



Letters About Unity

Lesson Aim: To learn the body of Christ is made of different parts uniting to serve and point others to Jesus.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Guides Us

THE WORD

New Testament Letters: Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 17-18; 1 Peter 2:9

What He Has Done: God led Paul and Peter to write about unity.

Key Verses: Ephesians 4:4-6

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Ezekiel 11:19-20

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

Unit 5: The Promise of Guidance			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Aim
22	Letters About Love, 1 Corinthians 13:1-7; 1 John 4:11-12; 1 Peter 4:8-11	God led Paul, John, and Peter to write about love.	To learn ways to develop strong, godly love toward others.
23	Letters About Unity, Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 17-18; 1 Peter 2:9	God led Paul and Peter to write about unity.	To learn the body of Christ is made of different parts uniting to serve and point others to Jesus.
24	Letters About Forgiveness of Sin, Romans 3:23; 5:1, 8; 6:23; James 4:17; Galatians 5:22-23	God led Paul and James to write about Jesus rescuing us from sin.	To know we are all sinners who receive God's complete forgiveness through Jesus.
25	Letters About Forgiving Others, Colossians 3:12-14; 1 Corinthians 13:5; Titus 3:4-5	God led Paul to write about forgiving others.	To know God calls us to forgive others as He has forgiven us.
26	Letters About Peace, Philippians 4:4-9; Hebrews 11:1; Colossians 3:15-17	God led Paul and the writer of Hebrews to write about peace of mind.	To know God can give us peace of mind in all circumstances.
27	Letters About Perseverance, Hebrews 12:1-3; Philippians 3:12-16, 20-21; Romans 8:5	God led Paul and the writer of Hebrews to write about persevering by focusing on Jesus.	To learn that focusing on Christ helps us to persevere.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Romans 12:4-8. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the body of Christ. Fill us with Your Spirit so the children understand the importance of uniting to serve others. Amen."

Teacher Tip: For Prophets & Promises Lessons 22-31 (Units 5-6), place your Bible in a mailbag along with any supplies needed for THE WAY, as a visual reminder of the letters of the New Testament.



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Unity Toss	Paper, floor tape or chalk, four large bags
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" "The New Testament Overture" "Where the Spirit of the Lord Is" Additional Hymn Suggestion: "I Love You, Lord" "Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord"
		Worship Scripture Reading: Romans 12:5	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 23 Mail Call script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	New Testament Letters: Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 17-18; 1 Peter 2:9	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, mailbag containing teacher's Bible, highlighters, a domino for each child, ping-pong ball, basket
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, mailbag (contents listed above under THE WORD)
		Christ Connection: Ezekiel 11:19-20	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—New Testament Postcards and stamps or stickers of a puzzle piece (available at ResourceWell.org), W's, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song "Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Unity Pretzels Snack	Pretzels
	Up to 10	Game: Linked Together	Sturdy paper (several colors), tape, scissors, markers or crayons
	Up to 15	Craft: Care Package—Unity Arrangement	See craft for supply list.
	Up to 10	Game: New Testament Line	27 sheets of paper, marker, clothesline or thin cord, 27 clothespins or paperclips, "The New Testament Overture" song, Bible
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Ask, Seek, Knock!	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, optional: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song
	Up to 15	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Race to Repeat	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, Bible
	Up to 5	New Testament Letters Review	New Testament Letter themes printed on footprint-shaped paper

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.
Meet & Greet Question: With whom do you enjoy having fun?

GAME: UNITY TOSS

Purpose: Children will work together in teams to introduce the idea of working together.

Supplies: Paper, floor tape or chalk, four large bags

Prepare: Use floor tape to mark a "Toss" and "Catch" line for each team. (The distance between the two lines should be based on the abilities of the children.) Divide the paper so that each team gets an equal stack.

Teacher Tip: If your teams are close to each other, you may choose to use four different color papers to keep each team's paper separate.

Let's play a game in which you will have to work together with your team. Do your job to help your team finish the task!

Directions:

1. Divide children into four teams.
2. Assign roles to children on each team: Crumplers, Tossers, Catchers, Chasers
3. Each team stands in the following configuration:
 - Tossers stand along the Toss line.
 - Crumplers hold the team's paper stack and stand behind the Tossers.
 - Catchers hold the large bag along the Catch line, opposite their team's Tossers.
 - Chasers may move throughout the team's play area.
4. Crumplers crumple each sheet of paper into a ball and place it in a pile for the Tossers.
5. Tossers toss the paper into the large bag held open by the Catchers.
6. Catchers may move the bag behind the line to catch the paper balls. However, the Tossers and Catchers cannot step into the space between their lines.
7. Chasers chase any paper balls that land on the floor and return them to their team's paper pile.
8. The goal is to be the first team to have all of the team's paper balls inside the team's bag.

