

# THE CHURCH WAS DIVIDED



**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.

## FOR THE YOUNGEST

(summary of story for our littles can be found at end of document)

### 1) QUILT ART

- a. Provide 1-inch squares of patterned scrapbook paper. Invite toddlers to choose different pieces and glue them in a quilt pattern (or something like it) on construction paper.
- b. **SAY** • Many kinds of fabric are sewed together to make a quilt. Many different people come together because of Jesus to make a church, and we can be kind to one another.

### 2) FOLLOW THE LEADER

- a. Invite toddlers to line up behind you and march around the room. After a minute, let a toddler lead. Give each child a turn.
- b. **SAY** • Paul wrote a letter to the church in Corinth about following Jesus. Jesus helps us know about God.

### 3) SING A SONG

- a. Sing to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell":  
"God helps us obey Him, God helps us obey Him!  
We love the Lord and obey Him.  
Oh, God helps us obey Him!"
- b. **SAY** • Jesus helps us know about God. The more we know about God, the more we love Him.

### 4) WORK TOGETHER

- a. Place a large cup in a plastic container. Give each child a small cup of water. Guide them to work together to fill the larger cup. If you only have one child, take turns helping with the small cup.
- b. **SAY** • Paul told the people to be kind to one another. We work together at church.

# LEARN THROUGH MOVEMENT

## 1) FOLLOW THE LEADER

- a. Choose a child to be the leader. The rest of the group will line up single file behind the leader. Those behind the leader should mimic her actions as she moves about the room. After a short time, direct the leader to move the back of the line and allow the child now first in line to be the new leader. Continue play until each family member who wishes to be the leader has had the chance to do so.
- b. **SAY** • In today's Bible story, the people at the church in the city of Corinth thought that one teacher was better than the others. One group said, "We follow Paul." Another group said, "We follow Apollos." A third group said, "We follow Peter." A fourth group said, "We follow Jesus." Believers should not be divided. Listen for what Paul wrote to the church in Corinth.

## 2) 3 LEGGED RACE

- a. Have the family pair off. Give each pair a bandanna and explain that they will stand side by side and tie the bandanna around their two middle legs. Give the kids a few minutes to practice getting used to moving while tied together. Then hold a series of races to see who can walk the fastest as a "three-legged person."
- b. **SAY** • It can be hard to cooperate with others. You cannot control what another person will do, but you must work together and communicate with each other to succeed. In a similar way, the church is made up of many different people. We don't always agree, but we can focus on the gospel that unites us in Jesus. Paul wrote that Christians are joined together by faith in Jesus.

## 3) BUILD TOGETHER

- a. Set out an assortment of blocks. Encourage kids to decide what to build and then work together to build it. Comment on how well kids get along as they work.
- b. **SAY** • People who love Jesus should be like one team working together. You all worked together like one team to build with blocks. In today's Bible story, Paul wrote that Christians should work together. Paul told believers in the church at Corinth to get along. Paul reminded the people that Jesus saves sinners. Because of Jesus, believers can come together like one big, happy family.

# LEARN THROUGH ART

## 1) BODY OF CHRIST

- a. Print the sheet attached (or draw a simple outline)

- b. Check out our Facebook group for instructions from Shannon!  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/kidsatlambrick/>

## 2) A HIDDEN CROSS

- a. Use 1-inch painter's tape to make a cross on a sheet of heavyweight paper for each child. Guide kids to paint over the entire paper with watercolors. Remove the tape to reveal a cross. Set aside the art to dry. Consider writing the key passage on each kid's artwork.
- b. **SAY** • Paul asked, "Who died on the cross for you? It wasn't Paul. It wasn't Apollos. It wasn't Peter. It was Jesus! Jesus died on the cross for you." Paul wrote that Christians should work together. Paul reminded the people that Jesus saves sinners. Because of Jesus, believers can come together like one big, happy family.

## 3) SMALL DIFFERENCES

- a. Invite a kid to draw a character from her favorite TV show. Challenge the other kids to guess which show she chose based on the character she draws. Once a kid guesses the show correctly, let the first kid explain why she chose that show as her favorite. Allow other kids to draw characters from their favorite shows as time allows.
- b. **SAY** • We all have small differences in our tastes in TV shows, movies, music, food, and other things. No matter what, it is important to remember that Christ unites all believers, no matter what TV shows they like or don't like. Today we heard about a church that got distracted by the differences between people in their body.

# LEARN THROUGH OBJECT LESSON

## 1) PARACHUTE

- a. Set out a parachute or a large sheet. Invite kids to work together to perform different tasks with the parachute.
- b. Suggested tasks include the following:
  - Make objects such as rolled socks, stuffed animals, or lightweight balls pop up like popcorn.
  - Try to make a ball roll to a specific location such as between two kids.
  - Make a "Merry-Go-Round" by leading kids to turn their bodies sideways and hold the chute with one hand. Then walk around in a circle. You may start and stop music as a cue to reverse and go the other direction.
  - Count to three and everyone will lift the parachute overhead. Quickly crouch down, pulling the parachute down as well. This creates what looks like a "mushroom."
- c. **SAY** • We had so much fun working together! Followers of Jesus should get along and love one another. Paul wrote that Christians should work together. Paul told believers in the

church at Corinth to get along. Paul reminded the people that Jesus saves sinners. Because of Jesus, believers can come together like one big, happy family.

## 2) PUZZLE TIME

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

## LEARN THROUGH DISCUSSION

- 1) What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- 2) What does the story teach me about myself?
- 3) Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- 4) Are there any promises in this story to remember?
- 5) How do they help me trust and love God?
- 6) How does this story help me to live on mission better?

## STORY REVIEW

Help them remember any bits they've forgotten

- 1) **Act** out the story. If you need more people, get your kids to include some stuffies!
- 2) **Draw** the story—Comic Book Style!
- 3) **Create** the story—use playdough to create each scene of the story.

## BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS

Paul wrote a letter to his friends at the church in Corinth. The believers in Corinth were not being kind to one another. Some of them said, "I follow Paul." Some of them followed another

teacher named Apollos. Some followed Peter. They thought that one teacher was better than the others. Paul wrote, "I did not die on the cross and come back to life for you; Jesus did! We should follow Jesus! Jesus helps us know about God's love and His plan. So we should not be proud of how smart we are. We should be happy that Jesus loved us so much!"

## **BABIES' GOSPEL GEMS**

\*Paul wrote a letter to the church in Corinth.

\*Paul told the people to be kind to one another.

\*Jesus helps us know about God.