

Why Can't I Sleep In?



Why Do I Have to Go?

Key Faith Foundation: Encountering God in Community

Key Scriptures: Luke 4:14-16; Colossians 1:18-20;
Hebrews 10:23-25

grapple schedule

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| 5 minutes | grapple community |
| 10-15 minutes | grapple games and clues |
| 10 minutes | grapple time |
| 15 minutes | grapple team time |
| 10 minutes | grapple team reports |
| 5 minutes | grapple prayer and dare |

Supplies

Bibles, *Grapple* DVD, DVD player, Christian music CD, CD player, copy of the Grapple Team Guide for each person, paper, pencils, markers, poster board

grapple community: 5 minutes

Play Christian music as kids enjoy snacks and friendship, and then play an opening countdown from the *Grapple* DVD to wrap up Grapple Community time.

grapple games: 10-15 minutes

Lead kids in the games they chose ahead of time at mygrapple.com.

grapple clues

Have kids write the answers to this week's Grapple Clues. Award points for each correct answer. (Answers in parentheses are samples.) The winning team gets the Grapple Button.

CLUE 1 [767 points]: **Find one place in the New Testament that says what "church" should be.** (*Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28; Hebrews 10:24-25*)

CLUE 2 [563 points]: **Discover where the Bible tells about something amazing that happened in church.** (*Acts 2:1-12, Pentecost; Acts 3:1-10, Peter healing the beggar*)

CLUE 3 [333 points]: **Discover who in your Grapple Team has dreaded doing something that turned out to be great.**

CLUE 4 [189 points]: **Find out who in our class goes to church more than once a week.**

GET READY ▶ Cue the Grapple DVD to the “Real Reasons” clip.

As kids enter, greet them excitedly. Ask, “Hey, are you ready for the big game?” “Isn’t it going to be exciting?” and similar questions. Lead the entire class in the following:

Let’s huddle together! We’re ready for the game, and it’s time to talk strategy! First we need to come up with a team name and mascot for our class.

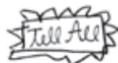
Allow time for kids to talk together about a good team name and mascot. Then have kids vote quickly on the best team name and mascot.

OK, now we need a team cheer! Let’s brainstorm a good cheer together.

Lead kids in throwing out ideas for a simple cheer. Then huddle together again, and lead kids in the cheer.



How is preparing for a big game and getting all pumped up with the team like or unlike how you feel about coming to church? Why is it or isn’t it important to you to come to church? Why do you come to church?



What did you talk about?

Now let’s hear some other people’s answers to that question.

Show the “Real Reasons” clip on the *Grapple* DVD.

Wow! You just heard a lot of different reasons to come to church. Sometimes it can be tough to understand why we have to get up early on a weekend morning and come to church. Why do we have to come to church? Let’s grapple with that!

grapple team time: 15 minutes

Break into Grapple Teams. Encourage Grapple Team leaders to check in with kids about their week. Grapple Team leaders will facilitate discussion, using the Grapple Team Guide on pages 5-6. Afterward, kids will report what they learned.

grapple team reports: 10 minutes

At the end of Grapple Team Time, match Grapple Teams that chose Option 1 with Grapple Teams that chose Option 2 from page 6. Have teams present their reports.

(Do this one team at a time if you have only two Grapple Teams.)

grapple prayer: 5 minutes

Read the Grapple Prayer options. Have the class choose one prayer option that everyone will do. Allow kids time to pray about what they discovered. Then close in prayer.

Option 1: Toss Prayers

Toss a small wad of paper from person to person. When a person catches the wad of paper, he or she will pray a quick prayer, thanking God for the church.

Option 2: Spirit Poster Prayers

Create a colorful poster that praises God for making us members of his team—the church. While you work, think of a simple prayer cheer for the church.

grapple dare

Sometimes when Sunday morning rolls around, it's tough to get out of bed and go to church. But we're part of a team—God's team! As players on God's team, we have the opportunity to go to church for training, practice, and the support and encouragement of other Christians. This experience makes us stronger and better—it makes us winners! By coming together every Sunday with other people who believe in and worship God, we can help each other grow closer to God. This week, I dare you to invite a new "player" to join God's team and come to church with you.

