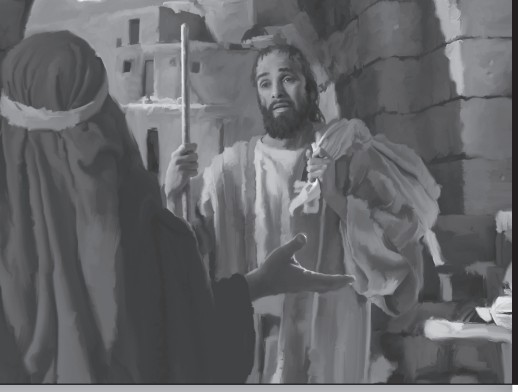


2

Of Equal Value

Community
We reflect God's love in our relationships.

POWER TEXT

"Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:13).

KEY REFERENCES

- Acts 18
- Ephesians 2:11-22
- *The Acts of the Apostles,* chap. 24, pp. 243-254
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 93-96
- student story on page 32 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 14, Unity in the Body of Christ
- No. 11, Growing in Christ
- No. 12, The Church

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that in Jesus Christ all barriers are broken down.
- **Feel** a need to accept all people as Jesus accepts them.
- **Respond** by accepting others through God's love.

POWERPOINT

God's love compels us to be accepting of others.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Paul meets Priscilla and Aquila in Corinth. They work together as tentmakers, and Paul preaches in the synagogue every Sabbath. The Jewish leaders become angry at Paul. They threaten his life. Paul makes a decision to preach to the Gentiles from that point on. After baptizing Crispus and his family, Paul receives a message from God that there are other Christians in the city. He stays for 18 months ministering to them.

This is a lesson about community.

Wherever we live we experience barriers in our community. Barriers may be physical barriers between sections of the community or they may be invisible barriers caused by prejudice. Through Jesus we can remove these barriers and be united.

Teacher Enrichment

"Though Paul had a measure of success in Corinth, yet the wickedness that he saw and heard in that corrupt city almost disheartened him. The depravity that he witnessed among the Gentiles, and the contempt and insult that he received from the Jews, caused him great anguish of spirit. He doubted the wisdom of trying to build up a church from the material that he found there.

"As he was planning to leave the city for a more promising field, and seeking earnestly to understand his duty, the Lord appeared to him in a vision and said, 'Be not afraid, but speak.'. . . The apostle's efforts were not confined to public speaking; there were many who could not have been reached in that way. He spent much time in house-to-house labor, thus availing himself of the familiar intercourse of the home circle. He visited the sick and the sorrowing, comforted the afflicted, and lifted up the oppressed. And in all that he said and did he magnified the name of Jesus" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 250).

What "disheartening" things have I experienced? Of what am I afraid? How will I, with God's help, seek to break down these barriers? What choices will I make today that will magnify the name of Jesus?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice. »

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Join the Circle* *B. Getting In*	Bibles
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 27. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, box/basket/can covered with heart-shaped paper cutout, world map, pushpins
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	 Bibles, paper, pencils (optional: musical instruments, art supplies, props for skits) Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*To Befriend or Not*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Let the Walls Come Down*	very large cardboard box, markers
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Join the Circle

Choose a volunteer to come to the front of the class. Say to the student: **Invite someone in the class to come join you here.** The last person to go up will then invite another student. As students gather to the front of the class ask them to form a circle. The activity will continue until everyone is at the front of the class. The circle will gradually expand as more students join the group.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did you feel when you were invited by someone to join the group? Is this activity like the life and work of Jesus?** (Yes, it is. He worked to include people. He never sent people away.) Say: **Let's read together Ephesians 2:13.**

Say: **Our lesson this week is about belonging to a group, the biggest group possible, God's family, the community of believers. Nobody in this group ever says, "You don't belong!"**

Our power point this week is:

God's love compels us to be accepting of others.

