

3

Family Squabble

Community
We reflect God's love in our relationships.

POWER TEXT

"Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble" (1 Peter 3:8).

KEY REFERENCES

- 1 Corinthians 1-3
- *The Acts of the Apostles,* chaps. 29 and 30, pp. 298-322
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 125-127
- student story on page 42 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

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

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that Jesus wants them to keep a spirit of unity in their church.
- **Feel** committed to living in harmony with others in their church.
- **Respond** by working with Jesus to solve problems in their church family.

POWERPOINT

Jesus wants us to keep unity in our church family.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Some members in the Corinthian church think their knowledge of the Scriptures surpasses that of others. Personality cults develop. Some people identify themselves with popular preachers and theologians of the day. This makes the Corinthian church exclusive, and many members become disaffected. The church loses its mission.

In a last-ditch effort to address some of the conflicts dividing the Corinthian church, Paul counsels them on how to deal with differences.

This is a lesson about community.

In all families there are disagreements from time to time. The church family is no exception. Paul set out guidelines for resolving such conflicts and divisions. We can rely on those same principles today. Disagreements can best be resolved within the framework of God's standards of behavior.

Teacher Enrichment

"The strength of God's people lies in their union with Him through His only begotten Son, and their union with one another. There are no two leaves of a tree precisely alike; neither do all minds run in the same direction. But while this is so, there may be unity in diversity. Christ is our root, and all who are grafted into this root will bear fruit which Christ bore. They will reveal the fragrance of His character in the talent of speech, in the cultivation of hospitality, of kindness, of Christian courtesy and heavenly politeness" (*Review and Herald,* July 4, 1899).

How does my life reveal God's strength in me? What aspect of Christ's character is revealed in my life as I seek to foster unity in my church?

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. People Chains*	Bibles, masking tape, tasks, paper, scissors, newspaper, rubber band, crackers
		B. Broken Beyond Repair	blindfolds
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 37. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, offering plate/basket, world map, pushpins
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	
		Experiencing the Story	students to present skit; copies of choral reading (p. 146)
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles, paper, pencils
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*A Gummy Mess*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Peacemaker Mysteries*	
* 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
- ☐ masking tape
- ☐ tasks
- ☐ paper
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ newspaper
- ☐ rubber band
- ☐ crackers*

People Chains

Divide the class into teams of three or more people (small group: divide into pairs). The teams join hands forming a line. Use masking tape to tape their wrists together. Have four to six tasks around the classroom at stations, such as "fold a paper airplane," "cut a circle out of paper," "roll up a newspaper and put a rubber band around it," "untie and retie a shoelace," "feed each other a cracker."* Instruct each team to see how many tasks they can do, in any order. If a tape breaks, the team must have their grip retaped before proceeding.

Debriefing

Ask: **Which task was the most difficult? Which was the easiest? What did you need to do to get each task done? How does this activity help you understand 1 Peter 3:8? Find and read the text together.**

Say: **In our lesson this week we will see how much Jesus wants the community of believers to be a team, His team, working together in unity.**

Our power point this week is:

Jesus wants us to keep unity in our church family.

Accommodation for students with special needs:
If there are any children that have a physical disability or poor motor skills, allow them to receive additional assistance from a partner.

* Be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.

B

YOU NEED:

- ☐ blindfolds

Broken Beyond Repair?

Blindfold three students. Produce something unfamiliar and large for them to feel and then identify. Make sure they feel different parts of it so that there is sure to be a conflict of opinion. Ask each to describe what they are feeling and what they think the object is. Debrief while they are still blindfolded.

Debriefing

Ask: **Who is right and why?** (Everyone, because each is presenting a unique perspective.) **What is important about resolving this conflict?** (Listening to each person's point of view; seeing the object as it is or having an uninvolved party intervene; discussing solutions.) Allow the students to see the object.

Ask: **What did you learn about resolving conflict?** (Everyone has a different point of view, according to his or her perspective. It's important to hear people out and respect what they know and feel.) **How is this exercise like disagreements that arise in the church?** (They will always be there; it's important to hear everyone out.) **Is it possible to solve every disagreement that arises in the church? Why or why not?** (Sometimes we have to set aside issues, agree to disagree, and find common ground on other issues, always looking to the Bible to test our own beliefs.) **How important is Jesus to ending conflicts that arise in the church?**

Our power point this week is:

Jesus wants us to keep unity in our church family.

Accommodation for students with special needs:
Consider involving the students with special needs in observing, discussion, answering questions, if they cannot participate physically in the activity.

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

"We Are His" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 140)
"Behold What Manner of Love" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 42)
"Friends" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 118)

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:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Say: **As children of God we can put aside our differences and work together to share God's love with those in our communities. One way we work together is by giving our offerings.**

Prayer

Have the students get together in circles of three to five. Have each circle pray for unity in different areas of life: home, school, church, community, etc.

