



PAPER TIGERS

Discussion Guide

the lies we
believe

4-WEEK STUDY

ON THE LIES WE BELIEVE

WEEK 2

Discussion Guide

1 Corinthians 12:12-27



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WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

GETTING STARTED

Goals this week: To identify and replace the lie that “you don't belong here”

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: If you've been a part of another church in the past, what made you decide to stop going?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from Sunday's sermon that you'd like to discuss?
2. Have you ever felt like you don't belong somewhere? What was or has that experience been like?
Have you ever felt like you don't belong in a church (including Ventura Missionary)? Explain.
3. In **1 Corinthians 12:12-27**, Paul uses the metaphor of a human body to describe the church. Why is the body a helpful metaphor for what Paul was trying to communicate?
4. On Sunday, Pastor Doug pointed out Paul's repeated use of the phrase “one body” in **1 Corinthians 12:12-27**. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul addresses division in the church and uses similar language. Read **Ephesians 2:14-18** and discuss the similarities between this passage and the Corinthians passage.
5. In **1 Corinthians 12:25**, Paul points out that there should be “no division” in the church. In your experience, what are some of the issues that tend to divide churches?

In your opinion, are there any issues over which the church should divide*? What are some examples?
*A great book on this topic is “Finding the Right Hills to Die On” by Gavin Ortlund if anyone wants to explore this further.
6. In **1 Corinthians 12:25-26**, Paul emphasizes the fact that members of the body (i.e. people in the church) should have “equal concern for each other” and should suffer with and rejoice with one another. Can you describe an example of a time you have experienced this in your church?
7. On Sunday, Pastor Doug said that the ancient city of Corinth (where the Christians Paul was writing to lived) was a culturally diverse, pluralistic, secular society much like the US. Although we hear rhetoric in America about healing division, do you feel it's even possible to experience unity in America? Why or why not? **Note:** Please be sensitive to the fact that there are different experiences, perspectives, and political affiliations in your group.
8. In what ways can the church exist as a unifying countercultural influence in a divided world?
9. What is one step you can take this week to make Ventura Missionary Church more like the kind of church Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 12?