**Great job working together! You were united with your team to complete your team's task!
Let's find out how God wants us to work together to serve Him!**

Limited Space? Find a task your children can do together but in separate roles. For example: make a snack, clean a common area, plant flowers at church or in the neighborhood, etc.
Small groups of children can play with two teams instead of four.



The Spirit who guides us

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.



Read Romans 12:5. **Today, we worship the Spirit who guides us to unite as the body of Christ. The body of Christ is everyone who believes in Jesus. We are each like a part of the body because we each have special differences, but God created us so we can unite and work together like the parts of our own bodies do.**

Believers are each different but united in worshiping the one true God. Believers are united because they each have given their hearts to the same Savior—Jesus. Like people in a family or parts of a body, believers belong to one another.



As we give our offering to build up the body of Christ, think about the people all over the world who believe in Jesus, now and all through history. Sing: "Where the Spirit of the Lord Is" while collecting the offering.

Sing the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on unity in the body of Christ.



Perform Mail Call script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 5, Lesson 23.



Letters about unity

THE WORD

Additional Supplies for THE WORD and THE WAY: Teacher's Bible, a domino for each child, ping-pong ball, basket, highlighters, and mailbag. Place the items in the mailbag. Note: If dominos are not available, substitute any group of same-size, rectangle-shaped objects that can be knocked over. Optional: Children may decorate or create their own dominos as part of the activity.

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned ways to develop strong, godly love toward others. Who does God want us to love? (We should love all people, especially other believers.)

Today, we will read some letters about unity. Unity means being one. In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, he explains what unites us as one. If a map is available, point to where the city of Ephesus was located in Turkey. **This mailbag reminds us that in Bible times believers traveled long distances to share letters written by Paul.** Open the mailbag and remove the teacher's Bible and highlighters.



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Ephesians 4:4-6, 1 Corinthians 12:12, 17-18; 1 Peter 2:9. **We will begin with Ephesians 4:4-6. Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verses: Ephesians 4:4-6.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated. Let's read the first letter about unity from the book of Ephesians.** Read Ephesians 4:4-6.

The Corinthians also received letters from Paul about unity. If a map is available, point to the city of Corinth in Greece. **In those letters, Paul explained how important each part of the body is.** Read 1 Corinthians 12:12, 17-18.

God calls us to believe in Jesus and to belong to the body of Christ. As the body of Christ, we are God's people. Have you ever wondered why God wants us to unite as His people? (Children respond.) **Peter answers that question in his letter to the body of Christ.** Read 1 Peter 2:9.



Working together in unity

THE WAY

The parts of the body have different roles, but are equally important. That's how it is with the body of Christ. "The body of Christ" stands for the people all over the world now and all through history who believe in Jesus. As believers, we work together like a body does: many parts that belong together doing different things to help the body work.

In Ephesians 4:4-6, Paul explained why the body of Christ stays together in unity. Unity means being one. The body of Christ is one because we all believe in the same Savior—Jesus. We all have one faith. We are all led by one Holy Spirit.

How did Peter describe the body of Christ? (Chosen people, royal priesthood, holy nation, people belonging to God.) **What did Peter state as one reason God chose us to belong to Him?** (So we may "declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.") **What is one way you can declare His praises this week?** (Children respond.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

God has always planned to unite people as one. That's what He told the prophet Ezekiel over 650 years before Paul wrote his letters.



FIND IT FIRST > Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Ezekiel 11:19-20. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read Ezekiel 11:19-20.

God's promise to Ezekiel has come true for all who believe in Jesus—we are His people! In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul explained how we are all very different but each is an important part of the body of Christ. Take out the set of dominos from the mailbag. Give one domino to each child. In a way, the body of Christ is like these dominos; each one is different but they need each other to do what they were created to do. So, let's pretend these dominos stand for the body of Christ. Remove the ping-pong ball and the basket from the mailbag. This ping-pong ball stands for the people who do not yet belong to Jesus. The basket stands for Jesus. Let's unite our dominos together to send the ping-pong ball into the basket, just as we unite in the body of Christ to help others come to know Jesus.

