

THE CHURCH

Be Church



AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE
TRANSFORMING CATHOLICS FOR THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

In this study, we explored what it really means when we say that the Church is a “who,” and not simply a “what.” We are all members of the Body of Christ, and Jesus is calling each of us to respond to that truth with our very lives.

The CONNECT section of the parent sheet connects you with the information that was presented to your teen in their last small discipleship group. The DISCUSS section contains questions that you can use to start meaningful discussion on the topic covered and how it relates to their life. The COMMIT section explains to you the commitment or challenge that your teen committed to as a way to grow in their faith.



CONNECT

In his first letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul teaches that the Body of Christ is made up of many parts—each of us plays a significant and unrepeatable role. Christ uses us, His followers and disciples, to encounter the world with His love, and has called His Church to go out and proclaim the Good News to all people. Through our prayers, evangelization efforts, teaching, and especially through our love and our care for others, people can be opened to the faith and come to genuinely desire to be welcomed into the Body of Christ.

In this study, we learned about saints who once lived and sought satisfaction in the world, but were drawn by a deeper longing to courageously give their ambitions and dreams to Jesus. St. Francis of Assisi, St. Teresa of Avila, and St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein) had such a profound experience of the love of God that it not only transformed their own lives but spilled over into the lives of others, drawing them closer to Him.



“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the organs in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single organ, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.”

—1 Corinthians 12:12-20



DISCUSS

People often encounter the love of Jesus for them through His disciples; no one has an insignificant role to play in the Body of Christ. As St. Teresa of Avila wrote, *“Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on the earth but yours.”*

Here are some conversation starters to help you engage in discussion with your teen. Remember to share your own perspectives as well.

- » Name someone—either a saint, historical figure, or person living today—whose love for Jesus and heroic generosity has inspired you. What about him or her in particular have you found to be memorable or encouraging?
- » In the New Commandment, Jesus says, *“Love one another; even as I have loved you...by this all men will know that you are my disciples”* (John 13:34-35). Why is it so important for us to love one another? How can we love one another—both in the Church, and in our families—better? What happens when we fail in loving one another?
- » Has God been putting a passion in your heart for a particular ministry in the Church? What is one way He might be directing your steps, and calling you to serve Him and His Church more?

COMMIT

This week, teens were challenged to perform an act of service in the parish. Here is a list they were given of some possible ideas:

- » Offer to lector, usher, or sing or play in the choir for one Sunday.
- » Help pass out Church bulletins after Mass.
- » Tithe a little extra this week.
- » Cover a holy hour that isn't usually covered in the adoration chapel.
- » Offer to help clean up an area of the parish: vacuum the inside of the church building, mow the lawn, or shoveling snow from the walks, for example.



“Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on the earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

—St. Teresa of Avila

Teens were also asked to practice the H.A.B.I.T.S. of the saints.

- H** – Holy hour (setting aside time every day for prayer)
- A** – Accountability (friends that help you pursue Christ)
- B** – Bible (study, meditation and memorization)
- I** – Invest in your parish (tithe and service)
- T** – Tell others about Jesus
- S** – Sacraments (frequent Eucharist and Confession)