

Undivided: Body of Christ

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

(Junior Church)

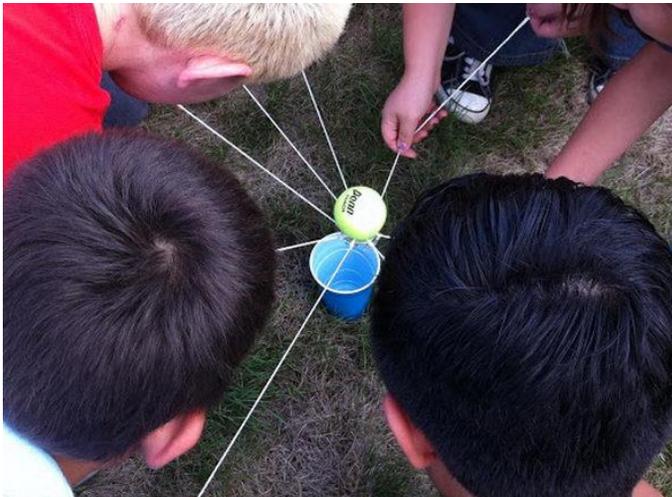
By Lt. Amanda Keene

Ages: 7-14 years old

Total time for lesson: About 45 minutes

Materials needed: tennis ball, plastic cup, large metal washer, enough string for one piece per student (see Large group game), 8 ½ x 11 cardstock paper, various colors of nontoxic, washable paint, plates for paint, paper towels, access to sink to wash hands, markers

1. Open with Prayer
2. As kids come in....
 - a. Have every child paint their hand and make a handprint on a piece of cardstock paper. Have them write their name at the bottom of the paper. Let papers dry....to be continued at the end of class.
3. Introduce topic: Ask questions –
 - a. "Have you ever been part of a team?"
 - b. "Do you like working in a team?"
 - c. "What are some popular teams you can think of?"
4. Large Group Game: Tennis Ball Transfer



This requires a large metal washer and a tennis ball for each group. The groups have to hold the strings and balance a tennis ball on the washer while walking and moving towards a plastic cup a distance away. Once the team successfully reaches the cup without dropping the ball, they have to work together to figure out how to get the ball into the cup without touching either one. (<https://spongekids.com/team-building-activities-for-adults-and-kids/>).

5. Game debrief:
 - a. "What was hard about that game?"

- b. "Was it easy to work as a team? Why or why not?"
- c. "Could this have been done with only one person?"
- d. "Why is team work helpful?"
- e. "If a team is divided and working against each other, can the team work?"

6. Scripture Lesson:

Let's open our Bibles to the book of Mark! Is that in the Old Testament or New Testament? (allow time for response). The New Testament! Let's look for Mark 3:25. Who would like to read? (allow someone to read the verse). One version says, "A home filled with strife and division destroys itself" (TLB). That doesn't sound good does it? Just like we talked about earlier, when a team is divided and they are all against each other, the team does work like it should. That's what happens here in the Body of Christ – here in the Church. If we turn against each other, our team won't work like it should! What do you think causes division or causes us to turn against each other in the church? (allow time for response). So often we turn against each other because we're different. Many times we think others should think exactly like us or act exactly like us or look exactly like us or dress exactly like us....but what would happen if we were all exactly the same in this world? (allow time for response). How boring it would be! God created us beautifully, uniquely, and we all have different gifts and talents that we bring to the church and to the world. Romans 12: 4-5 says, "For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." God created all people – all of the different skin types! Some of us have light colored skin, some have darker skin. Some of us have freckles and some of us don't. Some of us have curly hair, and some of us have straight hair. All of it is beautiful! There isn't one skin color that is better than the other. There isn't one body type that is better than another. We are all created equally by God. We are all beautiful in His sight, and He loves all of us the same amount! We need to look at each other that way and love each other that way too! We need each other. This life is hard sometimes, and God knows that. God loves us and gave us a community of people, the Body of Christ, to support one another, to love one another, and to help one another in life. We can help each other be more like Him!

7. Questions:

- a. Even though we know that everyone was created equally, does that mean the rest of the world thinks that?
- b. Have you ever been hurt because someone said something mean about how you looked? Or made fun of you for being "different?" How did you feel? What do you think we could do to show that we love you?

- c. Have you ever seen someone being made fun of or being treated unfairly? What did you do? What could you have done differently?
 - d. Sometimes we hear in the news that people are treated badly or have been hurt. What have you heard about or seen in the news that made you upset or afraid? Is there anything that you have questions about?
 - e. How can we be like Jesus and treat everyone with love?
8. Continued project from the beginning of class:
- a. Today we've talked about how God has created us all beautifully and differently. This is something that we should celebrate! When you came in, you put a paint handprint on a piece of paper and wrote your name. To end our time together, I want us to think about the really cool things about each other – things that make us different. (Give an example from your kids like "For example, Natalia has beautiful hair, and I really love it! Or I really love listening to Sammy talk. I like how he says things!") Let's go around the table to each painted handprint and write one thing you like about each of us in this room. Then you'll be able to take your handprint home, hang it up, and read about all the nice things your friends said about you!
9. Play music while this happens! Some suggestions:
- a. "I Need You To Survive" - Hezekiah Walker & LFC
 - b. "We are the One" – City Harmonic
 - c. "Family" – TobyMac
 - d. "Somos el Pueblo de Dios" – Marcos Witt