

Story: Church Discipline

SUPPLIES NEEDED

You will need the following:

15 Sheets of Cardstock (8.5" x 11")

15 3 mil Laminating Film

DIRECTIONS

- Print pages 2-19 two-sided. Laminate the story pages.
- Print pages 20-31 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 Bulletin Board).

Clip Art: Laura Strickland

<http://www.whimsyclips.com/>

Illustrations: Free Bible Images

www.freebibleimages.org

Graphics: @Phillip Martin

www.religion.phillipmartin.info

Church Discipline



Before holding up picture:

What does the word “discipline” mean? *(Answers might vary)*

Here is the dictionary definition: *to punish someone as a way of making sure that rules or orders are obeyed OR to train someone to control their behavior.*

Have your parents ever disciplined you? *(Yes)* All of us are disciplined at some time or another. Parents should be training you what is right and what is wrong, and that involves teaching and instruction. Punishment should be the last thing parents do to get us to do what is right.

Hold up picture:

How many of you have taken piano lessons? The teacher probably instructed you how to play something and then you practiced it all week before your next lesson. This is an example of being disciplined, or trained.

Or maybe you helped train, or discipline, your dog to obey you. It takes a lot of time and patience to train a dog doesn't it? When you here the word “discipline” today, I want you to think of the words “to train” or “to instruct”.



MARTIN

Hold up the picture:

The first verses we're going to look at today are from Romans. Who wrote Romans? *(Paul)* Let's look at chapter sixteen.

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

Rom. 16:17 – Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.

Rom. 16:18 - For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

Ask / Discuss:

What does it mean to "note those who cause divisions"? *(To watch out for those that stir up trouble or arguments in the church)*

What does "contrary to the doctrine which you learned" mean? *(They are not following or obeying what they had been taught)*

Who are these types of people serving? *(Themselves)*

What are we supposed to do with these types of people? *(Avoid them)*

1 & 2 CORINTHIANS



Hold up picture:

In Corinthians 5, Paul wrote to the church at Corinth and rebuked them for having a member who had taken his father's wife as his own. Paul said that he who had done this deed should be taken away from among them. Let's see what Paul says in verse 6...

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

1 Cor. 5:6 – Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough?

Ask / Discuss:

What does "a little leaven leavens the whole lump" mean? (*Answers might vary*) When you make bread, leavening, or yeast, spreads throughout the dough. Paul is using this example to say that sin can spread and contaminate the whole church like leavening does in dough. This reminds me of another verse in 1 Corinthians 15:

1 Cor. 15:33 – Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

Does it matter who our friends are or who we hang out with? (*Yes it does*) You might not realize it, but the more time you spend with someone, the more you start to act, think, and sound like them. That's why it's very important to choose your friends wisely.

1 & 2 CORINTHIANS



Hold up picture:

Let's go back to 1 Corinthians 5 and see what else Paul said about the marriage situation at Corinth.

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

1 Cor. 5:11 - But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one.

Ask / Discuss:

What does covetous mean? (*Jealous*)

What does reviler mean? (*One who abuses or insults another*)

What does swindler mean? (*One who cheats or bribes another*)

Paul says we should not associate, or even eat, with a Christian who is involved in sin. Does that mean we should ignore them if we see them out in public (like a restaurant or the grocery store)? (*Answers might vary*) Well, Paul answers that question in the letter he wrote to the Thessalonians...

1&2 THESSALONIANS



Let the students take turns reading the “letters” (NASB):

2 Thess. 3:6 - Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.

2 Thess. 3:11 - For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies.

Paul said there were some among the Thessalonians who were leading **undisciplined** lives and were not working, but being busybodies. What’s a busybody? (*Someone who is nosy and meddles in another person’s life*) Paul condemns this behavior and says those busybodies should work their own jobs and eat their own bread. Then look at what Paul says next...

2 Thess. 3:14-15 - And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother. (*NKJV*)

Ask / Discuss:

Paul again tells the early Christians to “note” or “withdraw from” or to “not keep company” with another Christian who is not obeying the apostles’ teachings. But the last verse tells us how we should treat these individuals...we are not to treat them as what? (*An enemy*) but to treat them as... (*A brother*). So if we run into a wayward Christian at the grocery store, are we supposed to be rude to them or ignore them? (*No*) What do you think we should say to someone that has been withdrawn from? (*We miss seeing you at church; We’re praying for you; Would you like to study the Bible again?*)

1&2 TIMOTHY



Hold up picture:

Paul also wrote about church discipline in his letter to Timothy. This one is a little long, so I'm going to read it, while you follow along in your Bibles.

