



Camp Venture Counselor's Guide: Ages 6-12
Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts through Revelation
Unit 5, Lesson 23

Letters About Unity

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

THE WORSHIP – AT THE CAMPFIRE

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Guides Us

THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME

New Testament Letters: Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 17-18, 26-27

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

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 13:4-7; 1 John 4:11-12	God led Paul and John to write about love.	To understand love as it is explained in the Bible.
23	Letters About Unity, Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 17-18, 26-27	God led Paul to write about unity.	To learn that 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; 7:19; 1 John 1:9; Galatians 5:22-23	God led Paul and John to each write about forgiveness of sins.	To know we are all sinners and that through Christ we are forgiven and rescued from the punishment for sin.
25	Letters About Forgiving Others, Colossians 3:12-13; 1 Corinthians 13:5	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	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	God led Paul and the writer of Hebrews to write about persevering by focusing on Jesus.	To know that keeping our focus on Jesus will strengthen us to never give up.

COUNSELOR'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."

WHAT IS CAMP VENTURE? Camp Venture is a variation on the Prophets & Promises Units 5 and 6 standard version lessons. Camp Venture offers different elements consistent with a camping theme. Children are referred to as campers and teachers are camp counselors. Decorate classroom or play area to create the Camp Venture experience. For example: camp tent, backpacks, photo board or album with photos of each camper, fire logs surrounded by stones as a flameless campfire, etc. Camp Venture is most often introduced as Sunday School curriculum during school vacation months but can easily be adapted as a Vacation Bible School curriculum.

Permission is granted to reproduce these materials. Not for resale. Use is subject to the Terms of Use available at ResourceWell.org. Terms are subject to change without notice. All other rights are reserved.



THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 25	Camp Games: Unity Toss	Stack of newspapers or other scrap paper, floor tape or chalk, four large bags
THE WORSHIP – AT THE CAMPFIRE	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 Bible Barn script or storybook
THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME	Up to 5	New Testament Letters: Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 17-18, 26-27	Bibles
	Up to 10	Pen Pal Letter	Mailbag, Scripture reference list, Bible, Pen Pal Letter, dominoes, ping pong ball, basket
	Up to 5	Share a Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	New Testament Postcards, puzzle piece stamps or stickers, Daily Ways and basket or W ³ s for the older children, Letters from Camp (available at ResourceWell.org), pencils, poster board, 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), pencils, tape
	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 5	Discussion: More Letters About Unity	Bible
	Up to 15	Craft: Care Package—Unity Arrangement	See craft for supply list.
	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

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME – CAMP GAMES

Welcome to Camp Venture! Each time before we worship, we will get to know each other better and have some fun with our Camp Games. First, let's dedicate this day of camp to Jesus. Pray. Today, our New Testament letter teaches us about unity—which means being one. Let's play a camp game where we work together as one.

Optional: For added fun through Units 5 and 6, adapt all camp games to a team point system. For suggestions, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

GAME: UNITY TOSS

Purpose: To introduce the idea of working together.

Supplies: Stack of paper, floor tape or chalk, four large bags

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

Directions:

1. Divide campers into four teams.
2. Assign roles to campers on each team: Crumplers, Tossers, Catchers, and Chasers
3. Each team stands as follows:
 - 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. On your signal,
 - Crumplers crumple each sheet of paper into a ball and place it in a pile for the Tossers.
 - Tossers pick up one paper ball at a time and toss it toward the large bag held open by the Catchers. Tossers may not step over the Toss line.
 - Catchers may move around behind the line to catch the paper balls. Catchers may not step over the Catch line.
 - Chasers may go anywhere. They chase paper balls that land on the floor and return them to their team's paper pile.
5. Continue playing until one team gets all its paper balls inside their team's bag.
6. Determine which team is in second, third, and fourth place by counting the paper balls in each team's bag.

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

Counselor Clue: All games may be adapted to a competitive or a non-competitive version. Camp competition provides an opportunity for campers to learn how to honor God in a competitive environment, encourage other campers, and to be gracious winners and losers.



The Spirit who guides us

THE WORSHIP – AT THE CAMPFIRE

Counselor Clue: To help campers identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as campers move from one area to another.



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: “The Glory of the Lord” 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 Bible Barn script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 5, Lesson 23. Include reciting the Camper's Code:

Camper's Code

I will love God with all my heart.

I will love my neighbor as myself.

I will be a light wherever I go.

Today's Camp Critter is the meerkat, an African mongoose. Meerkats work together as a community, uniting to get the job done and keep the family safe. The meerkat reminds us of today's New Testament letters about unity.



New Testament letters

THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME

Counselor Clue: Tent time should take place in a corner of the classroom, under a tent, or any covered space. Remove chairs and have campers sit on mats or sit-upons.

