Lesson B4.6 - Stop Arguing!



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: 1 Corinthians 1:1-25

▶ Bible Characters: Paul, Corinthian Christians

One place the Apostle Paul visited on his missionary journeys was Corinth, a cosmopolitan city. Later, Paul heard that the Christians of Corinth were arguing with one another. Paul decided to set them straight by writing them an important letter.

Brief Bible Background

▶ Today's Lesson is from the New Testament

▶ Scripture Section: Churches

The first Apostles sent letters to believers in various towns and regions. The majority of these letters were written by the Apostle Paul to congregations he helped start. Eventually, these writings were collected and became part of the New Testament.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening prayer song should be sung every week with young kids. The words are sung to the tune, "The Wheels on the Bus." No accompaniment needed.

We're all gathered here to thank you, Lord, thank you Lord, thank you Lord! We're all gathered here to thank you Lord, for all you do!

We're all praying that you'll teach us Lord, teach us Lord, teach us Lord! We're all praying that you'll teach us Lord, more about you!

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

If you and a brother, sister or friend get into a fight, what do your parents usually say? (Call on volunteers). They want you to **stop arguing** and treat each other well, don't they?

• What are some of the things that people argue about? (Call on volunteers)

• What's the best way you have found to **stop arguing**? (Call on volunteers)

In today's Bible story, Paul heard that some people in a church were fighting with one another. He didn't like this news at all. Paul wanted them to **stop arguing,** so he wrote them a letter. What did he say in his letter? Let's listen to our story and find out!

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

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e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading.

Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.



Picture 1

Tell the children: Paul wrote many letters to different churches. One of the churches was in a place called Corinth. Some of the people there were fighting, and Paul wanted them to be at peace with each other.

Read the caption: In his letter, Paul said, "My dear friends. You follow Jesus, as I do. Please get along with each other. Treat each other well."

- *What is Paul holding in his hand? [A special pen. In ancient times, people sometimes wrote with reeds, and later, with "quills," which were feathers with the tips dipped in ink. Have you ever tried writing with a reed or a feather?]*



Picture 2

Tell the children: Paul cared about these people and he wanted them to work together, as a team. He was unhappy when he heard they were divided.

Read the caption: "Don't take sides," Paul said. "I heard that you have been arguing a lot. Some of you claim to follow me or other teachers."

- *What do you notice about the people in the thought bubbles? [They all look unhappy. They are not getting along with each other.]*
- *Why would Paul write to them? [He wants them to realize that they have become known for their arguing, which is not good. He wants them to focus on Jesus.]*



Picture 3

Tell the children: To help the people understand what he meant, Paul used strong words. He wanted them to unite around their common faith in Jesus.

Read the caption: "Was I nailed to a cross for you? Were you baptized in my name? No! Jesus is the Savior. The rest of us are just messengers."

- *Who is Paul thinking about? [Jesus on the cross.]*
- *Why did Paul want people to stay focused on Jesus and what he did for them? [Because Jesus died for them and saved them, not Paul or the other apostles. Jesus is the one they should follow. Everyone else is just a regular human being.]*



Picture 4

Tell the children: Paul knew what he said about Jesus dying on the cross for our sins might be hard for some people to understand. But for those who were willing to listen, Paul spoke honestly.

Read the caption: "I know my words may sound foolish to some. But God chose to save those who believe this good news about Jesus!"

- *Look at the picture. What do you notice about the people? [Everyone is included: children, people of different races, men and women, even people from different times. Jesus loves us all, and Paul's words are for all of us!]*

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f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

To a church, Paul wrote a letter
saying, "You should all know better.
"Jesus Christ has chosen you
and you trust his Word is true.

"Why then do you fuss and fight,
saying only you are right?
"Don't start breaking into teams.
Keep your eye on what faith means.

"Don't just follow human wisdom;
that can only cause division.
"Lest the power of God be lost,
trust the message of the cross!"

g. Young Children's Activity (optional)

Simple in-class activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class.

Activity: Who to Follow?



Materials Needed:

Phone or CD player and music CD

Instructions:

Choose two or three students to be "leaders." Tell the leaders to each come up with a few funny dance moves. Explain that when you play music, they will do their moves randomly, without working together. When the music stops, leaders will freeze in place.

Tell the rest of the students that when the music starts, they will be "followers" and copy the moves of the leader closest to them.

Start playing music, and allow it to go on for a minute or so. Then, stop it and have students freeze in place. Each follower should be in the same dance position as one leader. If any follower is in a vastly different position from their closest leader, tap them on the shoulder and have them sit down in place. Then, begin the music again. Those who are still standing will continue the game. Play until one follower is left standing.

How was your experience a bit like today's Bible story? Do you think it is more difficult to follow when several people are trying to lead something? Why or why not?

h. Song (optional)

Listen to this song on YouTube, Vimeo, or online children's music sites. You can have boys sing the first part, girls sing the second part, and everyone join together on "that your joy may be full." Challenge both groups to see which one can sing their part louder!

This Is My Commandment

This is My commandment that you love one another, that your joy may be full.

This is My commandment that you love one another, that your joy may be full:

That your joy may be full, that your joy may be full.

This is My commandment that you love one another, that your joy may be full.

** Sing a second verse, replacing the phrase "love one another" with "serve one another"*

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

- *Start:* **Paul wrote letters to many churches. In one place, the people were not getting along. Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents). End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

O God, we praise you and we know,
you care for us and help us grow.
We thank you for our friends today
With whom we learn, and laugh and play.
Please help our world to know your Son,
Who loves us--each and every one. Amen.

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