As you each put your domino in the line, share something special about yourself and tell us one way you like to serve others. Each child places a domino on a table so the line of dominos ends with just enough space to place the ping-pong ball at the edge of the table with the basket directly below. Each domino is placed vertically in the line so it will hit the domino after it when pushed forward creating a chain reaction of dominos falling forward. The last domino in the line will knock the ping-pong ball off the table into the basket.

Go ahead now and tip over the first domino! Watch what happens when the dominos work together in unity as one!

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a New Testament Postcard. I'm giving you this stamp or sticker of a puzzle piece to remind you that we are each a special part of the body of Christ. Place the stamp or sticker in the corner box on the back of the postcard. **On your postcard, list where to find today's New Testament letters in the Bible.** The scriptures are listed in the W³. Read the scriptures again to help you answer the postcard question.

W³: Take home today's W³ Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W³ Journal Entry #23. Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of many faces side-by-side to form the shape of a cross, a church, or a body.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write their prayer requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: UNITY PRETZELS SNACK

Purpose: Children will eat a snack while discussing serving God with the skills we have been given.

Snack Suggestion: Pretzels

Who wrote the letters we read today? (Paul.) Paul wanted to encourage all believers to unite and work together. God gives us each special skills to serve Him together. Let's eat pretzels, because they are twisted together. They remind us that we are to unite as one!

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drinks.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"What special skill or talent do you have that you can use to help serve God?"**

GAME: LINKED TOGETHER

Purpose: For children to consider ways they can work together to serve God.

Supplies: Sturdy paper (several colors), tape, scissors, markers or crayons

Prepare: Cut a 1-inch x 11-inch paper strip for each child.

What did Paul say each person in the church is like? (Parts of a body.) Each part of our body has a special job to do to make our whole body work. God has given each of you a special skill or talent you can use to serve God. Let's see how we can link together all our talents to serve God together.

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Give a paper strip to each child.
3. Ask children to write or draw a special skill or talent they have on their paper strips. (For example: playing an instrument, singing, coloring, drawing, making crafts, being friendly to others, playing a sport, dancing, doing well in math, reading books, etc.)
4. Children make a chain by looping their strips of paper together and securing the ends of each paper strip loop with tape.
5. Place chain in the center of the circle.
6. Children brainstorm a project they can do together to serve God that requires each child to contribute the talent he or she wrote or drew on the chain link. (For example: plant flowers, clean the church grounds, make gifts, practice and present a worship song or sketch, host a canned food drive, raise money for a special cause, welcome new visitors to the church, etc.)
7. Plan the details of the project including time, place and tasks. You may complete it during the next class meeting or outside of class. Involve families to participate as the body of Christ.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: CARE PACKAGE— UNITY ARRANGEMENT

Purpose: Children create a gift to show their unity in the body of Christ by giving the gift to another body of believers.

Supplies: Vase or similar container, sturdy paper in several bright colors, craft sticks or dull wood skewers, markers or crayons, paint and brushes (or permanent markers or a pre-printed sticker), tape, glue, assorted craft supplies (buttons, sequins, ribbons, craft jewels, fuzzy pompoms, etc.)

Prepare: Draw or trace feet and hand shapes onto sturdy colored paper to be the “flowers.” Determine a church, organization or group of believers who will receive the care package.

Teacher Tips: If possible, take some or all children with you to deliver the care package locally or to place it in the mail for long distance delivery. Take pictures for the children to share when delivering the package or ask the recipient to send pictures.

Today, we learned what the New Testament letters say about unity. Who wrote 1 Corinthians and Ephesians? (Paul.) Paul says we are all like parts of a body working together to serve God. God wants all believers everywhere in the world to unite and serve together to tell the world about Jesus.

For the next few weeks, we will care for others by making care packages that we can deliver or mail. Today, we will make a Unity Arrangement to give to another part of the body of Christ. The arrangement will help us express we are united in the body of Christ. Share information about the care package recipient(s) with the children. Allow them to ask questions so they understand who will be receiving the gifts.

Directions:

1. Help children decide where they can best use their skills to help with this project:
 - Decorators: use assorted craft supplies to decorate the vase. Use paint and brushes (or permanent markers or a pre-printed sticker) to write on the vase:
One Body, One Spirit, One Lord.
Ephesians 4:1-16
 - Cutters: cut out feet and hand “flowers.”
 - Assemblers: attach a stick to each “flower” as the stem.
 - Arrangers: Gather signatures on the feet and hand “flowers” from all of the children, helpers and teachers involved in the project. Place the flowers in the vase.
 - Card Makers: create card from sturdy paper and decorate it. Write this message in the card:

Dear insert recipient's church or group name,

We are so thankful to be in the body of Christ with you!

