

Undivided: Body of Christ

Children's Ministry | Mark 3:25

By Lt. Natalie Austin

Topic

Undivided: Body of Christ

Description

In the activity, we'll illustrate what can happen when we don't work together.

Key Verse

"If a House is divided against itself that house cannot stand. (Mark 3:25)"

Biblical basis

"God commands unity among believers because, once conflict enters the midst of any assembly or entity, productivity and usefulness inevitably grind to a halt and the whole organization is weakened and becomes vulnerable to attack."

The big idea

In order to work together we have to come together.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

“Undivided: Body of Christ”

Opening:

▪ Three-Legged Race Obstacle Course

Materials:

- Scarves or fabric strips long enough for tying legs together (one for each pair of children)
- Two ropes
- Objects around the corps that can create an obstacle course, such as chairs, tables, doorways, etc.
- Stopwatch

Directions:

1. Divide children into pairs, matching children of similar height and build.
2. Have each player stand next to his or her partner and put an arm around the partner's waist.
3. The partners' inside legs (the right leg of the partner on the left and the left leg of the partner on the right) should be touching. Tie the partners' inside legs together so each pair of children has three legs rather than four.
4. Use two ropes to mark a starting line and a finish line.
5. Have the players line up at the starting line. At your signal, have players walk or run as fast as they can through the obstacle course to the finish line.
6. It sounds easy, but it takes practice to make two legs work as one!

Songs (optional)

- All Creatures of Our God and King | Weird Animals VBS | Group Publishing
<https://youtu.be/8aeHBczYCA4>
- Build Your Kingdom Here
- Building up the Temple

▪ Scripture Scramble with Blocks

Supplies:

- Bible
- Blocks (giant Lego pieces/ cardboard blocks/ Jenga pieces)
- Pen/ Marker/ paper/ tape

Paper shaped blocks can be substituted.

Preparation:

Use the entire verse of Mark 3:25 or shorten it:

“If a House is divided against itself that house cannot stand. (Mark 3:25) or “A house divided cannot stand.”

1. Write one individual word of the verse on each of the blocks. Make sure the writing is large and clear enough for the children to read easily.
Alternative: Write scripture on pieces of paper then tape to blocks.
2. Lay the blocks out on a table, floor or any flat surface.
3. Show the children the verse with all of the words put in the correct order first.
4. Explain and talk about the verse and any words that are unfamiliar.
5. Mix the blocks up and let the children put them in order again.
6. If you have a large group of kids, create more than one team with their own set of scripture blocks.

▪ The Message with Blocks

Supplies:

- Wooden blocks used in previous activity,

So what did you think about that three-legged race? Did anyone think it was really difficult? What made it so hard? Did anyone think it was easy? Why do you think it was easy?

What about putting the scripture together? Was that easy or hard?

The only way to make anything we did earlier work was as a team. Have you ever been on a team before?

There are all kinds of teams you can be part of, like maybe an athletic team like soccer, or a music team in a band, or a school team for a group project. Even when people grow up they are still doing things as a team. They have a team at work with their coworkers, and a team at home as parents. We all work together in teams at some time or another.

The most important thing about working on a team is working together.

Listen carefully to this next question. Has anyone ever worked on a team by themselves?

Does that make any sense? Can anyone tell me what that could mean?

It says in the Bible that “Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed.”

So I am going to need two volunteers to help build a quick house for us. All we need you to do is build a basic house with four walls. And since you are going to be working as a team to build it, I will need you to work together, not against each other.

Great job! So, we have our house. So far, everything seems ok, right? This is what it’s like when you work together as a team. With all four walls working together our house is standing strong.

But, what happens when we want to work separately or against each other?

I will need four volunteers this time. Everyone pick a wall, and when I say “GO” I need you to try to remove the block from that wall. Ready? GO!

So how does our house look now? This is a house divided. This is what happens when we work against each other and ourselves, instead of working together. It just can’t work. A house divided cannot stand. It will always fall.

That’s why God tells us to listen to the spirit. If we do what is right, and what the spirit says we should do, our house can stand strong. But, if we don’t listen, and just do whatever we want, our house will fall.

And who wants to live in a fallen house? Not me! With the walls in a pile, and no roof over my head? No thanks! I want to live in a strong house, where I know I am safe.

So let’s work together, with each other and ourselves, to do what is right, keep our house strong, and please God.

(Adapted from: <https://ministry-to-children.com/a-house-divided-lectionary-lesson-from-mark-320-35>)

Songs

- All Around the World | Weird Animals VBS | Group Publishing
https://youtu.be/ew9GjmGXD_I
- Stand Together | Kingdom Rock VBS | Group Publishing
<https://youtu.be/8T0HWO8yQAI>

Closing/ Prayer

- Give each child a block with the scripture verse to take with them.
- Close the time by repeating the scripture verse.
- Prayer