Remember to go to mygrapple.com this week to choose the opening games for next week, look for Grapple Clues to win the Grapple Button, play an online game, and connect with each other—and me.

grapple team guide

In your Grapple Team, use this guide to grapple with today's question.



If you think of church as being like an athletic team, who do you think of as the coach? What kinds of things does the coach do, and what kinds of things does a coach expect from the team members? How does this apply to our church?

Read Colossians 1:18-20.

In this space, draw a playbook graphic (a graphic that shows what players on the field will do in the next play) that shows what this verse might look like.



Read Luke 4:14-16.

Since Jesus is the Son of God, why did he go to church? Which of Jesus' reasons for going to church might be good reasons for us to come to church?



These verses show Jesus following the customs and traditions of the time in his actions. What customs and traditions do we have in our church? How might following those customs and traditions help us learn more about God and get closer to him? How might following customs and traditions in church be like learning the rules for an athletic team? Why are those rules important to know?

Read Hebrews 10:23-25.

Based on these verses, why would you agree or disagree that it's OK not to go to church and meet with other people regularly if you have a good relationship with God? How does being with other people in the church help us strengthen our relationship with God? How might members of "God's team" encourage each other? Why is this encouragement important? Why is it important for members of God's team to go to church?



grapple team reports

With your team, choose one of the options below to report what you discovered.

Option 1: Passing the Baton

Take turns sharing what you learned as you pretend to pass a baton from one teammate to the next.

Option 2: Post-Game Interview

Have one person act as the star quarterback, and have the others act as TV interviewers, camera people, and so on as you come up with a post-game interview about what you've learned.



Why Can't I Sleep In?

Why Are There So Many Churches?

Key Faith Foundation: The Church Is the Body of Christ

Key Scriptures: John 17:20-23; Romans 16:16-17;
1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 12:12-31

grapple schedule

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| 5 minutes | grapple community |
| 10-15 minutes | grapple games and clues |
| 10 minutes | grapple time |
| 15 minutes | grapple team time |
| 10 minutes | grapple team reports |
| 5 minutes | grapple prayer and dare |

Supplies Bibles, *Grapple* DVD, DVD player, Christian music CD, CD player, copy of the Grapple Team Guide for each person, paper, pencils, local Yellow Pages listings under “Churches”

grapple community: 5 minutes

Play Christian music as kids enjoy snacks and friendship, and then play an opening countdown from the *Grapple* DVD to wrap up Grapple Community time.

grapple games: 10-15 minutes

Lead kids in the games they chose ahead of time at mygrapple.com.

grapple clues

Have kids write the answers to this week's Grapple Clues. Award points for each correct answer. (Answers in parentheses are samples.) The winning team gets the Grapple Button.

- CLUE 1** [427 points]: **Find out in John 17 what Jesus said will happen when Christians get along.** (*The world will know that God sent Jesus and that God loves the world as much as he loves Jesus, John 17:23*)
- CLUE 2** [100 points]: **Discover in the Bible three cities where there were churches.** (*Corinth, 1 Corinthians 1:2; Jerusalem, Acts 8:1; seven churches in Asia, Revelation 1:4*)
- CLUE 3** [216 points]: **Discover from one person in your Grapple Team the name of the first church the person ever attended.**
- CLUE 4** [332 points]: **Find out who in our class has attended our church the longest.**

Have everyone stand and gather together.

Let's say we're all TV fans, so we have that in common.

(Adjust the analogy, if necessary, to meet kids where they're at.) **At the count of three, yell out your favorite TV show, and form a group with others who agree with you.** Allow time. **After I count to three, yell out your favorite character on that show and again go stand with people who agree.**



How do you feel about TV fans who don't care about your TV show? What's better or different about your TV show or character than the other TV shows or characters?