Prepare: Create a list of today's New Testament letter scripture references (Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 17-18, 26-27) and place it in the counselor's Bible. Print the Pen Pal letter on the next page onto a sheet of paper. Fold the paper and place it in an envelope. In a mailbag, place the New Testament letter scripture references, the counselor's Bible, Pen Pal Letter, dominoes, ping-pong ball, and a basket.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Camp 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 Camp Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my counselor, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Welcome to Tent Time! Last time in our mailbag, we found letters from the Bible about love. Who does God want us to love? (All people, especially other believers.)



Counselor holds up mailbag. **Today, our mailbag contains letters from the Bible about unity. Unity means being one. In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, he explains how we unite as one. If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others.**

Hand out spare Bibles. Counselor removes the Bible from the mailbag, opens it, and removes the list of today's New Testament letter scripture references: Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 17-18, 26-27.

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? Camper prays aloud. **Be seated. Let's read from Paul's letter to the people of Ephesus.** Read Ephesians 4:4-6.

Paul also wrote about unity in his letters to the people of Corinth. Paul explained the importance of each part of the body. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12, 17-18, 26-27.

Directions for the domino activity referenced in the Pen Pal Letter on the next page.

Each camper places a domino on a table or elevated, flat surface so the line of dominoes 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 stood in a line so they hit the next domino when pushed forward, creating a chain reaction toward the ping pong ball. The last domino in the line should knock the ping pong ball off the table and into the basket.

Counselor Clue: If actual dominoes are not available, substitute any group of objects that can be tipped over like dominos such as blocks. You may wish to have campers decorate or create their own dominoes as part of the activity.



Pen Pal

THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME

During Tent Time, we open our mailbag to see if our Pen Pal will give us a clue about what today's New Testament letters have to do with our lives. Read the Pen Pal letter.

Hey Pals,

Have you ever thought about how many different parts there are in your body? Each part has a different purpose: eyes are for seeing, ears are for hearing, legs are for walking and running, arms are for lifting objects or hugging, and so many more! There are many parts to each body. That's a perfect example of how it is with the body of Christ. I'm not talking about the real legs and arms of Jesus. The body of Christ is the name for the people all over the world who believe in Jesus, now and all through history. We work together like a body does: many parts that belong together doing different things.

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.

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul explained how even though we are all very different, we are each an important part of the body of Christ. Remove the set of dominoes from the mailbag. Give one domino to each camper. In a way, the body of Christ is like these dominoes, each one is different but they work together to do what they were created to do together. Let's pretend these dominoes 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 of world that do not yet belong to Jesus. The basket stands for Jesus. We are going to unite our dominoes 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 stand your domino in the line, share something special about yourself. Tell us one way you like to serve others. When all the dominoes are in place, put the ping pong ball at the end of the dominoes so it will roll into the basket when the last domino touches it. Go ahead now and tip over the first domino! Watch what happens when the dominoes work together in unity as one! Do the domino activity (See directions on the previous page.).

Believe and Be One!
Your Pen Pal

THE WAY *continued...*



SHARE A PRAYER

Let's thank God for making each one of us to be special and different. We can ask Him to unite us so we can point others to Him. Ask campers for individual praise and prayer requests. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

Father in heaven, thank you for uniting us as one. You know our needs—the ones we shared out loud and the ones we hide in our hearts. We lift all these up to Your throne now. Pause for a moment of silence. We can't wait to see the way You will answer each one.

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

NEW TESTAMENT POSTCARD: 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 Daily Way and W³. Read the scriptures again to help you answer the postcard question.

TREASURE TREAT: The Treasure Treats for Units 5 and 6 are New Testament Postcards. Campers receive a postcard and a stamp or sticker. The postcards are available at ResourceWell.org. If stamps or stickers are not available, have campers draw the stamp in the designated box.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 23 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Bring it back next time to win points for your team here at Camp Venture.

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

LETTERS FROM CAMP: Write a Letter from Camp to someone to let them know what you did today. Write or draw your favorite thing about today and something special about the letters from the New Testament you just learned. Sign it and share it with someone.

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



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: UNITY PRETZELS SNACK

Purpose: Campers will eat a snack while discussing how we can serve God with the skills He gave us.

Snack Suggestion: Pretzels (traditional knot-shape)

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. The pretzels we are eating are woven together. Let them remind you that we are to unite as one!

Directions:

1. Serve the snack and drinks.
2. Camper 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 campers to consider ways they can work together to serve God.

