



Story: Unity in Christ

SUPPLIES NEEDED

You will need the following:

- 15 Sheets of [Cardstock](#) (8.5" x 11")
- 15 3 mil Laminating [Film](#)

DIRECTIONS

- Print pages 2-21 two-sided. Laminate the story pages.
- Print pages 22-31 two-sided. Cut the "letters" along the gray line. Laminate all the letters and cut them apart.
- As students arrive, give them a few letters and ask them to look up the verses and fill in the blanks using a transparency (wet erase) marker.
- During class, read the story while holding up the pictures. When you come to the verses in the lesson, have the students take turns reading their "letters." At the end of class, they should put their "letters" in the correct "mailbox" (see [Epistles Mailbox Board](#)).

Illustrations: Free Bible Images
www.freebibleimages.org

Graphics: @Phillip Martin
www.religion.phillipmartin.info

Graphics: Masaru Horie
www.christiancliparts.net



Before holding up the picture:

You just finished learning about the book of Acts in the last quarter. Do you remember how many trips Paul went on? (*Three preaching and one as a prisoner to Rome*)

Hold up picture:

What were some of the cities that Paul visited on his journeys? (*Ephesus, Philippi, Corinth, Athens, Thessalonica...*)

Paul helped establish churches in all these cities. When we have a question about how God wants us to worship Him, where do we find the answers? (*The Bible*) Everything God wants us to know has been revealed to us in the Bible)

But these early churches didn't have the completed New Testament yet. So when they had a question about God or the church, they wrote letters to Paul to ask him. Paul wrote letters back to the early churches and the Holy Spirit inspired him what to say to guide them to God's Truth.



The New Testament

GOSPELS

MATTHEW
MARK
LUKE
JOHN

HISTORY

ACTS

PAUL'S EPISTLES

ROMANS
1 + 2 CORINTHIANS
GALATIANS
EPHESIANS
PHILIPPIANS
COLOSSIANS
1 + 2 THESSALONIANS
1 + 2 TIMOTHY
TITUS
PHILEMON

OTHER EPISTLES

HEBREWS
JAMES
1 + 2 PETER
1 + 2 + 3 JOHN
JUDE

PROPHECY

REVELATION

Hold up picture:

You've already studied The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke & John) and Acts earlier this year. The majority of the rest of the New Testament contains the letters that Paul wrote to the Christians in these cities. Epistles is another word for letters, so you might hear them called "Paul's Epistles." After Paul's epistles, there are a handful of other epistles written by different authors. Finally, the last book in the New Testament is Revelation, which is a book of prophecy written by John. We will be studying from all the epistles and Revelation this quarter.



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0 200 400 600 km

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Before holding up the picture:

Now, I want you to think back to the Old Testament. Who were God's chosen people in the Old Testament? *(The Jews/Israelites)* What made someone a Jew or how could you prove you were a Jew? *(You were born into one of the Twelve Tribes of Israel; you were a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob)* Do you know what the word is for anyone that is NOT a Jew? *(Gentile or Greek)*

Hold up picture:

Look at this map. The Jews were surrounded by Gentiles. If you were a Jew, how do you think you would feel towards all the Gentiles? *(Superior, look down on them)*



MARTIN

Hold up picture:

Then Jesus came in the New Testament and who did he die for? *(Everyone, not just the Jews)* This is one of the things that Paul wrote about to the Romans. Let's read a few verses and see what Paul said.

Let the students take turns reading the "letters" (NASB):

Romans 1:16 – For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Romans 2:11 – For there is no partiality with God.

Romans 3:9 – What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin.

Romans 3:23 – For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Explain / Discuss:

What does partiality mean? *(To show favoritism)* Does God have favorites? *(No)*

What was Paul teaching the Jews in Rome? *(Being a Jew doesn't make you better than a Gentile)*
Paul wanted the Christians in Rome to understand that there was no longer a distinction between Jews and Gentiles. We are all guilty of what? *(Sin)*

GALATIANS



Hold up picture:

Paul says some similar things to the Galatians. Let's read one of those verses.

Let the students take turns reading the "letters" (NASB):

Galatians 3:26-29 – For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

Explain / Discuss:

What is Paul teaching the Galatians? *(God accepts all: Jew, Greek, slave, free, male, female...)*

We are all one as long as we have been baptized into Christ. He also calls us heirs and descendants of Abraham. Being baptized into Christ makes us a part of God's family.

1 & 2 CORINTHIANS



Hold up picture:

Paul explains to the Corinthians that we are all part of one body. Let's read one of those verses.

Let the students take turns reading the "letters" (NASB):

1 Corinthians 12:13-14 – For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many.

Explain / Discuss:

What is Paul teaching the Corinthians? *(Everyone who has been baptized is a part of the same body of Christ)* What is the "body" that Paul is referring to? *(The church)* Paul continues his explanation in the following verses using the example of the human body...



Hold up picture:

Paul said:

For the body is not one part, but many. If the foot says, “Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body,” it is not for this reason any less a part of the body. And if the ear says, “Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body,” it is not for this reason any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But now God has arranged the parts, each one of them in the body, just as He desired. If they were all one part, where would the body be? But now there are many parts, but one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; or again, the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”

Explain / Discuss:

How well would your body function if it was covered with eyes, but you had no mouth, nose, ears, or hands? *(Not very well!)*



Hold up picture:

Paul goes on to say:

... But God has so composed the body...so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same care for one another. And if one part of the body suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if a part is honored, all the parts rejoice with it.

Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it. And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, and various kinds of tongues. All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they?...

Explain / Discuss:

What would happen if everyone wanted to be the song leader? *(It would be chaos with everyone trying to sing a different song)* We all have different talents and we need to find ways to use our talents to benefit the whole body (the church). Paul also points out that when one part of the body is suffering, we all suffer. The same is true if one part of the body is rejoicing, we all are rejoicing. We share in each other's troubles and triumphs.



EPHESIANS

Hold up picture:

Let's look at what Paul wrote to the Ephesians about this topic:

Let the students take turns reading the "letters" (NASB):

Ephesians 4:4-6 – There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:11-12 – And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

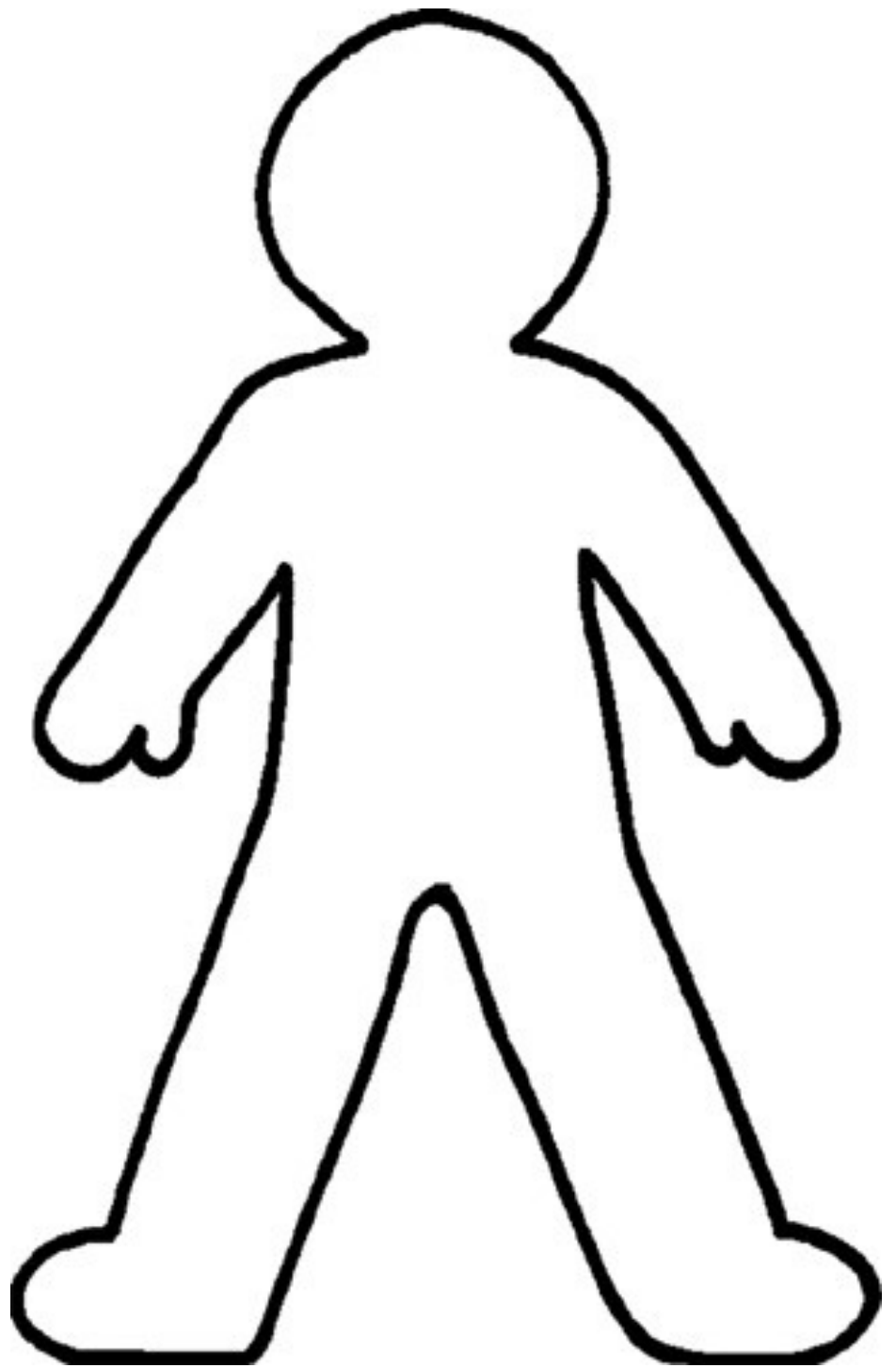
Ephesians 4:15-16 – ...we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Explain / Discuss:

