

Christian Union Planning Sheet

Theme / Topic

Unity - *Part 2 of the 'Christian Values' 5-part series*

Bible Passage

John 17:21 'Father, I pray that they can be one. As you are in me and I am in you, I pray that they can also be one in us. Then the world will believe that you sent me.' (New Century Version)

Time Allocation

30 minutes

Aim

The young people will learn that the Bible speaks of the unity that God longs of for His people, and consider how we can unite in sharing the Good News of Jesus with others.

Introduction

Where do you see Unity?

I wonder, when you hear the word 'unity' what do you think? How would you define the meaning of unity?

At it's very simplest, the Oxford Dictionary would define unity as '*the state of being united or joined as a whole*'. At its core, unity is people being joined - this could be through a common aim or goal, common interests, or being a part of club or group.

Can you list some of the groups that you are a part of? Take a couple of minutes to discuss with those around you, what it is that unites those in the groups that you are apart of.

Teaching

The Bible speaks into this theme of Unity too; Jesus' prays to the Father, shortly before being arrested by the roman soldiers, and He says these words: '*Father, I pray that they can be one. As you are in me and I am in you, I pray that they can also be one in us. Then the world will believe that you sent me.*' (The Bible - John chapter 17 verse 21; New Century Version)

Watch the video 'Vitalise Devotional - Unity Pt2of3' together, to hear something of what the Bible says about God's heart for His people to be united.

You can find the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xo9U9ewhF9k>

Application, Reflection and/or Activity

As we continue to spend time with Jesus and invest in our relationship with Him, as we seek to grow in our likeness of Jesus, His love and hope will bubble over and our lives will be an example to others of the difference Jesus makes.

And ultimately, as we share Jesus hope and love with others, we strive forward with the common purpose of fulfilling the greatest commandment given to all believers of Jesus in the gospel of Matthew:

'Then Jesus came to them and said, "All power in heaven and on earth is given to me. So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything that I have taught you, and I will be with you always, even until the end of this age."' The Bible - Matthew chapter 28 verses 18-20; New Century Version

How could you share the Good News of Jesus with someone this week?

Memory Verse

'Always be humble, gentle, and patient, accepting each other in love. You are joined together with peace through the Spirit, so make every effort to continue together in this way. There is one body and one Spirit, and God called you to have one hope.' - Ephesians 4:2-4; NCV

Resources

Vitalise Video

Bibles available in case young people would like to look up Bible references