



At-A-Glance: Ages 8-9
Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts – Revelation
Unit 5, Lesson 23

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 WELCOME

MEET & GREET: With whom do you enjoy having fun?

GAME: Unity Toss

THE WORSHIP THE SPIRIT WHO GUIDES US

Read Worship Scripture: Romans 12:5.

Sing songs and worship God. Bless and collect the offering.

Perform the Mail Call script or read storybook.

THE WORD LETTERS ABOUT UNITY

Children sign note cards; place in Golden Bowl. Classroom Covenant.

Review: God led Paul and John to write about love.

Today, we will read letters about unity. Unity means being one. In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, he explains what unites us as one. Point to the ancient city of Ephesus, Greece. **This mailbag reminds us that in Bible times believers traveled long distances to share Paul's letters.** Reveal Bible Story Scripture Reference: Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 17-18, 26-27. Find It First. Highlight Key Verses: Ephesians 4:4-6. Pray. Read. Point to ancient Corinth before reading the 1 Corinthians passage.

THE WAY WORKING TOGETHER IN UNITY

There are many different parts to one person's body. Each part has a different role, but they are equally important and needed for the body to work well. That's a perfect example of how it is with the body of Christ. "The body of Christ" can have two meanings.

It can stand for Jesus' physical body (arms, legs, etc.) or it can stand 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.

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.

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. Reveal Ezekiel 11:19-20. Find It First. Highlight. Read.

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 different but each is an important part of the body of Christ. Give a 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. Let's pretend these dominos stand for the body of Christ. Remove ping-pong ball and basket from 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. Set-up dominos, ping-pong ball, and basket. **Go ahead now and tip over the first domino! Watch what happens when the dominos work together in unity as one!** Set off chain reaction.

THE GOLDEN BOWL: Pray for individuals. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES:

- **TREASURE TREAT:** New Testament Postcard about unity, stamp or sticker of a puzzle piece
- **DAILY WAY CHALLENGE**
- **OFFERING OF ART:** Many faces side-by-side to form the shape of a cross, a church, or a body
- **PRAYER REQUESTS**
- **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG**

GOT TIME?

SNACK: Unity Pretzels Snack

GAMES: Linked Together, New Testament Line

CRAFT: Care Package—Unity Arrangement

DISCUSSION: More Letters About Unity

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES: Ask, Seek, Knock!; Race to Repeat

BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW