

Use the following thoughts and questions to have a spiritual conversation as a family. Don't emphasize having the right answer, but focus on spending time discussing the Word as a family.

Scripture

1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17-21; John 17:20-23

Session Summary

Paul's plea for unity in the church begins by addressing them as "brothers and sisters" (1 Cor 1:10). He is basically saying, "We're family, so act like it." Sure, siblings fight, but there is a love and loyalty that transcends their differences because they share the same name. We are divided by secondary doctrines, church preferences, politics, sports, stereotypes and cliques. Paul's desire is that the church would see that what unites us is greater than what divides us. We belong to Christ, have been baptized in His name, have been adopted into His family, and have been saved by His cross.

There's more at stake in our unity than merely our testimony, our name, or our reputation. The name of Jesus, the reputation of Jesus, and the world seeing the true identity and glory of Jesus is at stake. Jesus prayed for our unity, "so that the world may believe you sent me" (John 17:21). When we claim the name of Christ, our reputation, to some degree, becomes the reputation Jesus gets in our community. What would the world believe about Jesus based on what they see in our churches? Do they see unity or division? Who wants to be a part of a family that is divided? The world will not see the love of Jesus in the church if we cannot even love one another. Our church culture should be attractive to those on the outside. They should see our love and care for one another and say, "They're different, and I want what they have."

- What are things that can divide us as a family?
- How can we be united in Christ even when we have disagreements?
- How can our family be a better example of what the church family should be like?
- What can we do to promote unity in the gospel within our church?

In pairs, build a toy house out of popsicle sticks. Have one pair use tape and another use glue, or if you are feeling more adventurous, let them choose their own adhesive. Which house held together the best? Discuss how the gospel is what should unite us as Christians. The gospel is the glue that holds us together. We could attempt to be united around a particular leader or idea, but ultimately, the only thing that will bring lasting unity is Christ.