



No body now but yours

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

No hands but yours, no feet but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.

Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

-St. Teresa of Avila

As you begin making plans for your upcoming week of service, it is important for your group to begin embracing your identity as servants of Jesus Christ in a hurting world. The love that God wants us to have for Him and for those around us grows deeper when we use our gifts in service to others. Serving with MDS will bring your youth group together, closer to God and closer to the suffering of those around us.

Read 1 Corinthians: 12 and 13. Make note of the different gifts and ways each of us are called to be the body of Christ. Although we each have different gifts and strengths to offer, our purpose is always to be serving Christ. Chapter 13 even offers us a how-to manual for loving each other and offers examples of what love in action looks like.

Speak in Love

Act in Love

Give in Love

Be Patient

Be Kind

Be Gracious

Be Humble

Honor others

Make Sacrifices

Forgive

Be Truthful

Protect

Trust

Hope

Persevere

These are some big asks. Living out all of the examples of love is going to be challenging. And even with all of this, we're told our love can be but partial and dim in comparison to the love of Christ that we will one day see. But we are still called to strive after this sort of love. As said by Saint Teresa of Avila, "Christ has no body now on earth but yours." We as the body of Christ are his representatives on this earth, we are called to live out this love so that others may see and know the love of Christ.

Questions for reflection and group discussion:

What are practical ways that you can be the hands and feet of Jesus in your everyday life?

What are some challenges you may face in being the hands and feet of Jesus?

How can you overcome those challenges?

What do you hope to learn as you serve with MDS this summer?

What are ways you can be the hands and feet of Jesus while you are serving on site with MDS?