B

Getting In

Ask two or three volunteers to stand outside the classroom door. Instruct the remaining students to form groups of three to five people. Tell them that they are to keep anyone from joining their group conversation or activity. Suggest that they take turns in their circle talking about a place they would like to visit. Bring the volunteers in one at a time. Tell them to join one of the circles. After all the volunteers have tried, debrief.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did it feel to be excluded? What actions or words did you use to try to join a group? How did you feel about leaving someone out? How was this activity like or unlike real life?**

Say: **Our lesson this week is about barriers that can separate people. Jesus came to remove barriers.**

Our power point this week is:

God's love compels us to be accepting of others.

Prayer and Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"He Is Our Peace" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 109)
"We Are the Family of God" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 114)
"Our Prayer" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 137)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map and push pins

Use Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. For the mission story, have a map of the world where the students can identify the location of the mission story and compare it to where they are. You could use pushpins to mark where the mission story takes place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ box, basket, OR can covered with heart-shaped paper cutout

For an offering container attach large cutouts in the shape of a heart to each side of a box, basket, or can. Keep this container for use during the next four weeks.

Say: **Our offerings help support our family around the world and bring the good news of the gospel that we are all one in Jesus.**

Prayer

For your prayer focus today, emphasize being one in Christ. Encourage all students to take a turn and have prayer for their class. Say: **Let's ask God to help us see the potential barriers among us and remove them.**

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Say: **Prejudice and discrimination are not new. When Paul was preaching the gospel he encountered prejudice from both Jews and Gentiles. In our lesson today we will explore Paul's advice about unity.**

Accommodation for students with special needs:
Explain the words "prejudice," and "discrimination" (i.e., intolerance, bias, animosity, dislike).

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ musical instruments (optional)
- ☐ art supplies (optional)
- ☐ props for skits (optional)

Experiencing the Story

Divide Acts 18 into three parts: verses 11-13, 14-18, 19-22. Divide your class into three groups, each with an adult facilitator if possible. Have each group read their assigned verses in unison.

Then have each group choose at least one of the following activities: (1) compose a song about the power text or the main point of the passage; (2) create a skit that would show a modern day application of the passage; (3) create a game or a quiz that would help the class understand the passage.

Allow time for the students to do their chosen activity and then share with the entire group, reading their passage and presenting their creation.

Say: **Our power point this week is:**

God's love compels us to be accepting of others.

Accommodation for students with special needs:
Place students into groups where they could be active participants in the activity.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:

□ Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Ask students to find the following verses and then answer the questions you ask:

1. Ephesians 2:11. **How did people become Jews or Gentiles?** (They were born into it.) **What are some things inherited at birth that divide people today?** (race, color, gender, handicaps, nationality)

2. Acts 10:34. **How does God view these differences?** (He doesn't look at the differences as we do. He shows no favoritism.)

3. Ephesians 2:14. **What does Paul call Jesus?** (our peace) **What do you think Paul means by this?** (Jesus stopped the conflict between people of different races and nationalities, bringing peace between them; Jesus' death on the cross also fixed the problem of separation between people brought about because of sin; Jesus removed barriers between people. This brought peace.)

4. Ephesians 2:18. **What does Paul say both groups, Jews and non-Jews, have?** (access to the Father by one Spirit) **What is significant about verse 18?** (It includes all three members of the Godhead: Jesus, the Father, and the Spirit.)

5. Ephesians 2:19-21. **Notice that Paul calls God's people, both Jew and non-Jew, fellow citizens and members of God's household. What does Paul say God's household is built upon?** (The foundation of the apostles and prophets; Jesus as the chief cornerstone.) **Why is the cornerstone important?** (It holds together and supports the entire building; Jesus holds all His people together.)

6. Ephesians 2:22. **What does Paul say about us?** (We too are being built together to become God's dwelling place.) **How can we become the dwelling place for God?** (by having His Spirit in us, guiding us)

Accommodation for students with special needs:
Use the Bibles with tabs to help students who don't know all the books of the Bible to become familarized with them.

To Befriend or Not

Read the following scenario to your students: **Santo is new in your area. You have seen him in school a few times. He doesn't fit in with your group of friends. His clothes are different and he speaks with a strong accent. Your friends have been making fun of him behind his back. You arrive late for class, and the teacher asks you to work on a project with Santo. You can see all your friends laughing. As you work on the project you discover that Santo has lots of good ideas and is fun to be with. You actually like him. But you know that if you are friendly with Santo, after class your friends will exclude you as well.**

Debriefing

Ask: **How would you deal with the situation? What would you say to Santo to show you accept him? What criteria does Jesus use for accepting/loving someone? How can we be more like Jesus in our approach to others?**

Say: **Say this week's power text with me:**

"Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:13).

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- very large cardboard box
- markers

Let the Walls Come Down

Create a wall by opening out a large cardboard box. Have the students use markers to write all the evidences of barriers that they can think of. Then on the other side, write an antidote to each of the barriers between people, or groups of people, or forms of prejudice.

Debriefing

Encourage each student to commit to breaking down one barrier this week, such as talking with someone they would normally ignore.

Say: **When we work in partnership with Jesus, prejudice has no place in our lives.**

Ask: **What is this week's power point?**

God's love compels us to be accepting of others.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Ask God to remove any barriers from the hearts of you and your students. Ask Him to teach and equip you to love and accept others as He does.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php ?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Paul counsels the Corinthian church on how to deal with differences. God will help us solve our differences too.**

Notes

Student lesson

Of Equal Value

Have you noticed how easy it is to feel at home with others who believe the same as you do? Take a journey back in time and picture Paul with your mind's eye as he travels, makes friends, and shares with others his faith in Jesus.

I should find people here who are willing to accept the true God," Paul said to himself, as he stepped onto the dock and surveyed the bustling port city of Corinth. "But first I need to find food, work, and a place to stay."

Paul gathered his things and walked around the city, stopping only to eat lunch. Since Paul was a trained tentmaker, he asked the canvas merchants about the good tentmakers in town. The names Priscilla and Aquila kept coming up.

"I've got to deliver canvas to their shop," said one merchant. "Why not come with me?"

Paul hopped onto the merchant's cart.

"Tell me about these two," he said to the merchant.

"They do good work, even though they don't open on the seventh day," the merchant replied. "They're Jews, but they also follow Jesus, that teacher who was killed a few years back."

"Really?" said Paul, smiling to himself.

"Here we are," said the merchant, pulling up to the shop. As Paul helped him unload the canvas, a woman rushed out of the shop, followed by a man walking more slowly.

"Do you have a new helper?" the man asked the merchant, extending his hand to Paul. "This is Priscilla, my wife; I'm Aquila."

"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ," Paul said to them, clasping Aquila's hand in both of his. "I'm Paul." (See 1 Corinthians 1:3.)

"You worship the Christ!" Priscilla gasped, holding her hands over her heart.

"I do. I am an apostle of our Lord by the will of God," said Paul, smiling.

"Then you must stay and talk with us," said Priscilla.

"I'll be going now," said the merchant.

Handing the merchant a bag of coins, Aquila said, "Thank you for bringing our brother to us." The merchant nodded and drove away.

"Where have you come from?" Priscilla asked Paul.

"Most recently from preaching the gospel in Athens," Paul replied. "The people preferred their false gods to our true One, so I came here. And you?"

"We came from Rome when Emperor Claudius ordered out all Jews," replied Aquila. "Corinth seemed like an excellent place to reopen our business."

"And to share our faith," interjected Priscilla.

"God has been good to us," Aquila replied. "But it's difficult keeping up with everything. We haven't found a trained tentmaker to hire yet."

"You just have," smiled Paul.

"You must stay here with us," offered Priscilla. "And tell us more about the Christ."

"I'd like that," replied Paul.

The three settled into the routine of working during the day and studying together in the evening. On Sabbath Paul taught in the synagogue. One day Silas and Timothy appeared at the shop. Paul greeted them with big hugs. With the large tent order finished, Paul could spend all his time preaching to the Jews. Soon, though, the Jews refused to listen. They argued with Paul and threatened him. After one very trying argument Paul shook out his clothes at them.