What is Paul telling the Ephesians in the first verse? *(There's only one body or one church, one Lord, one faith, one baptism...)* What does that mean for all the different religions in the world? *(They are wrong)*

What is Paul saying in the second verse? *(Everyone has a different job to do working in the body)*

And the third verse tells us, who is the head of the body? *(Christ Jesus)*



Hand out “The Church is One Body” worksheet:

We’re going to draw the church as a body and label the different parts.

Explain / Discuss:

(If you have a white board, draw a body outline like the one on the worksheet and fill in the different labels as you discuss it with the students)

Who is the head of the body? *(Write “Jesus” in the head)*

What are some different jobs that individuals can have as part of the church? *(Write “Elder,” “Deacon,” “Teacher,” “Student,” “Song Leader,” “Prayer Leader,” etc. in different parts of the body.)*

Encourage students to think of jobs that even they as kids can do... *(Encourager: you can send cards to the sick, or visit the shut-ins. Greeter: greet visitors at church.)*

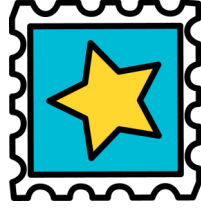
(After completing the worksheets, have the students put “Paul’s Letters” in the correct mailboxes.)

From: Paul



To: The Romans

From: Paul



To: The Romans

Rom. 1:16

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 1a / #1

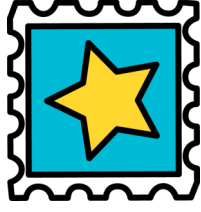
For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes, to the _____ first and also to the _____.

Rom. 2:11

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 1a / #2

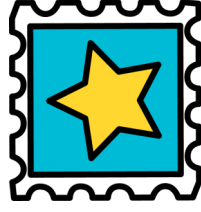
For there is _____ partiality with _____.

From: Paul



To: The Romans

From: Paul



To: The Romans

Rom. 3:9

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 1a / #3

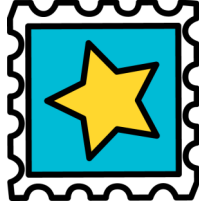
What then? Are we better than they? Not at all;
for we have already charged that both _____
and _____ are all under _____ ;

Rom. 3:23

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 1a / #4

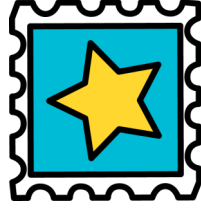
...for _____ have _____ and
fall short of the glory of God,

From: Paul



To: The Galatians

From: Paul



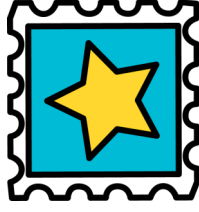
To: The Corinthians

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither _____ nor _____, there is neither _____ nor _____ man, there is neither _____ nor _____; for you are all _____ in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

1 Cor. 12:13-14

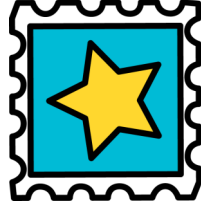
For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one _____, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. For the _____ is not one member, but many.

From: Paul



To: The Ephesians

From: Paul



To: The Ephesians

EPH. 4:4-6

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 1a / #7

There is _____ body and one Spirit, just as
also you were called in one hope of your calling;
_____ Lord, _____ faith, _____
baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all
and through all and in all.

EPH. 4:11-12

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 1a / #8

And He gave some as apostles, and some as
prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as
pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the
saints for the _____ of service, to the
building up of the _____ of Christ;

From: Paul



To: The Ephesians

From:



To:

...we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the _____, even Christ, from whom the whole _____, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the _____ for the building up of itself in love.