3

Family Squabble

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; Our Beliefs, nos. 12, 14, 11



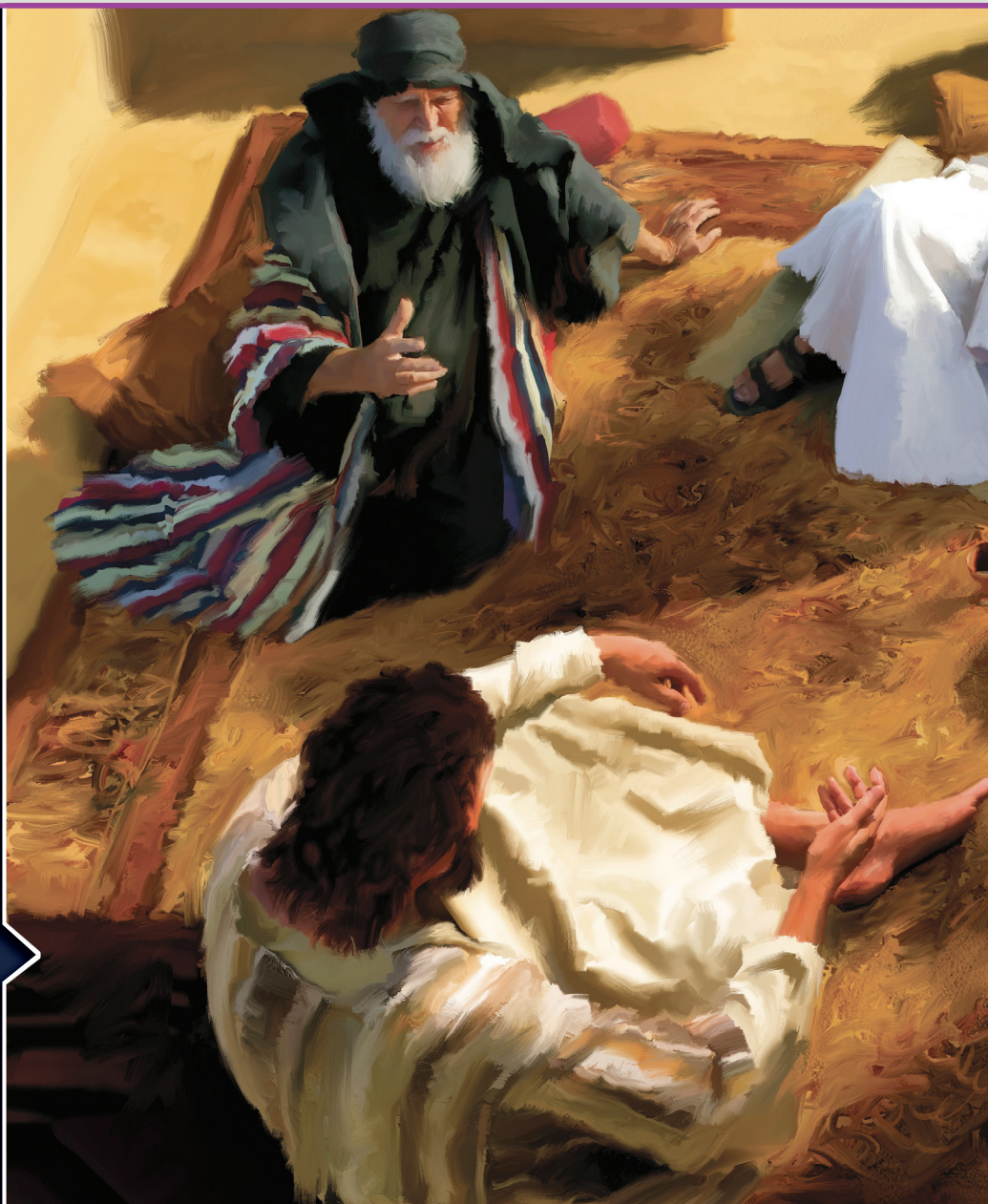












Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 32.

powertext

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

powerpoint

Jesus wants us to keep unity in our church family.

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 service. Some refuse to speak to others."

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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.

"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."

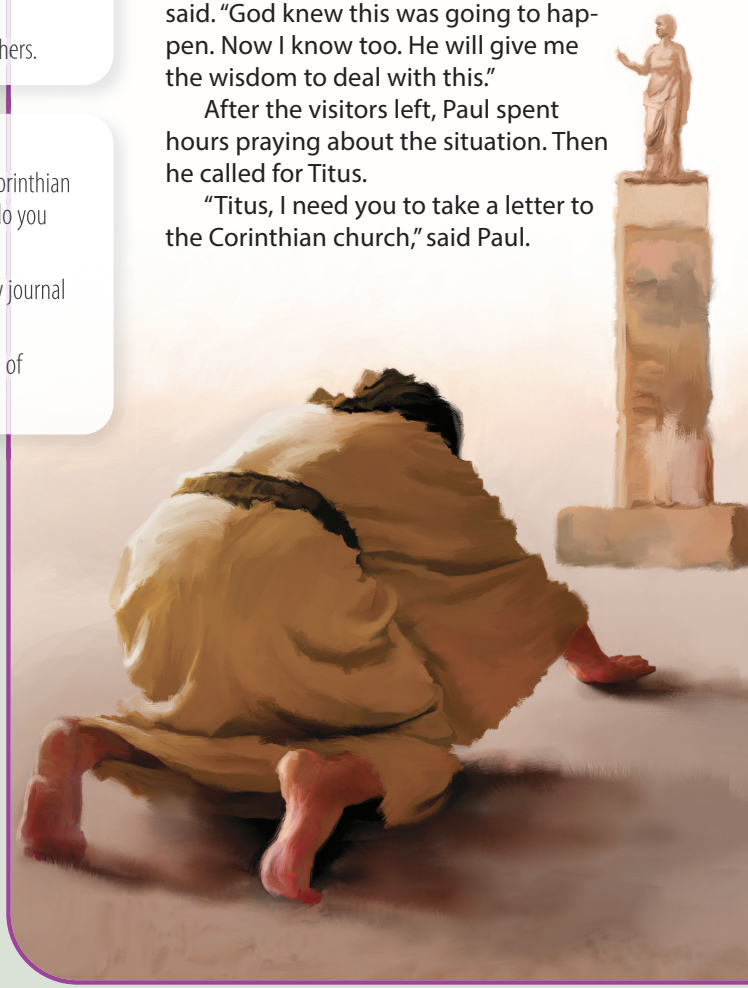
Paul walked away from his visitors and looked out the window.