(NASB):

1 Tim. 6:3-5 – If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.

Ask / Discuss:

Paul lists quite a few sins: pride, disputes, arguments, envy, strife, etc. and then he tells young Timothy to withdraw from people who are like this.



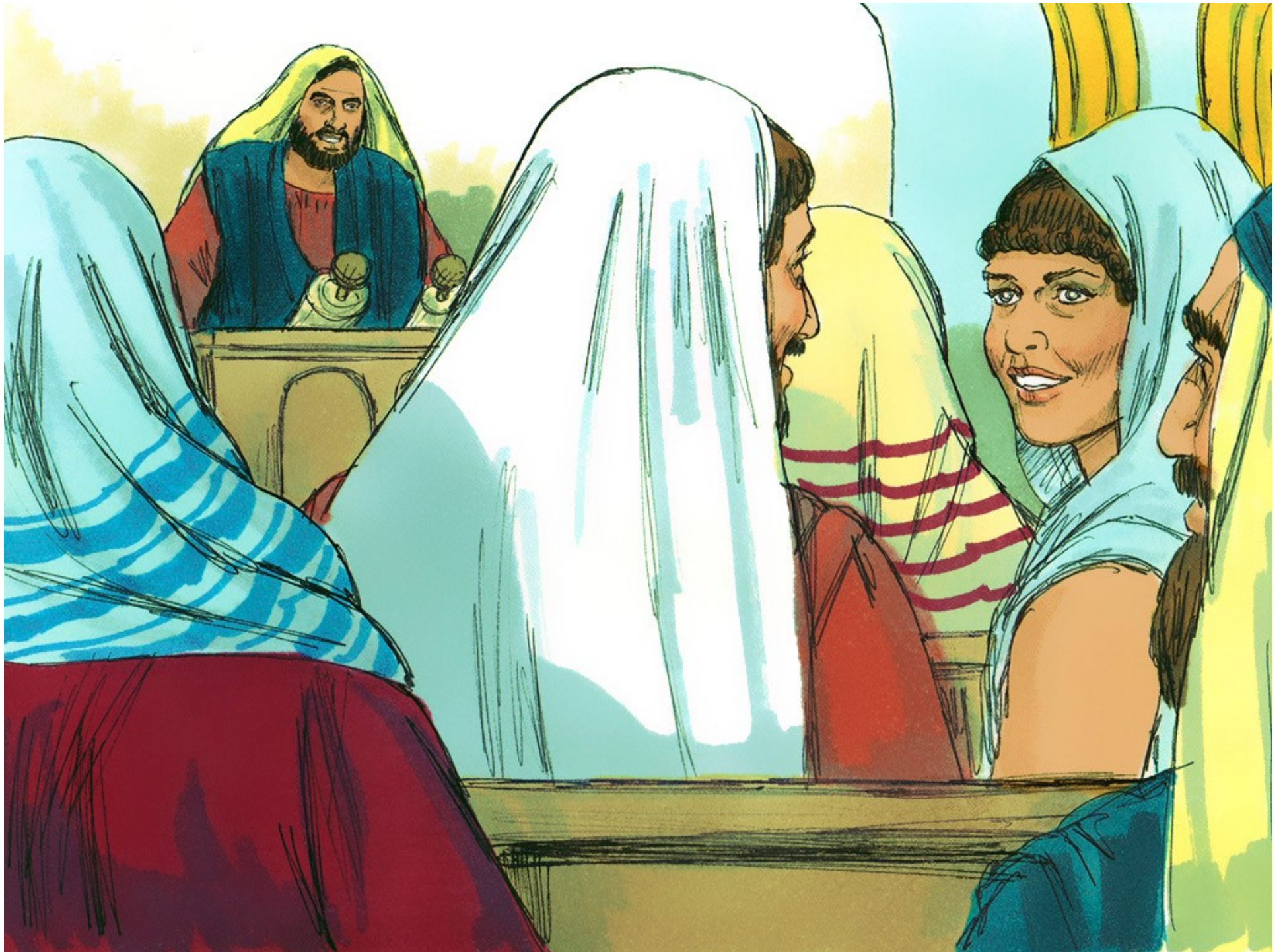
Hold up picture:

Now that we've read what the Bible has to say about church discipline, let's look at some examples in the book of Acts. The first one is in Acts 8:14-25 with Simon the sorcerer. As I read it, I want you to listen and tell me what Simon did that was wrong (*NASB*):

Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they would receive the Holy Spirit. (For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit. Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could acquire the gift of God with money! You have no part or share in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. Therefore, repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart will be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of unrighteousness." But Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

Ask / Discuss:

So what did Simon do wrong? (*Simon saw the gift of the Holy Spirit as something magical that he could buy and then make money off of by selling it to others.*) And what did Peter do? (*Peter disciplined or instructed Simon and told him to repent*) What do you think Peter would have done if Simon did not repent? (*Marked him, withdrawn from him, noted him*)



Hold up picture:

There's another example in Acts 18:24-28 with Apollos. Listen as I read (*NASB*):

Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

Ask / Discuss:

Apollos was trying to teach about Jesus, but he didn't fully understand, because he only knew of the baptism of John the Baptist. So what did Aquila and Priscilla do? *(They pulled him aside and taught him, or disciplined him, so that he understood the truth more accurately)* What do you think Aquila and Priscilla would have done if Apollos had said, "I think you're wrong and I'm going to keep teaching what I want?" *(Marked him, withdrawn from him, noted him, told others he's a false teacher)*



HEBREWS

MARTIN

Hold up picture:

Now let's look at our last verse in Hebrews:

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

Heb. 12:7 – It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

Heb. 12:11 – All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Ask / Discuss:

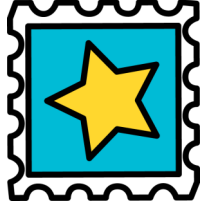
God is our heavenly Father and He needs to discipline and train us just like our earthly fathers should discipline us. Is it fun to be disciplined or corrected when we're wrong? **(No)** But it's necessary because it produces what? ***(The peaceful fruit of righteousness)***

It's always important to remember to correct someone who is wrong in a loving or brotherly manner, not in an arrogant or mean manner. But if they will not repent, that's when we need to separate ourselves from them, but we can always pray that they will change their ways.

****If someone has been recently withdraw from, discuss it and pray for that person.***

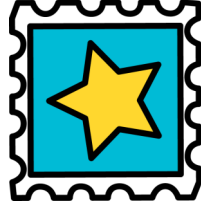
(After the lesson, have the students put "The Epistles" in the correct mailboxes.)

From: Paul



To: The Romans

From: Paul



To: The Romans

Rom. 16:17

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

Now I urge you, brethren, _____ those who
cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine
which you learned, and _____ them.

Rom. 16:18

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 3b / #2

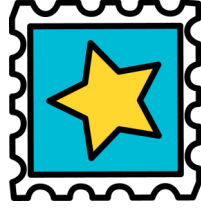
For those who are such do not _____ our
Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by
smooth words and flattering speech
_____ the hearts of the simple.

From: Paul



To: The Corinthians

From: Paul



To: The Corinthians

1 Cor. 5:6

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 3b / #3

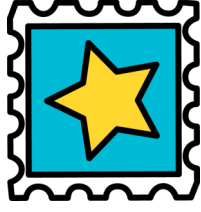
Your boasting is not _____. Do you not know
that a little leaven leavens _____ lump of
dough?

1 Cor. 15:33

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 3b / #4

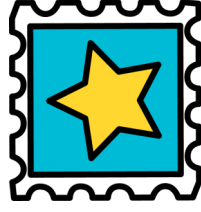
Do not be deceived: " _____ company corrupts
_____ morals."

From: Paul



To: The Corinthians

From: Paul



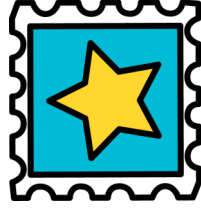
To: The Thessalonians

But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called _____, who is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to _____ with such a one.

2 Thess. 3:6

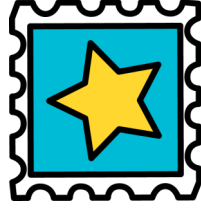
Now we _____ you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep _____ from every brother who leads an _____ life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.

From: Paul



To: The Thessalonians

From: Paul



To: The Thessalonians

2 Thess. 3:11

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 3b / #7

For we hear that some among you are leading an un-
disciplined life, doing no _____ at all, but
acting like _____.

2 Thess. 3:14-15

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 3b / #8

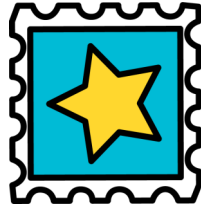
And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle,
_____ that person and do not _____
company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet
do not count him as an _____, but
admonish him as a brother.

From: Paul



To: Timothy

From: ?



To: The Hebrews

1 Tim. 6:3-5

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 3b / #9

If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such _____ yourself.

Heb. 12:7

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 3b / #10

It is for _____ that you endure;
God deals with you as with _____; for what
son is there whom his father does not discipline?

From: ?



To: The Hebrews

From:



To:

All discipline for the moment seems not to be
_____, but sorrowful; yet to those
who have been _____ by it,
afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of
righteousness.