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

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Say: **In 1961 almost overnight a wall was built separating Communist East Berlin from non-communist West Berlin. For more than 28 years people were not able to move freely between the two parts of the city. Families were divided and couldn't visit each other. Then on November 9, 1989, the government announced that travel restrictions for East Germans had been lifted. In the night people from East Berlin flooded into the western part of the city and hundreds of thousands celebrated. Many began the process of tearing down the wall with their bare hands. Every community has walls that can threaten their peace, as we will find out in today's lesson.**

Say: **Let's say the power text together:**

"Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble" (1 Peter 3:8).

Accommodation for students with special needs:
Show pictures of the Berlin Wall either on the internet or in hard-copy.

YOU NEED:

- ☐ students to present skit
- ☐ copies of p. 146

Experiencing the Story

Before class ask three to five students to prepare to present a skit based on the story on page 42 of this guide, or pages 27-30 of their Bible study guide. Ask them to perform it now for "Experiencing the Story."

When they are finished have the students share the choral reading found on page 146 with your class. This reading presents a model of the relationship that should exist in God's church. Choose students with high-pitched (sopranos), medium-pitched (altos and tenors), and low-pitched (basses or adults) voices to read the parts.

Jesus wants us to keep unity in our church family.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Exploring the Bible

Ask: **How many of you have ever had a disagreement with someone? Has anyone ever had an argument with a friend over a religious doctrine? How did you deal with it?**

Say: **We are going to read some texts on communication. Each scripture has a nugget of wisdom that teaches us how to relate effectively with others.** Divide the class into Bible study groups, each with a facilitator if possible. Give each group a text. When each group has found its nugget of wisdom, ask them to develop a role play based on their findings. As each group does their role play, have the class try to guess what special point the Bible makes about communication. When the activity is over, ask the class to discuss how effective communication is essential to solving problems in the church.

Scripture Nuggets:

Proverbs 10:8 (Listen to wise instruction.)
Proverbs 10:19, 20 (Open your ears and close your mouth.)
James 1:19 (Listen more than you talk.)
Proverbs 11:13 (Never gossip.)
Proverbs 13:18 (Accept criticism.)
Matthew 5:23, 24 (Settle things quickly.)

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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 familiarized with them.

A Gummy Mess

Read the following scenario to the group: **Kinshazi, a good friend of yours, no longer comes to church. Apparently he got into a big argument with one of the deacons over chewing gum in church. Kinshazi asked the deacon to show him in the Bible where it says he cannot chew gum in church, and the deacon got upset. The deacon told him that he should listen and stop asking so many questions.**

Debriefing

Ask: **What could you say to your friend to get him to come back to church? How do you feel when you are in a conflict with someone else? What conflicts can arise between people your age and others in the church family?** (Encourage honest answers.) **What do you do when you have a conflict with someone in the church?**

Ask: **What is this week's power text? Say it with me:**

"Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble" (1 Peter 3:8).

4

SHARING THE LESSON

Peacemaker Mysteries

Say: **This week you may get an opportunity to use what you have learned about resolving conflicts between church members. The counsel Paul gave was not only for resolving conflicts in the church. Do you have a friend or family member who can use your help? Try to help your friends work through their differences. Write "Peacemaker Mysteries" on a page of your Bible study journal, and every time God uses you as a peacemaker, write about it in your notebook.**

Ask the students to think about the advice for conflict resolution that has been presented today in the story skit, in the choral reading from Ephesians 4, and in the scripture nuggets from Proverbs, James, and Matthew. Divide them into pairs and ask them to share a situation that is concerning someone they know and how they might apply what they have learned today to that situation. Allow time for them to report to the group, if they choose.

Jesus wants us to keep unity in our church family.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Say: **We are all part of God's family. He wants us to live at peace. Sometimes conflicts and disagreements come up. Before these get out of hand we should ask for Jesus' help to sort them out. As we bow our heads, silently ask God to help you become a peacemaker.** After a moment of silence, close with your own prayer.

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 describes the kind of person a Christian should be. The choices we make show who we worship.**

Notes

Student lesson

Family Squabble

Have you ever had an argument with someone in your family? How did you feel afterward? What if bad feelings from an argument are allowed to fester? Jesus wants us to live at peace with all the members of our family at home and in the church. Paul gives us some good advice about living at peace.

And how is Chloe?" Paul asked his three visitors after they were seated and sipping refreshments.

"She's doing well," replied the oldest visitor. "And so is her business. In fact, that's why we are here. She was too busy to come on this buying trip."

"And the church?" asked Paul.

The visitors looked at each other.

"Well, it's not the same as when you were there," one visitor offered cautiously.

"What do you mean?" asked Paul.

"Remember how it was when Apollos visited? It's like that and worse. False teachers are telling the members things that are opposite of what you taught them. Some members now speak badly about your teachings," another added.

"The members are not getting along at all," said the third visitor. "They are arguing with each other during services. Some refuse to speak to others."

"Yes," the first visitor interrupted, "but some of them have reasons not to speak. Some husbands and wives are not being faithful to each other. Others are worshipping idols again and doing the other wicked things they used to do in the past."

Paul walked away from his visitors and looked out the window.

"We're sorry to bring you such bad news," said the second visitor.

Paul turned to face them. "I was afraid something like this would happen," he said. "God knew this was going to happen. Now I know too. He will give me the wisdom to deal with this."

After the visitors left, Paul spent hours praying about the situation. Then he called for Titus.

"Titus, I need you to take a letter to the Corinthian church," said Paul.

"Is there a problem?" asked Titus.

"Several," replied Paul. "False teachers, unfaithfulness in marriage, idol worship, fighting in the church. Some have returned to their old ways."

"Oh, no!" replied Titus. "That's really serious. Why don't you visit them again?"

"I will—later—but I don't think the people would listen to me right now," he said. "They would just become more stubborn and disobedient. I should be finished with the letter within a week. Come back then."

"Yes, sir," said Titus, turning to leave. "I'll be praying for you as you write."

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Paul knew he would have to choose his words carefully. First he told the Corinthians how much he cared for them and mentioned the good things they were doing. "I always thank my God for you. . . . In Jesus you have been blessed in every way, in all your speaking and in all your knowledge" (1 Corinthians 1:4, 5).*

He asked them to get along with each other and even revealed that Chloe's people had told him about their disagreements with each other. He begged them "in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" "that all of you agree with each other, so that you will not be divided into groups. I beg that you be completely joined together by having the same kind of thinking and the same purpose" (verse 10).

He reminded them of the things he had taught them. "I preached God's truth. . . . I decided that while I was with you I would forget about everything except Jesus Christ and his death on the cross. . . . I did this so that your faith would be in God's power, not in the wisdom of a man" (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

He pleaded with them to agree with each other and not to argue about whom they followed. "You have jealousy and arguing among you. This shows that you are not spiritual. . . . The one who plants is not important, and the one who waters is not important. Only God is important, because he is the One who makes things grow. . . . We are workers together for God" (1 Corinthians 3:3-9).

Finally he reminded them of whose they were. "And you are like a farm that belongs to God. And you are a house that belongs to God. . . . You should know that you yourselves are God's temple. God's Spirit lives in you. . . . And you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God" (verses 9-23).

* Scripture references in this lesson are from the *International Childrens's Bible.*

KEY REFERENCES

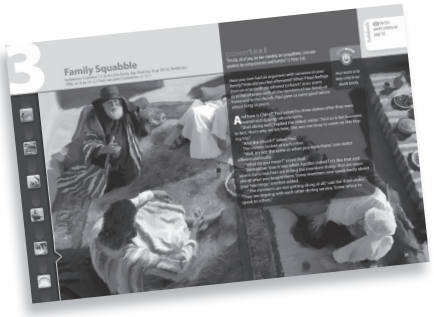
- 1 Corinthians 1-3
- *The Acts of the Apostles,* chaps. 29 and 30, pp. 298-322
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 125-127 ("Paul's Love Letters")
- Our Beliefs, nos. 12, 14, 11

POWER TEXT

"Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble" (1 Peter 3:8).

POWER POINT

Jesus wants us to keep unity in our church family.







Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 32.

Sunday

READ Read 1 Peter 3:8 and this week's story, "Family Squabble."

LEARN Begin to learn the power text, 1 Peter 3:8.

PRAY Ask God to point out any conflicts in your life.

Monday

READ Read 1 Corinthians 1:4–7. Notice that Paul takes time out to greet his friends at the church in Corinth.

REFLECT Why did Paul take time to compliment the Corinthians? When someone is going to criticize something you do, would you like them to tell you first what you did that was right?

PRAY Ask God to help you learn to affirm others.

Tuesday

READ Read 1 Corinthians 1:10–17.

THINK What was causing problems in the Corinthian church? Whom do you admire greatly? Why do you admire that person?

WRITE Write a paragraph in your Bible study journal about that person.

PRAY Thank God for giving Jesus as a model of peacekeeping.

Wednesday

READ Read 1 Corinthians 2:1–5.

THINK Whom did Paul claim as the source of his preaching and power? Why do you think he did this?

LEARN Rewrite your power text, applying it to yourself.

PRAY Pray that Jesus will be the source of everything that you do and say.

Thursday

READ Read 1 Corinthians 3:3–9.

COUNT How many times does Paul refer to the Corinthians as brothers in 1 Corinthians 1; 2; and 3? Why did he use this word so much?

PLAY Play a group game with your siblings (or other relatives). Make a promise to yourself not to argue or fight at all while you are playing. If anyone else argues, be a peacemaker.

PRAY Thank God for your church community and your family.

Friday

READ Read 1 Corinthians 3:10–23.

CREATE With an adult, make a peacemaker's guidebook, listing helpful hints for peacemakers.

DISCUSS At worship tonight, discuss what can be done to improve unity in your home, school, workplace, and church.

PRAY With your family, pray for unity in your community of faith.