

# Summer Reading

WEEK

4

## **Introduction:**

All summer long, we're reading and studying the books of First and Second Corinthians. How can these ancient texts speak to us today?

## **Scripture:**

*Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.*

– 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

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## Discussion Questions:

1. Think of someone in your life who is very different from you. How has that difference challenged you or made you better?
2. Paul writes that the body has many parts, and no part can say to another, "I don't need you." Is there a person or group in your life (or church) you've been tempted to think of as less important or less necessary? How does this passage challenge that thinking?
3. Our natural inclination is to seek "sameness" — people who look, sound, and think like us. Why do you think sameness feels safer than diversity? What might we be missing out on when we stay in that comfort zone?
4. "There is a big difference between tolerating the presence of another person and rejoicing in their presence." Can you recall a time you felt merely tolerated rather than welcomed? How did that feel, and how can you make sure others feel rejoiced over rather than just tolerated?
5. How might shifting from "what am I getting" or "how do I measure up" to "what can I give" change the way you show up in your church or community this week?
6. What's the difference between being unified and being the same? Why does that distinction matter for how we treat people who think, vote, or live differently than us?
7. Consider someone you've pushed away because they felt "too different" or "too far" from you. Is there someone who comes to mind for you? What might it look like to take a small step toward reconnecting with that person this week?