TV fans aren't all the same. They can all like TV but not agree on which show or character is the best. People who love and follow God don't always agree either—especially about what type of church they'll attend.

Give each Grapple Team a page (or partial page) from the “Churches” section of the Yellow Pages.



Think of a church near your home that you don't attend, or choose one from this list. How is that church different from yours? Explain why you think each difference is or isn't OK.

In your Grapple Team, stand so you're all reaching into the center with one hand and touching everyone else's hand. I'll suggest four changes that might happen in our church. If one of them would cause you to leave and go to another church, pull your hand away when you hear it.

- 1. The style of worship music changes.**
- 2. The church stops supporting missions.**
- 3. The church requires a strict dress code.**
- 4. The church stops worshipping God.**



If you removed your hand, why did you? How might people who didn't remove their hands still follow the same God you do and still be Christians like you? Or wouldn't they be?

Based on the Yellow Pages, it looks like there are lots of different churches. Why are there so many different churches if all Christians are supposed to follow the same God? Keep the section of the Yellow Pages handy as you move into Grapple Team Time, and let's grapple with why there are so many different churches.

grapple team time: 15 minutes

Break into Grapple Teams. Encourage Grapple Team leaders to check in with kids about their week. Grapple Team leaders will facilitate discussion, using the Grapple Team Guide on pages 5-6. Afterward, kids will report what they learned.

grapple team reports: 10 minutes

At the end of Grapple Team Time, match Grapple Teams that chose Option 1 with Grapple Teams that chose Option 2 from page 6. Have teams present their reports.

grapple prayer: 5 minutes

Read the Grapple Prayer options. Have the class choose one prayer option that everyone will do. Allow kids time to pray about what they discovered. Then close in prayer.

Option 1: Unity Prayers

Decide together what posture reflects unity or working together. Is it holding hands? facing the same direction? Adopt that posture. Talk to God about the status of unity in your class, in your church, and in the community around you.

Option 2: Yellow Pages Prayers

Carefully tear apart your Yellow Pages sheet so every person has the name of at least one church. Then take turns praying aloud for a church listed on the paper you're holding.

grapple dare

Every Christian is a member of the body of Christ. Even though we might believe the same on big issues, some smaller differences might separate us and cause us to go to different types of churches. When we focus on what we have in common with the churches and Christians around us, we can work together as God intended from the start: in unity. God created each of us to be unique, and the differences we might have are intended to allow us to better serve the body of Christ, the church, as a whole. This week, keep your piece of the list of churches in a pocket. When you see it, ask God how you fit in the body of Christ—and how you can serve God and the church as a whole with your unique gifts and personality.

Remember to go to mygrapple.com this week to choose the opening games for next week, look for Grapple Clues to win the Grapple Button, play an online game, and connect with each other—and me.

grapple team guide

In your Grapple Team, use this guide to grapple with today's question.

When we named our favorite TV shows, we focused on the differences between the shows or characters. Let's check out an example of people in the early church focusing on their differences as well.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-17.



What separated the people Paul described? How are their actions like or unlike how we act today within the church? What do you think Paul meant when he said, "Let there be no divisions in the church"? How does or doesn't that apply to the many different churches we have today?

Look at your list of churches. Think of at least one thing that the churches on your list might have in common. Pick the second church on the list and, as a team, touch the paper. Pray that God helps that church focus on what's important based on this passage.

Read John 17:20-23.

Jesus prayed for his followers—including you. Based on these verses, how important does Jesus consider our getting along with other Christians in other churches? Why do you think it's important to Jesus that we get along with people outside our church?

What might an answer to Jesus' prayer look like in today's church even though there are so many different churches?

Read Romans 16:16-17.



Is it ever OK to avoid another church or group of people because of what they believe or teach? How might avoiding those people be sinful? How might it be something God calls us to do at times?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31.

