

Lesson 10 / August 9, 2009

Fall In!

for use as

STEP 1

Lesson 10

Focus:

Every believer is equally important in the church.

Lesson 10

Bible Basis:

1 Corinthians 12:14–27

Students will learn to take responsibility for how they feel about church participation.

Supplies needed:

- 12" diameter black poster board circle
- 14" gray poster board circle
- cell phone with texting pad

Arrange the seating in your room so your students can watch you role-play what was reported in the news article. Set apart a strip of floor for the sidewalk. Cover the black circle (open manhole) with the gray circle (manhole cover) and position them on the sidewalk. Stand a comfortable distance from the manhole and hold the cell phone in both hands as you begin telling the story.

Alexa is a 15-year-old girl who lives on Staten Island in New York. She walks along the same sidewalk every day, so she feels confident that (*demonstrate Alexa walking across the sealed manhole*) she can safely focus on her cell phone and type text messages to her friends as she is walking.

One evening (*remove the gray cover*), Alexa was walking and texting (*text and walk toward the open manhole*), walking and texting, walking and (*stand on the black circle*) ... suddenly her feet weren't on the sidewalk anymore (*sit down*). Her whole body fell through an open manhole into the sewer that ran five feet beneath the sidewalk!

- ▶ What do you think it would be like to have the ground suddenly disappear from beneath your feet?
- ▶ What would it be like to fall into raw sewage?

Alexa said it was gross, shocking, and scary! She had deep cuts and bruises. And now she has nightmares about falling. She lost one of her sneakers. But she said she didn't want it back!

Here's what happened: As Alexa walked down the sidewalk, concentrating on her texting pad, workers were getting ready to flush the sewer with water. Place the orange cone next to the black circle. But they forgot to put warning cones around the open manhole while they were making preparations. And none of the

Lesson 10
Memory Verse

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

— 1 Corinthians 12:27

workers thought to stand nearby to warn pedestrians about the danger.

The workers apologized to Alexa. But she said that it was their fault she got hurt. The city opened an investigation.

- ▶ **Whose fault do you think it was that Alexa fell into the sewer?**
- ▶ **Do you think Alexa should have been watching where she was going? How might that have changed the situation?**
- ▶ **Do you think it would have made a difference if the workers had remembered to put the warning cones in place around the open manhole? Why or why not?**

In life, it's important for each of us to take responsibility for our actions. The same thing is true with the church. Every believer is equally important and should take responsibility when it comes to using the gifts that God has given him or her.

The apostle Paul had an interesting way of describing that. Let's take a look at what he said.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your *Middle School Teacher's Guide*; Step 4 appears below.)

News Source:

WCBSTV.com – 7/11/09 – “Teen Girl Falls In Open Manhole While Texting”
[<http://wcbstv.com/local/texting.manhole.raw.2.1081403.html>]

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STEP 4 

Lesson 10

Focus:

Every believer is
equally important in
the church.

Lesson 10

Bible Basis:




1 Corinthians 12:14–27

Supplies needed:


- half sheets of construction paper
- adhesive-backed foam letters and shapes
- markers and pens
- miscellaneous craft materials
- index cards

Check with your church administrative staff to compile a list of people in the church who are hospital patients and/or people with disabilities.

Earlier we read Paul's description of "the body of Christ." We learned that "body of Christ" is another name for the church. Paul said, "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it" (1 Cor. 12:26).

-  **When there is pain in one part of your body—like aching in your ear or a deep cut on your finger—it can sometimes seem like you are hurting all over. What do you think causes that sensation?** (*Messages are sent through the body's nervous system.*)
-  **If someone you care about were injured in some kind of accident, how would you feel when you heard about their suffering? Why?**
-  **How do we get the message out that someone we care about could use a helping hand?**

People within the church are supposed to genuinely care about one another and actually DO things when people need help. That is one of the church's primary purposes.

-  **How can we show that we care?** (*Encourage people who are hurting; offer to help people who cannot do simple things for themselves because of an injury or disability; show support for people who are joyful—examples: a new baby in the family, recovery from an illness, etc.*)

Talk about individuals in your church who need encouragement and who might like some help during the week. Brainstorm about those needs. Challenge young followers of Christ to do what they can to meet those needs.

Lesson 10
Memory Verse

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

— 1 Corinthians 12:27

Provide craft supplies so that your students can design greeting cards that will encourage people who are suffering for one reason or another. They can choose someone from your list or someone they know personally. If possible, deliver the cards to their intended recipients during the week. Or ask a pastor to deliver them during hospital and home visits.

Give middle schoolers index cards to write down the names of the people they chose so they can put it in their Bibles and pray for those individuals during the week.

Offer your kids the opportunity to pray out loud for the person they chose or someone else on the needs list, and close with a time of prayer.

(David C. Cook is not affiliated with and does not endorse any website listed on these pages.)