"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?"

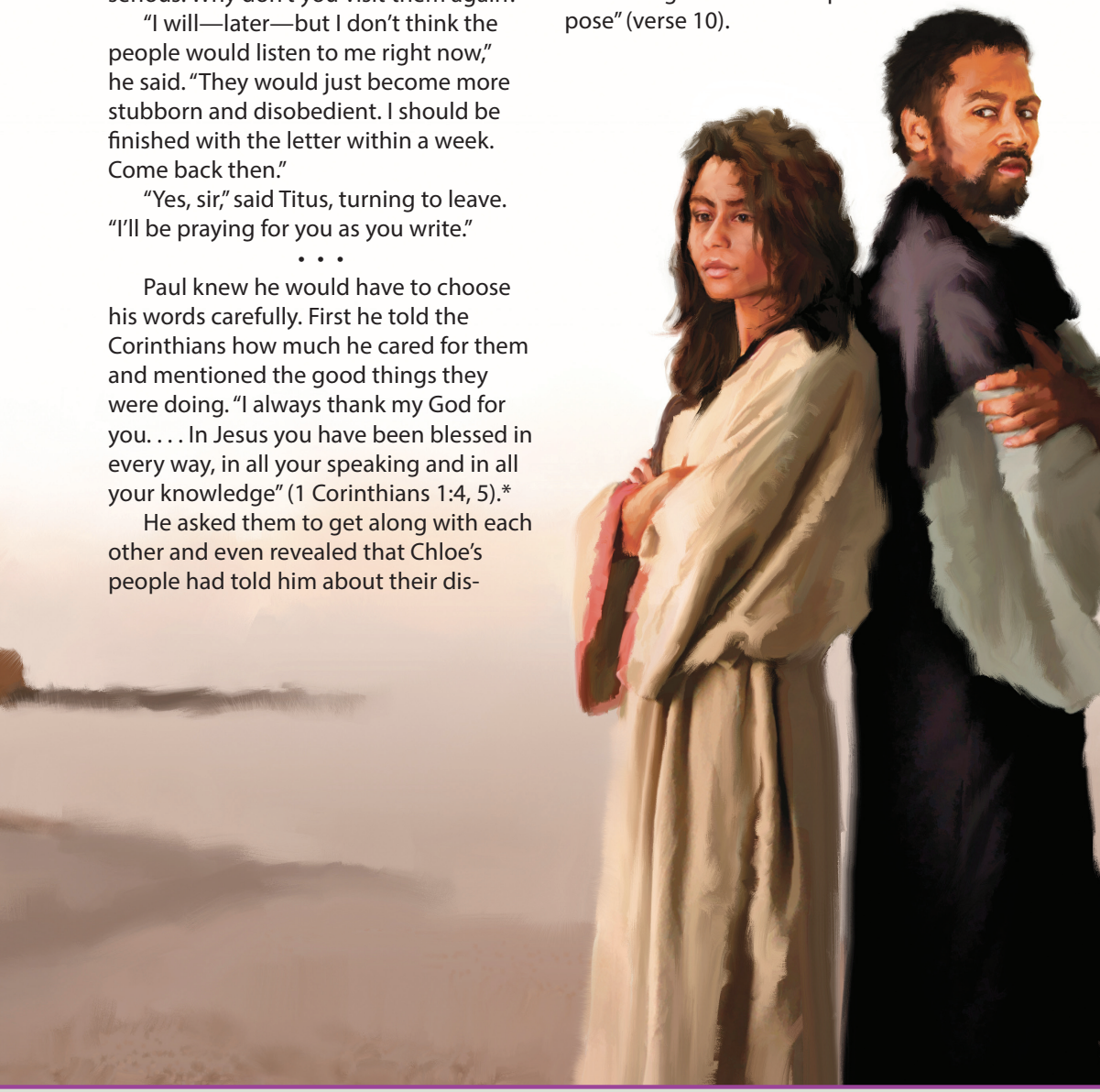
"I will—later—but I don't think the people would listen to me right now," he said. "They would just become more stubborn and disobedient. I should be finished with the letter within a week. Come back then."

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

• • •

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).



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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.

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 section are from the *International Children's Bible.*



PUZZLE
3

UNITED WE STAND

Instructions: Use the following vowels and put them in the Bible verse below to spell out how we are to keep the peace and stand united. The letters in the Bible verse are in order, but the vowels are not.

a e e e e i i i o u u

bprfctlyntdnmndndthght.