What part of the body might you be in your church? What part might your church be in the bigger body of Christ? In what ways is it healthy or hurtful to the body of Christ to have so many churches?

See if your church is listed on your section of the Yellow Pages. If you had to rename our church based on the part of the body you believe our church is, what would the name be? How does that name reflect one way our church can use its gifts to reach and support the churches around us?

Based on what you've learned, why are there so many different churches? Explain why that is or isn't OK.



grapple team reports

With your team, choose one of the options below to report what you discovered.

Option 1: TV Show

Pretend you're on a favorite TV show as you share what you learned from today's lessons.

Option 2: Practical Unity

Grade your church, your class, and yourselves on unity. Explain what grade you would give and why, based on what you learned.

Why Can't I Sleep In?



What Am I Supposed to Do at Church?

Key Faith Foundation: The Purpose of Church

Key Scriptures: Matthew 22:37-40; 28:18-20; Acts 2:42-47;
Romans 12:6-12; Ephesians 3:8-12; 4:11-13

grapple schedule

| | |
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| 5 minutes | grapple community |
| 10-15 minutes | grapple games and clues |
| 10 minutes | grapple time |
| 15 minutes | grapple team time |
| 10 minutes | grapple team reports |
| 5 minutes | grapple prayer and dare |

Supplies Bibles, *Grapple* DVD, DVD player, Christian music CD, CD player, copy of the Grapple Team Guide for each person, paper, pencils, markers, poster board

grapple community: 5 minutes

Play Christian music as kids enjoy snacks and friendship, and then play an opening countdown from the *Grapple* DVD to wrap up Grapple Community time.

grapple games: 10-15 minutes

Lead kids in the games they chose ahead of time at mygrapple.com.

grapple clues

Have kids write the answers to this week's Grapple Clues. Award points for each correct answer. (Answers in parentheses are samples.) The winning team gets the Grapple Button.

CLUE 1 [347 points]: **Find in the book of Genesis the name of one place where Jacob saw God.** (*Bethel, Genesis 28:16-19; Peniel, Genesis 32:30*)

CLUE 2 [895 points]: **Discover in the Bible what happened to Eutychus when he fell asleep in church.** (*He fell out the window and died but was healed in Acts 20.*)

CLUE 3 [268 points]: **Find out one thing each person in your Grapple Team likes to do in his or her spare time.**

CLUE 4 [631 points]: **Discover what one person in our class thinks the point of church is.**

grapple time: 10 minutes

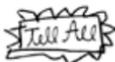
As kids enter, ask them to form groups of four or five. Lead the entire class in the following:

I'm so glad you're here today! Right now, decide with your group on a place people your age go and one action to represent what they do in that place. For example, you might go to the principal's office and get detention, or you might go the mall to hang out with your friends and shop. Use your creativity to think of a place others won't! You'll do the action for the other groups, and they'll have three chances to guess the place.

Give groups a few minutes to work together before they pair up with another group to take turns presenting their actions.



Which of the places we just "saw" would you like to go to right now? In which place would you least like to spend time? Why? Name one of your favorite places and what you do there that makes it a favorite.



How does what you do in a place affect how you feel about that place? Are some places important to you even though you don't always like what you do there? What are some things you could do differently in those places to improve how you feel about being there?

You have 30 seconds as a group to come up with an action to represent what you do at church. Go!

After 30 seconds, let groups do their actions for another group so that group can guess what they're doing.



How do you feel about going to church? What's your favorite thing to do at church?

It's pretty clear that what we do in a place affects how we feel about it. You may not like going to the doctor's office because you get poked and prodded. You might love (or not love) amusement parks, depending on whether or not you enjoy roller coasters. And how about church? Today we're going to grapple with the question, "What am I supposed to do at church?" As we discover the answers to that question, I bet we'll also discover things you can do at church that will make church one of your very favorite places to be.

grapple team time: 15 minutes

Break into Grapple Teams. Encourage Grapple Team leaders to check in with kids about their week. Grapple Team leaders will facilitate discussion, using the Grapple Team Guide on pages 5-6. Afterward, kids will report what they learned.

grapple team reports: 10 minutes

At the end of Grapple Team Time, match Grapple Teams that chose Option 1 with Grapple Teams that chose Option 2 from page 6. Have teams present their reports.

grapple prayer: 5 minutes

Read the Grapple Prayer options. Have the class choose one prayer option that everyone will do. Allow kids time to pray about what they discovered. Then close in prayer.

