

**“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”
- 1 Corinthians 12:27**

Dwell in the Text:

As we ‘Dwell in the Word’ together, we learn how to listen to God in Scripture through one another. We affirm that this is not about being ‘experts with answers’ but about being the priesthood of all believers and trusting therefore, that the Spirit speaks to us through the ordinariness of each other’s lives.

1. Read the passage (**1 Corinthians 12:12-27**) together as a group and then take some time to consider the following questions for reflection. And share with one another as you feel comfortable.

- a) As the text was read, where did you stop/what caught your attention?
- b) What images, metaphors and words kept coming up?
- c) What insight or sense of God (or the Spirit’s nudging) did you gain?
- d) What question do you want to ask about the text?

Reflect:

2. In our passage today, Paul uses the image of the human body to reflect the life of the church; how it is meant to function and who the church is. What are some of the images that come to mind for you as you think about what the church looks like today?

3. Paul reminds us that church is people. *“People who gather, share life together, belong to the same Lord, are filled with the breath of life and given gifts by that same Spirit in order to express God’s life in the world. Being the presence of Christ and pointing to the One who is the head of the church.”* How does this fit into your own understanding of church?

4. What implication is there for us in the knowledge that God has placed each member just where He desires?

5. Can you describe a time (either inside or outside of the church) when you felt that you were part of a team, where all the parts worked well together for a common goal? Are there ways this is already happening here at Emmanuel? Are there ways we can nurture greater unity among us?

6. How does the church as people get lived out? Here at Emmanuel as well as within the church locally and worldwide?

*At the end of 1 Corinthians chapter 12 Paul gives us a glimpse of hope as he transitions us into chapter 13 by saying, **and yet I will show you the most excellent way.** This is not a list of things we are supposed to do, rather it is a picture of God’s love for us in Jesus and how we, as the body of Christ, are called to live in response to our Creator God, who is love.*

7. Read together **1 Corinthians, chapter 13** and consider how God has uniquely created and gifted you and how that impacts sharing the love of Christ in the world. As well, how has God uniquely created and gifted Emmanuel Church and how does that impact our extending God’s love to our neighbours?