentor” or “She’s really nice”). If the family has some significant concerns or celebrations, mention those as well. Then, as a group, say in unison: *“For Joe and Barb, we thank you God.”*

Customize this procedure to what feels right for your class. The idea is to find a way that is meaningful to work your way through the directory and pray for the people in your church. Rather than doing this for one or more entire sessions, you may want to spend ten minutes of each session for several months in this activity.

RESPONDING

Hand out the index cards and pens and ask students to write down the names of several people in the congregation that they are particularly grateful for and really appreciate; and several people with whom they may not see eye to eye. Ask them to take the cards home and place them where they will see them and pray for the people every day—both those they like and appreciate and those with whom they may struggle.

Encourage students to bring the cards back next week and report back on how it felt to pray for the people on their card.