

# ONE: UNITED IN CHRIST

## PREGATHERING DEVOTIONS

Study #1:

### WHAT IS UNITY?

**READ:** Ephesians 4:4-6

*(This is the Gathering theme verse!)*

#### STUDY:

- ♦ Take some time and discuss *unity*. What is it? How do we know we've seen it? What emotions are involved in unity?
- ♦ Our theme verse says that there is *one body*. What does that mean? **Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-26**. In the human body there are 600 skeletal muscles, 206 bones in an adult body (around 300 bones in an infant's body!), and 78 organs. But this is just the beginning of the information! The average human head has 100,000 hairs. There are hundreds of billions of neurons sending electrical signals from your head and spinal column all over your body. There is 12-20 square feet of skin covering the body. The average human body has 640,000 sense receptors scattered unevenly over all of it. The tongue, throat, and roof of the mouth have an accumulative 9,000 taste buds. And all this happens through the 100 trillion cells in our bodies. Needless to say that Paul was right, there *are* many parts to a human body! Considering there are over 2 billion people in the world who are Christian, is it easier to see that Christ actually needs all of us to make up the one body known as the Church? What roles do different people have in the Church (think as broad as possible)? How do you fit in to the Church?
- ♦ Being a part of the Church, we are reminded that unity happens when we take care of each other. **Read Ephesians 4:11-14**. How many of the roles you mentioned in the question before this are a part of the list here in Ephesians 4? What is special about the roles that Paul mentions in these verses? What do they help the people in the church to do?
- ♦ Romans 6 tells us that we are united with Christ. **Read Romans 6:3-11**. What does our unity with Christ mean for us? How does this knowledge shape what we do?

#### PRAYER:

Take some time to list prayer requests. Please pray for each request. When you are finished with those pray this together:

*Lord, You have united us with Yourself and to each other through faith. Use our time together and the trip this summer to strengthen our faith and the unity we share with each other as members of Your Church. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*