Option 1: Walk Prayers

Walk around the church, praying and praising God for the variety of people who use a variety of gifts to do a variety of activities in each place.

Option 2: Pose Prayers

Assume a body position that represents one thing you can do at church, and hold that pose while you talk to God about what he wants you to do.

grapple dare

What are you supposed to do at church? Use the gifts God has given you to serve God, serve the church, and serve others! This week I dare you to act on one of the things that stuck out from today's lesson. If acts of kindness interest you, be kind! If serving others appeals to you, serve! If teaching interests you, teach! I dare you to use the gifts God's given you. As you use your gifts, God will be honored, the church will be stronger, and I bet you'll find church becomes one of your favorite places to be!

Remember to go to mygrapple.com this week to choose the opening games for next week, look for Grapple Clues to win the Grapple Button, play an online game, and connect with each other—and me.

grapple team guide

In your Grapple Team, use this guide to grapple with today's question.

What are you supposed to do at church? Start by thinking about what you've seen others do at church. As you brainstorm with your team, use poster board and markers to draw people involved in doing things at church. Don't just draw people sitting in pews. Think about all the different activities people could be involved in. Label the activities so they're clear to anyone who looks at your poster.

Read Acts 2:42-47.

What do each of the early church's activities look like today in our church? Are any of these activities missing in our church? If so, what can you do to help make sure we're carrying out this part of church? If you need to, go back and add any activities to your poster that you didn't get before.



What kinds of things do you do at church? Which of the activities on your poster most appeal to you? Which don't appeal at all? Are there some activities you feel like you're supposed to do but don't enjoy? What do you do about it?

Read Matthew 22:37-40 and Matthew 28:18-20.

How do these verses apply to what we're supposed to do at church? Share one thing you can do to apply these passages the very next time you're at church.

Read Ephesians 3:8-12.

What did Paul do at church? From what he wrote, can you tell how he felt about what he did? What reason does he give for what he did? According to Paul, what do you think is the point of church? How can you be a part of that?

Read Ephesians 4:11-13 and Romans 12:6-12.

In the left-hand column, make a list of gifts and activities mentioned in these passages. In the right-hand column, describe what it could look like for someone your age to use that gift or do that activity.

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

What reason do these passages give for doing anything at church?



Do you have any idea what your gifts might be, and if so, what do you think they are? If you don't know what your gifts are, why do you or don't you think it's still important for you to show up at church? Take a moment to share a gift you see in your partner. Explain why you think he or she might have that gift.

Consider what you've learned from Scripture about what to do at church. On the poster you made earlier, draw yourself doing something at church. It can be something you've done before or something you'd like to try. Be sure to label what you're doing!


grapple team reports

With your team, choose one of the options below to report what you discovered.

Option 1: Hello, My Name Is...

Share what you learned by including what you will do at church as you introduce yourself. For example, "Hello, my name is Kendra, and I serve others by passing out worship bulletins."

Option 2: Tools of the Trade

Find objects in your meeting space to represent different activities people do at church. Then share about those activities as you present those objects.



Why Can't I Sleep In?

Why Is Church So Long?

