

# GROUP GUIDE – FORMED BY THE GOSPEL

## SESSION 2:2 | THE BODY

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### Key Scriptures

- Colossians 1:15–20
- Ephesians 4:11–16
- Colossians 2:18–19
- 1 Corinthians 12:12–27
- Romans 12:4–8
- 1 Peter 4:10–11

### Big Idea

The church is the Body of Christ, united under Jesus as our living Head. His authority gives the church direction, leaders equip the saints, and every member contributes as the Body grows in truth and love.

### Ice Breakers (Choose one)

- What is one part of the human body you rarely think about until it stops working?
- When you hear the word “authority,” what feelings or experiences tend to come up first?

### Discussion Questions (As time allows)

1. Colossians 1:15–20 — How does Paul describe Jesus’ supremacy, and why does this matter before we talk about the church as His Body?
2. Colossians 1:18 — What difference does it make that Jesus is not merely a teacher we admire, but the Head of the church?
3. Colossians 1:19–20 — How does Jesus’ cross-shaped authority challenge our assumptions about power, leadership, and trust?
4. Ephesians 4:11–13 — According to Paul, why does Christ give leaders to His church? How is that different from leadership that controls or performs everything?
5. Ephesians 4:12; 1 Peter 4:10–11 — What does it mean that the saints are equipped for works of service? Where do you see yourself tempted to be passive in the Body?

6. Ephesians 4:13–16 — What does Christian maturity look like in this passage? Why can't we grow into that maturity alone?
7. Ephesians 4:15 — The manuscript says “speaking the truth in love” is more than blunt correction. How should truth and love shape the way the Body relates to one another?
8. Ephesians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 12:12–27 — Why does every member matter in the Body of Christ? What happens when some parts stop doing their work?
9. Colossians 2:18–19 — What kinds of “puffed-up” or overly spiritual distractions can pull people away from holding fast to Christ the Head?
10. Colossians 2:19; Ephesians 4:15–16 — What would it look like for our group and church to stay more visibly connected to Christ as the Head this week?

### **Application**

Take a moment to reflect: Where are you tempted to live disconnected from the Head or detached from the Body? This week, choose one concrete way to stay connected to Jesus and contribute to the growth of His people.

### **Examples**

- Submitting one preference, fear, or opinion to Jesus' authority
- Encouraging or serving someone in the Body instead of staying passive
- Speaking or living the truth in love instead of correcting without love or loving without truth
- Praying for and receiving the equipping of church leaders with humility
- Naming one distraction that has pulled your attention away from Christ
- Using one gift or opportunity to build up the Body this week

Jesus, You are the Head of the Body. Keep us connected to You. Teach us to receive Your authority, serve one another in love, and grow together into Your fullness.

### **Key Takeaway**

*The church is not a headless crowd trying to coordinate itself. Gospel-formed community is the Body united under Jesus, the living Head. He gives direction, leaders equip the saints, every member contributes, and the whole Body grows as each part does its work in truth and love.*