We hope you enjoy these flowers.

When you are ready, please have everyone autograph these flowers and pass the arrangement along to encourage another part of the body of Christ. We hope these flowers travel to many places, encouraging believers wherever they go.

Best wishes from your friends at insert your church or group name.

2. Deliver the arrangement and the card.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: NEW TESTAMENT LINE

Purpose: Children learn the books of the New Testament.

Supplies: 27 sheets of paper, marker, clothesline or thin cord, 27 clothespins or paperclips, "The New Testament Overture," Bible

Prepare: Write the name of each New Testament book on a separate sheet of paper. Shuffle the papers. Hang the clothesline in the play area at a low height so children can reach it.

Directions:

1. Play "The New Testament Overture" two times. Encourage the children to sing along as they become familiar with the words.
2. Challenge the children to place the New Testament books in order by hanging the sheets of paper in correct order on the clothesline with clothespins.
3. To help the children, play the song while they work or leave a Bible open to the table of contents for them to reference, as needed.
4. After all the books are hung in the correct order, challenge children to recite the books of the New Testament from memory.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

GAME: ASK, SEEK, KNOCK!

Purpose: Children learn the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, optional: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song

Our Bible Memory Verse is the words of Jesus encouraging us to keep praying because God is good and He answers our prayers. What is an example of asking God to give you something? (Children respond.) What is an example of seeking an answer from God? (Children respond.) "The door will be opened to you" is an expression meaning God will make a way for something to happen for you. You can use the word "ASK" to help you remember our Bible Memory Verse:

A stands for "Ask and it will be given to you."

S stands for "Seek and you will find."

K stands for "Knock and the door will be opened to you."

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Lead the children in reciting or singing the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.
3. **Let's practice our Bible Memory Verse by going around the circle and each saying the next word in the verse. I will start.**
4. Say the first word of the verse, "Ask."
5. The child on your left says the next word, "and."
6. Continue around the circle until the entire verse is said.
7. As time allows, play again. Challenge the children to recite the verse faster each time.

Option: For older children, use a timer or clock to see how quickly the verse is completed each time.

GAME: RACE TO REPEAT

Purpose: Children learn the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, Bible

Directions:

1. Practice saying the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse together once.
2. Divide the children into two equal teams.
3. Arrange the teams into two parallel lines about 15 - 20 feet from each other, facing each other.
4. Assign each team member with a number, so that each team has a player 1, 2, 3, and so on.
5. Place a Bible in the center of the play area between the two teams.
6. Call out a number.
7. The children from each team with that number races to be the first one to touch the Bible.
8. The child who touches the Bible first earns point for his or her team by saying the Bible Memory Verse correctly. (You may choose to allow children to use the Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible as a reference.)
9. Continue playing by calling a different number in each round until every number is called.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS REVIEW

Prophets & Promises Part One studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Acts through Revelation. Lessons 22-31 explore several of the themes of the New Testament letters. The previous lesson will always be reviewed briefly in THE WORD segment of each Teacher's Guide. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and He has done.

New Testament Letters: Letters about Love (Circa 33 A.D. - 150 A.D.) John, Peter, and Paul wrote about perfect love. Who remembers how Paul described love in his letter to the Corinthians? (Children respond.) Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. What do you think is the best thing about love? (Children respond.) In John's letter, what did he say covers up sins? (Love.) What do you think John meant by that? (Children respond.)

New Testament Letters: Letters about Unity (Circa 33 A.D. - 150 A.D.) Paul and Peter wrote about unity in the body of Christ. What does the phrase "body of Christ" mean? (All who believe in Jesus and belong to Him.) Why do you think unity is so important for the body of Christ? (Children respond.)

How to create a display for reviewing the New Testament Letters:

1. Download and print the Bible Timeline for Prophets & Promises (available at www.resourcewell.org).
2. Print each New Testament Letters scroll on sturdy paper.
3. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
4. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below.
5. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

New Testament Letters (Circa 33 A.D. - 150 A.D.): Letters about Love > Letters about Unity > Letters about Forgiveness of Sin > Letters about Forgiving Others > Letters about Peace > Letters about Perseverance > Letters about Weakness > Letters about Strength > Letters to the Seven Churches > Letters about Jesus' Return