



THE GOSPEL PROJECT SR. UNIT 31 Lesson 2: The Church Was Divided

Date: Sunday March 10, 2019 **Teachers:** Jasper and Christine Jonkers

Bible Passage: 1 Corinthians 1:10-31

Main Point: Paul wrote that Christians are joined together by faith in Jesus.

Key Passage: Galatians 2:20

Big Picture Question: Why does God want us to obey Him? Obedience is our response to God's love for us.

NCC SPECIAL: ASH WEDNESDAY REFLECTION: Dignity & Dust **Susan**

OPENING : "Puzzle time" materials: (**bring a puzzle from home**)

Empty the contents of an age-appropriate puzzle onto the floor for the kids to see. Allow them to sort through the pieces and try to guess what the puzzle is a picture of without looking at the box or completing the puzzle. Then allow them to work together to complete the puzzle.

Say • In a puzzle, each piece is different from the other pieces, but when they come together they make one beautiful picture. Today we will hear about a church that was not coming together but was dividing themselves based on their differences.

MEMORY VERSE: " ***I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I that lives, but Christ that lives in Me, for the life that I live in the flesh I live by faith in Christ who loved me and gave Himself for me.***"

Direct the kids to line up in a single row, shoulder to shoulder. Say the first word of the key passage, and then point to each kid in succession to say the next word, one at a time.

Say • Each of you said a different word, but it took all of you working together to say the whole key passage. Our key passage reminds us that we are not the same people once we believe in Jesus. He gives us new lives, and as a result, we can live in a new way, united together to glorify God and spread the truth of the gospel.

INTRO TO LESSON:

We heard about Peter and Paul last week. Peter knew that God wanted him to treat Gentiles the same way he treated Jews, but Peter chose to avoid eating with Gentiles. Paul wrote that we are saved through faith in Jesus alone. He reminded Peter that obedience to the law cannot save us, only Jesus can. This week, we will learn about a church in a city called Corinth. Paul wrote to these believers to remind them not to let differences split them apart. Our story is called "The Church Was Divided."

BIBLE STORY: (video)

BIBLE STORY REVIEW:

The Bible teaches us that while we were enemies of God, lost in sin, God sent Jesus to pay for our sins by dying on the cross. On the third day, Jesus rose again, defeating death and making the way for us to be united with God. When we believe in Jesus, we become a part of God's family, all joined together as one body of Christ. Paul told believers in the Corinthian church to come together because of the gospel of Jesus. He reminded them that Jesus saves sinners. Because of Jesus and what He has done, believers can humbly come together as one body. Jesus invites us into His family. God does not save people because of their wisdom or power or family. God saves people who trust in Jesus. We can be proud of Jesus and what He has done.

Questions:

Who wrote the Book of 1 Corinthians? **(Paul, 1 Cor. 1:1)**

Which book of the Bible comes right before 1 Corinthians? **(Romans)**

What was the major problem for the church in Corinth? **(division, disunity, rivalry among believers; 1 Cor. 1:10-11)**

Who were the different leaders the Corinthians claimed to be following? **(Paul, Apollos, Peter/Cephas, and Christ; 1 Cor. 1:12)**

What did Paul say would unite the Corinthian believers? **(Jesus and the gospel, 1 Cor. 1:22-25)**

Why does God want us to obey Him? Obedience is our response to God's love for us.

Say • In lots of ways we are all different from one another, but we don't have to let our differences divide us. Paul wrote that Christians are joined together by faith in Jesus. Everyone who believes in Jesus is a member of the body of Christ. When we focus on the gospel, we can be united despite differences. The gospel reminds us of the incredible way we are all the same. We all need Jesus for salvation because we cannot obey God on our own, and we all are loved by God.

DISCUSSION VIDEO:

Leader • How does it feel to be a part of a team? Do you ever fight with your teammates? Think about that as you watch this short video.

Show the "Unit 31, Session 2" discussion starter video. Discuss with your group what they think will happen to the rocket the kids in the video were making. Do they think things might turn out better if the kids work together to build the rocket, instead of all focusing on their idea alone? Ask them what they think might divide believers today. Ask them how the church can remain united in Christ.

Leader • The Bible tells us to live together in harmony and unity in Christ. That doesn't mean we must always agree on everything, but it does change the way we disagree with each other. With Jesus as our King, we can choose to stand

ACTIVITY: activity sheet if time

The BIBLE STORY
The Church Was Divided
1 Corinthians 1:10-31

The city of Corinth was known for its wickedness, so what better place to start a church? Paul started the Corinthian church and stayed there for about a year and a half. Then he traveled on to keep preaching the good news of Jesus.

Six years later, Paul heard that the church in Corinth was struggling. These believers were arguing and suing one another, and they had questions about their faith. So Paul wrote a letter to help the church solve its problems. The believers in Corinth were divided. One group bragged about following Paul. Another group chose Apollos. A third group followed Peter. And a fourth said they followed Jesus. Paul said that the believers should not be divided; they should all agree on what they believe. Paul wrote that Christians are joined together by faith in Jesus. "Is Jesus divided?" Paul asked. "Was it Paul who died on the cross for you? Or were you baptized in Paul's name?" Of course not! Jesus died on the cross, and the believers were baptized in Jesus' name. They should come together because of the gospel. Believers all agree that Jesus is Lord, so Paul said they should get along and love one another.

Paul explained that the good news about Jesus seems foolish to those who are lost—those who do not believe in Jesus. But to those who believe, the cross is God's power. Many people think they know a lot, but what they know is worldly wisdom. They do not know God, and to them, the good news about Jesus is foolish. Paul encouraged his friends in Corinth to think about the fact that God chose them to be in His family. God did not choose anyone because of that person's wisdom or power or family.

Paul said that God saves people who trust in Jesus. No one can earn salvation, so no one can brag about being saved. If the Corinthian believers wanted something to be proud of, they could be proud of Jesus and what He has done.

Christ Connection: Paul told believers in the Corinthian church to come together because of the gospel of Jesus. He reminded them that Jesus saves sinners. Because of Jesus and what He has done, believers can humbly come together as one body.