Key Faith Foundation: Church Practices

*Key Scriptures: Psalm 100:1-3; Luke 22:19-20;
2 Corinthians 9:7; 1 Timothy 2:8; 4:13*

grapple schedule

| | |
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| 5 minutes | grapple community |
| 10-15 minutes | grapple games and clues |
| 10 minutes | grapple time |
| 15 minutes | grapple team time |
| 10 minutes | grapple team reports |
| 5 minutes | grapple prayer and dare |

Supplies

Bibles, *Grapple* DVD, DVD player, Christian music CD, CD player, copy of the Grapple Team Guide for each person, paper, pencils, poster board, markers, offering plate or box, 3x5 cards, several photocopies of the "Bible Teaching" handout at the end of the lesson, elements of Communion for each person

grapple community: 5 minutes

Play Christian music as kids enjoy snacks and friendship, and then play an opening countdown from the *Grapple* DVD to wrap up Grapple Community time.

grapple games: 10-15 minutes

Lead kids in the games they chose ahead of time at mygrapple.com.

grapple clues

Have kids write the answers to this week's Grapple Clues. Award points for each correct answer. (Answers in parentheses are samples.) The winning team gets the Grapple Button.

CLUE 1 [394 points]: **Discover two people who worshipped God in the Bible.** (*David in 2 Samuel 22; Nehemiah in Nehemiah 12:27-47*)

CLUE 2 [168 points]: **Find out in Acts 2 three things people in the early church did during their time together.** (*Prayed; listened to teaching; shared their possessions*)

CLUE 3 [274 points]: **Discover who in your Grapple Team has attended the longest church service.**

CLUE 4 [452 points]: **Take a guess at exactly how long you think church regularly runs. Then find someone in your class who guessed the same number of minutes as you.**

grapple time: 10 minutes

GET READY ▶ Read through the dialogue below. If your church services last more or less than an hour, adjust what you say for your service.

Encourage kids to stand on one foot. Ask each person to tell you, as slowly as possible, something that takes a *really* long time.

Stand on both feet now. You had some great things that take a long time. So how many of you think church takes a really long time? Raise your hand if you do. Pause.

Let's test your knowledge to see if you know how long church really is. I'll ask you to vote on which event you think is longer, church or something else. If you think church is longer, hop to the right side of the room. If you think the other event is longer, crawl as fast as you can to the left side of the room. OK, are you ready? Here's the first one. Which is longer, church or a basketball game?

Give kids a moment to move to one side of the room or the other.

Church is usually a little over an hour, and a basketball game usually lasts a little over an hour. So they are about the same. Trick question!

OK, let's do another one. Which is longer, church or a movie? Allow time. Most movies are an hour and a half to two hours long, so they are longer than church. Another one! Which is longer, church or a Saturday morning cartoon? Allow time. A Saturday morning cartoon is usually only a half hour, so church is longer.

If you have time, do a couple more comparisons such as church versus a class period or church versus a football game.



What are some things you really enjoy doing, even though they last a long time? What are some things you think you might enjoy if they didn't take such a long time?



What do you like most about church? Is there a part you'd like to skip? Explain. Tell about a time a church service felt really long.

There are lots of things we do in life that last longer than church, but sometimes church can seem to drag on a lot longer than other activities we enjoy doing. Are all the parts of church necessary? Or could any parts be skipped? Why is church so long? Let's grapple with that.

grapple team time: 15 minutes

Break into Grapple Teams. Encourage Grapple Team leaders to check in with kids about their week. Grapple Team leaders will facilitate discussion, using the Grapple Team Guide on pages 5-6. Afterward, kids will report what they learned.

Set up five stations in your room. Make a sign for each one.

1. "Worship"—Set up a CD player with Christian worship music.
2. "Giving"—Place the offering box or plate and the 3x5 cards.
3. "Teaching"—Set out copies of the "Bible Teaching" handout.
4. "Communion"—Set up the elements of Communion. You may want to have a team leader guide kids through Communion.
5. "Prayer"—No supplies are needed.

grapple team reports: 10 minutes

At the end of Grapple Team Time, match Grapple Teams that chose Option 1 with Grapple Teams that chose Option 2 from page 6. Have teams present their reports.

grapple prayer: 5 minutes

Read the Grapple Prayer options. Have the class choose one prayer option that everyone will do. Allow kids time to pray about what they discovered. Then close in prayer.

Option 1: *Cartoon Strip Prayers*

As you pray, draw a cartoon strip demonstrating a different part of church in each box.

Option 2: *Church Prayers*

Prayerfully act out one portion of the church service.

grapple dare

Church may seem really long sometimes. But church gives us a chance to hang out with other Christians, learn more about God, and thank God for all the things he's done for us. Church isn't pointless; each part of church is specifically designed to help us get to know other people and God better. So I dare you to sit up and pay attention the next time you're in church. I dare you to *enjoy* each part and remember what it means.

Remember to go to mygrapple.com this week to choose the opening games for next week, look for Grapple Clues to win the Grapple Button, play an online game, and connect with each other—and me.



grapple team guide

Take your Grapple Team Guide, and move around the room to the five stations labeled by signs. When you get to a station, follow the instructions below for that station. Then move to the next one. Move quietly from station to station so you don't disturb anyone else.

Station: Worship *Read Psalm 100:1-3.*

Quietly listen to a worship song. Close your eyes and focus on the lyrics. What do the lyrics say about God or your relationship to God? Why do you or don't you think worship is an important part of church?

Station: Giving *Read 2 Corinthians 9:7.*

Take a look at the offering box or plate. What do you have to give to God? You can give God your money, your time, or your stuff. Write what you'd like to give God on a 3x5 card, and place it in the offering. Make a commitment to give what you wrote to God during this next week.

Station: Teaching *Read 1 Timothy 4:13.*

Read the "Bible Teaching" handout. Then think about these questions:

What did you learn from this handout that you didn't know before? What does this handout tell you about God? How can you live out the lessons from this handout during the next week?

Station: Communion *Read Luke 22:19-20.*

Communion is a special part of church for people who believe in Jesus and have made a commitment to him. If this isn't something you've done yet, use this station to read John 3:16 and to learn a little more about Jesus. If you'd like to make a commitment to Jesus, talk to your Grapple Team Leader.

If you're a Christian and believe in Jesus as your Savior, take Communion as you read through Luke 11:19-20. Thank Jesus for his death and for taking away your sins.

Why do you or don't you think Communion is an important part of church?

Station: Prayer *Read 1 Timothy 2:8.*

Spend some time praying to God. Pray for people you love who are sick or facing a tough time. Pray for yourself and ask God to help you understand and enjoy church more.

Why do you or don't you think prayer is an important part of church?



grapple team reports

With your team, choose one of the options below to report what you discovered.

Option 1: Lo-o-ong Wo-o-ords

Share what you learned today in the longest way possible—stretch your words out re-e-eal-l-ly fa-a-a-r-r-r.

Option 2: Preach It!

Give a mini-sermon to teach the rest of the group about what you learned.



Bible Teaching

John 8:1-11

Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd.

"Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery. The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?"

They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, "All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!" Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.

When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?"

"No, Lord," she said.

And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

Colossians 3:13

Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

Teaching

Imagine how you would have felt if you were that woman in the story. Beaten. Bruised. Embarrassed. Ashamed. Your mistake made public for all the world to see and judge. Your life moments from ending in the most painful and brutal way. It was into this moment that Jesus came bearing the most precious gift: his forgiveness. He came not with stones or angry words. He came without judgment or sermons. He came with a new message, a message that challenged the old way and hinted at what was to come with his death: forgiveness from sins. And it wasn't just forgiveness for her—the sinful woman—it was forgiveness for all who surrounded her, who were ready to cast their stones and end her life. In this moment Jesus calls them out: *You too have sinned; you too need forgiveness.*

Jesus offers forgiveness for everyone: for the sinful woman in the story, for the stone throwers, for you. But such forgiveness demands a response from you. Such forgiveness demands that you also offer forgiveness. It demands that you drop your stones and walk away from the people who have hurt you.

Consider those who have hurt you. Have you been able to forgive them? What's stopping you? Think about your own sins and Jesus' forgiveness.