



united

1 CORINTHIANS





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FAMILY DEVOTIONS INSTRUCTIONS

For each week we will upload three devotions that build upon and link to our Kids Alive message on Sunday. Three devotions means:

- Those who already do devotions can continue these the other half of the week;
- Those for whom devotions are possible at most every second night of the week can also be included.

The devotions will follow this format:

INTRO

A short introductory activity or discussion

ASK

A recap of the previous devotion

PASSAGE

A short passage will be printed. This makes it less time-consuming and also excludes the need to find a bible.

ANSWER

Some simple comprehension questions that direct our understanding of the passage

PRAY

Suggested prayer points that come from the passage

MEMORY VERSE

This is only suggested if time permits as it may be a slightly longer activity. Day 1 of the weekly devotions your family will design something to remember the verse. Day 2 & 3 are designed to be more fun activities to aid in remembering the verses.

puffed up

DAY 1

WEEK 6 MAR 12TH-18TH

Intro:

Have a competition in your family to see who can blow up a balloon the fastest. Alternatively see who can blow something across the kitchen table with the least amount of breaths.

Recap:

What did your children learn about at church on Sunday?

Read 1 Cor 8:1-6

¹Now about food sacrificed to idols. We know that we all possess knowledge, but knowledge puffs up while love builds up. ²Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. ³But whoever loves God is known by God. ⁴So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: we know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one. ⁵For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), ⁶yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

Explore:

What was puffing up the Corinthians? *(Their knowledge; they thought they were really smart)*

What did Paul want them to do instead? *(Act in love, which builds up)*

In what particular area did he want them to act in love? *(With respect to food sacrificed to idols)*

Apply:

The next few chapters of *1 Corinthians* show that although the Corinthians knew there is only one God they weren't sure how to respond when people sacrificed to other gods. They used their knowledge to make others feel bad or even stupid. This is something we can all be tempted to do... when was the last time you were puffed up by the fact that you knew something that someone else didn't?

Pray:

Thank our Heavenly Father that he has showed us how to love one another. Pray that we might value love more than knowledge, and build people up rather than puffing ourselves up with what we know.

Memory Verse: (optional activity time permitting)

No one should seek their own good, but the good of others. 1 Cor 10:24

Hide the words of this week's verse and have everyone seek them out to put the verse together.

putting others first

DAY 2

WEEK 6 MAR 12TH-18TH

Intro:

Work together as a family to think of as many things as you can that become something else (tadpoles become frogs, seeds become plants etc).

Recap:

What did the Corinthians know?

Read 1 Cor 9:19-23

¹⁹Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. ²¹To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. ²³I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

Explore:

What things did Paul become? *(All things to all people; he became like others)*

Why did Paul become so many different things? *(To win as many as possible to salvation)*

Why was he so willing to change? *(So that he might share in the blessings of the gospel [Paul had just written that he was commanded by Jesus to preach])*

Apply:

Paul does not lack integrity; he is not something to some people and something different to others, changing so that people might like him more. Rather Paul shows he went to great lengths to put others ahead of himself so that they might be saved. Paul used this as an example of how the Corinthians needed to act; linked to the previous devotion it shows he wanted them to stop thinking themselves great because of how knowledgeable they were and to start serving others in love.

Pray:

Thank our Heavenly Father that Paul was so willing to change of the sake of others. Pray that we will do the same: we will put others ahead of our own desires or even our own rights.

Memory Verse: (optional activity time permitting)

No one should seek their own good, but the good of others. 1 Cor 10:24

Change this week's verse into a paper plane and practise saying it each time you throw it.

putting you last

DAY 3

WEEK 6 MAR 12TH-18TH

Intro:

In what situations might you be willing to put someone else first even if you thought what you were doing was right?

Recap:

Why was Paul willing to become so many different things?

Read 1 Cor 10:23-33

²³“I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but not everything is constructive. ²⁴No one should seek their own good, but the good of others. ²⁵Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience, ²⁶for, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.” ²⁷If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience. ²⁸But if someone says to you, “This has been offered in sacrifice,” then do not eat it, both for the sake of the one who told you and for the sake of conscience. ²⁹I am referring to the other person’s conscience, not yours. For why is my freedom being judged by another’s conscience? ³⁰If I take part in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of something I thank God for? ³¹So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. ³²Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God— ³³even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

Explore:

What did Paul say the Corinthians should do about eating possible sacrifices to other gods? (*Eat them with thankfulness, because ultimately God alone is God and all things belong to him*)

What did Paul say they should do if they were told something was a sacrifice? (*Not eat it*)

Why did Paul say these two different things? (*To ensure the Corinthians put others first*)

Apply:

Paul says something very surprising here: when we take the last three devotions together he wanted the Corinthians to not insist on their rights but to love others instead!

Pray:

Praise our Lord Jesus Christ who gave us an example of this by not arguing for his own innocence but by putting up with it for our sake. Pray that God might give us wisdom to be more like the Lord Jesus and Paul and seek the good of many before we seek our own good.

Memory Verse: (optional activity time permitting)

No one should seek their own good, but the good of others. 1 Cor 10:24

Look for opportunities over the rest of the week to put this verse into practice.

the lord's supper

DAY 1

WEEK 7 MAR 19TH-25TH

Intro:

Ask your children what they know and feel about the Lord's Supper.

Recap:

What did your children learn about at church on Sunday?

Read 1 Corinthians 10:15-17

¹⁵I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

Explore:

Speaking of the Lord's Supper, why does Paul say we drink the cup of thanksgiving? *(It shows we participate in the blood of Christ, meaning he has died for us so that we might be clean)*

Why does he say we break bread? *(It shows we participate in the body of Christ, meaning that we are part of Christ's church)*

Why do we all share from one loaf of bread? *(It shows our unity in these things)*

Apply:

The Lord's Supper is a chance for us all to show that we are united in Jesus. Talk to your family about sharing it together one night this week.

Pray:

Thank our Lord Jesus that he has made us all clean by dying for us on the cross. Pray that our church might show that we are united in the ways that we act, including through the Lord's Supper.

Memory Verse: (optional activity time permitting)

Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way. 1 Corinthians 14:40

Scramble the words of this week's verse and work together to put it in a fitting and orderly way.

selfishness at supper

DAY 2

WEEK 7 MAR 19TH-25TH

Intro:

Put out some treats like chocolate or lollies and make sure there is one extra. Discuss as a family who gets the extra treat.

Recap:

Why does Paul say we share the cup of thanksgiving and one loaf in the Lord's Supper?

Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-22

¹⁷In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. ¹⁸In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. ¹⁹No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval! ²⁰So then, when you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, ²¹for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk. ²²Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God by humiliating those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? Certainly not in this matter!

Explore:

Why did Paul say he had no praise for the Corinthians? (*When they met together it did more harm than good!*)

Why was this the case? (*Their divisions meant that they were only thinking of themselves when they gathered*)

Why was this a problem? (*Some people were getting nothing while others had too much*)

Apply:

Imagine gathering together as God's people and it doing more harm than good! Paul felt the Corinthians were having this effect because although they were meeting for the Lord's Supper they were not eating it in a way that reflected the other-person-centeredness of the Lord Jesus. When we meet together at church or in Small Group are we ever guilty of the same thing? Do we have our own private worship or learning experience and not really consider those with whom we meet?

Pray:

Praise our Heavenly Father for the example of our Lord Jesus in putting others first. Pray that when we meet together as his people we will look to the needs of others rather than just considering what we get out of it.

Memory Verse: (optional activity time permitting)

Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way. 1 Corinthians 14:40

Order your family oldest to youngest, or girls then boys, and say one word each of this week's verse.

Intro:

How do you feel about exams? What was the last one you did? Share with your family how it went.

Recap:

Why did Paul think the Corinthians' meetings were actually harmful?

Read 1 Corinthians 11:27-34

²⁷ So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. ²⁹ For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. ³⁰ That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. ³¹ But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment. ³² Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world. ³³ So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together. ³⁴ Anyone who is hungry should eat something at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment.