Supplies: Sturdy paper (several colors), pencils, tape

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

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

Directions:

1. Campers sit in a circle.
2. Give a paper strip to each camper.
3. Ask campers 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. Teacher begins by taping the ends of their paper strip together.
5. Have the camper next to you loop their paper strip through the middle of the circle you created and tape the ends to start a chain.
6. Campers pass the chain and the tape around the circle, helping each other add each paper strip to the chain.
7. Place the chain in the center of the circle.
8. Campers brainstorm a project they can do together to serve God that requires each camper to contribute the talent he or she wrote or drew on the chain link. Projects could occur during a future camp time or outside of camp. (For example: plant flowers, pick up trash, 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 church, etc.)
9. Plan the details of the project including time, place, and tasks. You may choose to invite families to participate as the body of Christ.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: NEW TESTAMENT LINE

Purpose: Campers 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" song, Bible

Prepare: Write the name of each book of the New Testament on a separate sheet of paper. Shuffle the papers so the books are not in order. Hang the clothesline in the play area at a low height so campers can reach it.

Directions:

1. Play "The New Testament Overture" song two times. Encourage the campers to sing along as they become familiar with the words.
2. Challenge the campers 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 campers, 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 campers to recite the books of the New Testament from memory.

DISCUSSION: MORE LETTERS ABOUT UNITY

Purpose: Campers learn a third letter about unity from the New Testament.

Supplies: Bible

God calls us to believe in Jesus and 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?

(Campers respond.) **Peter answers that question in his letter.** Read 1 Peter 2:9.

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?** (Campers respond.)

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: CARE PACKAGE— UNITY ARRANGEMENT

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

Supplies: Cardboard, vase or similar container, sturdy paper in several bright colors, pipe cleaners (or craft sticks), crayons or markers, paint and brushes (or permanent markers), tape, glue, assorted craft supplies (buttons, sequins, ribbons, craft jewels, fuzzy pompoms, etc.)

Prepare: Create templates of hands and feet on cardboard. Determine a church, organization, or group of believers who will receive the care package.

Counselor Clue: If possible, take campers with you to deliver the care package arrangement to the recipients. Take pictures for the campers to share when delivering the package.

Today, we learned what a few of the New Testament letters say about unity. Who wrote Ephesians and 1 Corinthians? (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 help the world know the love of Jesus.

During Camp Venture, we will care for others by making care packages 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 that we are united in the body of Christ. Share information about the care package recipient(s) with the campers. Allow them to ask questions so they understand who will be receiving the gifts.

Directions:

1. Help campers 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) to write on the vase:
“One Body, One Spirit, One Lord.” Ephesians 4:1-16
 - Cutters: Cut out hands and feet using the templates for “flowers.”
 - Assemblers: Attach a pipe cleaner or craft stick to each “flower” for stems.
 - Arrangers: Gather signatures on the feet and hand “flowers” from all of the campers, helpers, and teachers involved in the project. Place the flowers in the vase.
 - Card Makers: Create a card from sturdy paper and decorate it. Write this message:
Dear 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 the body of Christ wherever they go.
Best wishes from your friends at your church or group name.
2. Deliver the arrangement and the card.

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: Campers 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. How do you think God feels when we pray about our questions and our needs? (Campers respond.) God never tires of hearing our prayers! What is an example of asking God to give you something? (Campers respond.) What is an example of seeking an answer from God? (Campers respond.) "The door will be opened to you" is an expression meaning God will make a way for something to happen for you. For example, you can ask God to somehow make a way for you to tell someone about Jesus. 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. Campers sit in a circle.
2. Lead the campers 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 camper 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 campers to recite the verse faster each time.

GAME: RACE TO REPEAT

Purpose: Campers 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 campers 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 camper from each team with that number races to be the first one to touch the Bible.
8. The camper who touches the Bible first earns point for his or her team by saying the Bible Memory Verse correctly. (You may choose to allow campers to use the Bible Memory Verse poster as a reference.)
8. Continue playing by calling a different number in each round until every number is called.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

Team Point System for Camp Venture (Units 5-6)

Teams: To adapt all Camp Games to a team point system for Units 5 and 6 (Lessons 22-31), divide campers into 4 teams. Instruct each team to create its own name and team banner at the beginning of the Camp Games segment of Lesson 22. Campers will remain on the same team for all Camp Games throughout Units 5 and 6.

Point System: Campers may earn points for their teams by attending Camp Venture, completing their Daily Ways, bringing a Bible, bringing a friend, winning a game, and showing good sportsmanship. At Camp Venture, good sportsmanship is respectful behavior toward others. It includes cheering for their team during games, playing fairly, tallying scores honestly, and cheering for other teams when point tallies are announced. Bonus team points are awarded for cheering and encouraging other teams.

Grand Prize: On the final day at Camp Venture, all members of the winning team receive a surprise grand prize. The grand prize can be an ice cream or pizza party or something that would be special to the campers. Have the winning team invite all of the other teams to join the party.

About Competition: Camp competition provides an opportunity for campers to learn how to honor God in a competitive environment, encourage other campers, and to be gracious winners and losers. For added fun, be very generous with the points. For example: 100,000 points for 1st place, 75,000 points for 2nd place, 40,000 points for 3rd place, and 30,000 points for 4th place. The teams will end up with point totals in the millions at the end of camp.