

## I Will Treasure Church Membership as a Gift

### Big Idea:

When we see church membership as part of the indescribable gift that God has blessed us with, it changes the way we view other members of the body of Christ. It also changes the way we view the opportunities that God places in front of us! We know and trust that salvation is a free gift from God. In the same way, we who are part of the body of Christ have been given an incredible gift- the chance to be a part of something bigger than any one of us could ever be on our own!

### Ice Breaker:

Many of us have received some pretty great gifts over the years. Of the gifts you have received, what is your all time favorite Christmas, Birthday, or other special occasion gift?

### THINK and EXAMINE:

1. How does the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ relate to the gift of church membership (membership in the body of Christ)?
2. When Paul talks about what Jesus accomplished on the cross on our behalf (2 Cor 5:21) he uses the words “we” and “us”. Often we think of salvation as a very personal thing. How does this verse challenge us to think in broader terms?
3. Later in the same letter (2 Corinthians 9:15), Paul talks about God’s “indescribable gift.” While many believe that Paul was referencing Jesus, the context of this scripture seems to indicate that he was writing about the grace God had given the Corinthian Christians to share lovingly with the rest of Christ’s body. How could viewing the opportunity to be a part of the Church as a gift change the way we relate to one another?

**THIS WEEK:** Focus on actions and words that demonstrate the fact that you view church membership- membership in the body of Christ- as a gift. Spend some time reflecting on how these specific words and actions show your love for the body of Christ; and therefore, Jesus himself!

The Sixth Pledge:

I am a church member,

This membership is a gift. When I received the free gift of Salvation and was buried in baptism with Jesus, I became a part of the body of Christ. Now I am humbled and honored to serve and to love others in our church, because they are a part of Christ's body as well! I pray that I will never take my membership for granted, but see it as a gift and an opportunity to serve others and to be a part of something much greater than any one person or member.

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Sign and Date