Explore:

What exam did Paul want the Corinthians to do? *(He wanted them to examine themselves to see whether they were participating in the Lord's Supper in an unworthy way)*

What did he say it will look like if someone participates in the Lord's Supper in an unworthy way? *(They will eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ)*

What did he say would happen if they act or drank in an unworthy manner? *(They would sin against the body and blood of the Lord and come under his judgement)*

Apply:

The challenge of the exam Paul was suggesting should be done when we eat the Lord's Supper was not to look at one's own life and confess our sin but to discern the body of Christ. This means Paul wants us to celebrate the Lord's Supper by thinking about others, not ourselves! The Corinthians were not eating together as a church; they were ignoring those with whom they ate. Does this challenge the way you celebrate the Lord's Supper?

Pray:

Thank our Heavenly Father for Paul's warning. Pray that we will think about others when we gather, giving thanks for them, and not just have our own private time with the Lord.

Memory Verse: (optional activity time permitting)

Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way. 1 Corinthians 14:40

Use this week's Memory Verse to confess specific ways that you gather in an unfitting way (gathering with others but having your own personal worship experience).

spiritually one

DAY 1

WEEK 8 MAR 26TH-APR 1ST

Intro:

As a family recap the things you have learnt from this series. How was Paul seeking unity amongst the Corinthians?

Recap:

What did your children learn about at church on Sunday?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-7

¹Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. ³Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. ⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

Explore:

What issue in the Corinthian church did Paul want to address next? (*The gifts of the Spirit*)

What was the first thing he wanted them to know about this topic? (*We are united by the Spirit: we cannot recognise Jesus as Lord apart from the Spirit's work in us*)

How did this lead into the discussion about gifts? (*Our unity in the Spirit is more important than the individual gifts given to different people*)

Apply:

Often when we think about gifts we focus on the different gifts we all use to serve. In doing so we often forget Paul's starting point: it is the one Spirit who unites us by giving us all different gifts. Because we are united by the Spirit each person's gifts are to be used for the common good (v7).

Pray:

Thank our Heavenly Father that we have been united by his Spirit. Pray that we will therefore use our different gifts for the sake of building the church, not our own reputation or enjoyment.

Memory Verse: (optional activity time permitting)

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12:7

Write the words of this week's verse on different gift-shaped pieces of paper. Give these to your family so they can work together to put them in the right order.

spiritually nothing

DAY 2

WEEK 8 MAR 26TH-APR 1ST

Intro:

If you could have any spiritual gift in the world (knowledge, healing, able to do miracles) which would you pick?

Recap:

In what way does the Spirit unite us?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:3

³¹You are eagerly desiring the greater gifts, yet I will show you the most excellent way. ¹If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Explore:

What were the Corinthians doing? (*Eagerly desiring the greater gifts*)

What did Paul say is even better? (*To love others*)

Why did he say this? (*Speaking in different languages, prophesying the future, having a mountain-moving faith, amazing generosity or willingly suffering for others is pointless without doing these things because of love*)

Apply:

Just as an appliance without a power cord attached is useless so is having amazing gifts but no love. Without love for others these gifts become things that puff us up rather than building God's church.

Pray:

Thank our Heavenly Father that he has gifted his people in amazing ways. Pray however that more than anything else we might desire to love others.

Memory Verse: (optional activity time permitting)

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12:7

Write the words of this week's verse on different heart-shaped pieces of paper and put it in a place where you can all see it throughout the week to begin to learn and do it!

Intro:

How does each person in your family feel about puzzles? Are they something you enjoy or find frustrating or boring?

Recap:

Why did Paul say we need love?

Read 1 Corinthians 14:26, 40

²⁶What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.

⁴⁰Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

Explore:

As he concluded his teaching on gifts what did Paul say everyone had? *(Something different to bring to the church service: a hymn, an instructive word, a revelation etc)*

How did Paul say each of these things should be used? *(To build up the church)*

What would the result of this be? *(Everything would be done in a fitting and orderly way)*

Apply:

All this teaching on gifts was because the Corinthians were ultimately thinking of themselves first and each other second. Paul showed them that if all the different pieces came together the result would build the church, something far better.

Do you focus more on your gifts (or your feeling that you don't have anything to bring) than on seeing the church built up? How can you work together as a family to see our church grow?

Pray:

Thank our Heavenly Father that he equips his people in different ways. Pray that all these ways might work together to build his church.

Memory Verse: (optional activity time permitting)

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12:7

Turn this week's verse into a puzzle and work together as a family to bring all the different pieces together to build up the final result.

hold on

DAY 1

WEEK 9 APR 2ND–8TH

Intro:

Lay down on the floor and raise your feet about 15cm or 6 inches from the floor while keeping your legs straight (doing so requires you to use your stomach muscles only). Who can hold on to this position for the longest without lowering their legs or putting their hands under their bottoms to keep their feet up?

Recap:

What did your children learn about at church on Sunday?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-2

¹Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ²By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

Explore:

What did Paul want to remind the Corinthians about? (*The gospel that he preached to them*)

What had the Corinthians done with the gospel? (*Received it, taken a stand on it & been saved by it*)

What did Paul want them to keep doing with the gospel? (*Holding firmly to it*)

Apply:

The Corinthians had been saved by the good news of Jesus but they were not letting it thoroughly shape their thoughts and behaviour. When we hear the gospel and believe it we too are saved. However we need to keep believing it to let it impact every area of our lives too.

Pray:

Thank our Heavenly Father that by Jesus' death and resurrection we are saved. Pray that we will continue to hold on to the gospel and not let other things shape the way we live.

Memory Verse: (optional activity time permitting)

By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. 1 Cor 15:2

Make Christmas crackers by using toilet rolls. Put the words of this week's verse inside it and see who can hold on the best to the ends of the cracker in order to keep the words. Work together to put the verse in order when you are done.

consistent thinking

DAY 2

WEEK 9 APR 2ND–8TH

Intro:

A line from an old song goes “one of these things is not like the others”. Google this (or go to <http://bit.ly/2m8l1aF>) and see if you can spot the difference. Alternatively think of some examples where something someone does isn’t consistent (e.g. a doctor who smokes; a PE teacher who doesn’t eat well; a teacher who hates learning etc)?

Recap:

What did Paul want the Corinthians to hold on to?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 12-13

³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸and last of all he appeared to me also.

¹²But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.

Explore:

What did Paul think was most important for the Corinthians to remember? *(That Jesus died, was buried, was raised and seen by many people)*

Why did he remind them of this? *(Some people thought that people weren’t raised from the dead)*

Why did Paul think this was inconsistent? *(He said if people aren’t raised from the dead then Jesus couldn’t have been raised either!)*

Apply:

We see in these verses why Paul wanted the Corinthians to hold on to the gospel: some had beliefs that were inconsistent with it! The Corinthians thought that when you died your soul went to heaven. Paul had to show them that just as Jesus’ body was raised so our bodies will be raised too!

Pray:

Thank our Heavenly Father that the resurrection of Jesus means that we will be raised one day too. Pray that what we believe about Jesus will shape our thinking more and more each week.

Memory Verse: (optional activity time permitting)

By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. 1 Cor 15:2

Design a poster for this week’s verse and put it in a prominent place so that when you see it you will remember to hold firmly to the gospel and have it impact your thoughts and beliefs.

image overhaul

DAY 3

WEEK 9 APR 2ND–8TH

Intro:

Discuss: if you could change anything about your body what would it be?

Recap:

Why did Paul have to remind the Corinthians of the gospel?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:35, 47-49

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?"

⁴⁷ The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. ⁴⁸ As the first man was earthly, so are those who are of this world; as the second man was heavenly, so also will be those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.

Explore:

After writing about resurrection what question did Paul think the Corinthians might ask? (*What kind of body will we get when we are raised?*)

What did he say our bodies are presently like? (*They are in the image of Adam, and so match this world*)

What sort of body did he say we will have? (*A new body that, like Jesus', will be suited to heaven*)

Apply:

This is the ultimate image overhaul! One day we will have a new body that will last forever. It will be as different from our present body as a seed is different to the plant that springs from it (15:37-38).

Pray:

Praise our Heavenly Father that he will transform us on the inside AND on the outside! Thank him that one day Jesus will not just have given us a new heart to love him but a new body with which to use for his glory.

Memory Verse: (optional activity time permitting)

By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. 1 Cor 15:2

Use this week's verse to lead your family to pray for people that you might invite to church at Easter.