"If you die without believing, it will be your responsibility in the judgment," he warned. "From now on I'm preaching to the Gentiles."

Paul marched out of the synagogue and strode next door to Titius Justus's home. Paul preached Christ freely to Titius, one of the Gentiles who had worshipped God in the synagogue, and to his friends. After listening to Paul's reasoning, several Corinthians and some Jews—including Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his family—were baptized.

God convinced Paul to stay in Corinth despite the Jews' hostility. After 18 months in Corinth, he decided to move on. Priscilla and Aquila went with him to Ephesus. In Ephesus, Paul's example helped them to reach out to others. They took Apollos, a Jewish believer, into their home and taught him all they knew. When it was time for Apollos to leave, the Ephesian Christians wrote to other believers asking them to welcome him.

Paul continued traveling from place to place. Wherever he went, he continued to break down barriers between people in the name of Christ.

KEY REFERENCES

- Acts 18
- Ephesians 2:11-22
- *The Acts to the Apostles,* chap. 24, pp. 243-254
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 93-96 ("Seekers After Truth")
- Our Beliefs, nos. 14, 11, 12

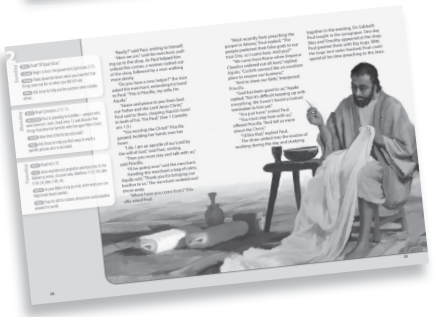
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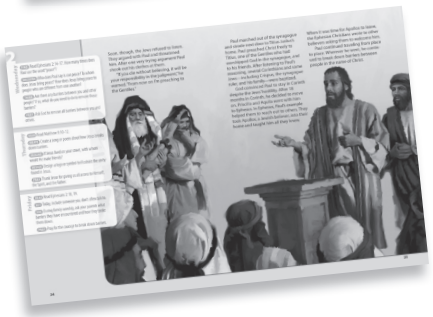
"Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:13).

POWER POINT

God's love compels us to be accepting of others.







Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 19.

Sunday

READ Read Acts 18:1-17 and this week's story, "Of Equal Value."

LEARN Begin to learn the power text, Ephesians 2:13.

THINK Think about the times when you have felt that things were not fair or when you felt left out.

PRAY Ask Jesus to help you be a person who includes others.

Monday

READ Read Ephesians 2:11-13.

DISCOVER Paul is speaking to Gentiles—people who were born non-Jews. Read verse 12 and discover five things that describe Gentiles who live apart from Christ.

THINK How does it feel to be excluded?

PRAY Ask Jesus to help you find ways to reach a specific person who is excluded.

Tuesday

READ Read Acts 18.

FIND Jesus experienced prejudice and rejection. In the following verses, discover why: Matthew 1:18, 19; Luke 5:18-24; John 1:45, 46.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write ways you can help break down barriers.

PRAY Pray for all the victims of rejection and prejudice around the world.

Wednesday

FIND Read Ephesians 2:14-17. How many times does Paul use the word "peace"?

DISCOVER Who does Paul say is our peace? To whom does Jesus bring peace? How does Jesus bring peace to people who are different from one another?

THINK Are there any barriers between you and other people? If so, what do you need to do to remove those barriers?

PRAY Ask God to remove all barriers between you and others.

Thursday

READ Read Matthew 9:10-12.

CREATE Create a song or poem about how Jesus breaks down barriers.

IMAGINE If Jesus lived on your street, with whom would He make friends?

DESIGN Design a logo or symbol to illustrate the unity found in Jesus.

PRAY Thank Jesus for giving us all access to Himself, the Spirit, and the Father.

Friday

READ Read Ephesians 2:18, 19.

ACT Today, include someone you don't often talk to.

ASK During family worship, ask your parents what barriers they have encountered and how they broke them down.

PRAY Pray for the courage to break down barriers.