

# Final Restoration of Unity



Collegiate Quarterly

## Teacher's Guide

### Surveying the Source

Isa. 11:1–10; 65:21–25; John 14:1–3; 2 Cor. 4:16–18; Rev. 21:22–27

### Plotting the Course

**The students will:**

- ▶ Find encouragement and hope in anticipating Christ's return.
- ▶ Realize the complete fulfilment of unity is only found in God's presence.

- ▶ Identify ways to be spiritually inclusive here and now.

### Preparing to Lead

The first live, international television show was broadcast by satellite in 1967. Billed, *Our World*, it featured creative artists from nineteen nations. Millions of people witnessed the performances. Each country's representation was outstanding, but none received quite the reception as the final number, "All You Need Is

Love" by the British rock group, the Beatles. Of all possible messages that was the message they wanted to send.

This world offers so very many delights and different kinds of love, but Christ lived, died and returns to let us know that indeed, all we really need is love, His love.

### Getting Started

**A.** The word unity has many definitions. It can be as straightforward as separate multiple parts becoming a whole or an experience that offers united effects. It could also be a euphoric state of harmony. Unity will mean different things to different people based on their personal backgrounds and experiences. Go around the room and ask the students to share their individual definitions of unity. Ask them to keep the definitions in mind as the lesson is discussed.

**B.** Owen was a young hippo separated from his herd during a tsunami and Mzee a 130 yr. old tortoise. For a couple years they were best of friends living at an animal rescue park in Kenya. A children's book was written about them, documentaries were made. Ask the class what they think made this union between two totally different animal species work? What would make people so interested in their story? Then ask the class to share what characteristics we all need to have to get along with each other as God's children?

### Materials

Bibles, Reproducible Activity; pens/pencils; paper; flipchart; markers

## Delving Into the Word

**A.** The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are three members comprising the Godhead. They are unique, yet they are one. *Ask:* “What does the conduct of the Godhead teach us about unity?”

Have the class look up the following verses and use the flipchart to list their observations.

Psalm 51:11; Isaiah 57:15; 63:10; Matthew 12:32; 28:19; Luke 1:35; 3:22; John 14; 1 Thessalonians 1.

**B.** Unity is a wonderful thing, but so is diversity. Use the flip chart to list the aspects of diversity found in the following texts. Ask the class to take turns looking up and reading each text then place their responses on the chart.

Matthew 19; Luke 14:10–14; Acts 2:7–11; Romans 14:1–6; 1 Corinthians 12:15–19; 1 Corinthians 14:7; Colossians 1:16, 17; Hebrews 13:1–3; James 2:1–4; Revelation 7:9; 14:6.

Also *ask* the class the following questions: “What are the advantages of diversity within an organization? What value does God place on diversity?”

## Discussing the Ideas

1. Does Christ’s soon return make unity more precious? How?
2. What one thing above all can unify believers?
3. What do you imagine the population of heaven to look like? How is unity represented there?
4. How does unity with an individual

- differ from unity in a corporate setting?
5. How does a spirit of unity enable us to minister to others better?
6. What is it about hope that brings people together?
7. How can we live out Luke 17:21 now with the kingdom of God within us?

## Closing the Activity

Hand out the Reproducible Activity. There are many types of groups that young people may have little or no in-depth experience with or exposure to. Ask the class to brainstorm about ways to reach out and be inclusive of the various groups listed. By working together, their

individual experiences could teach others in the class ways to show unity with those listed on the chart? The class can also be broken into smaller groups and reconvene to share results.

End the class with a prayer for unity in the church.

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What are some ways to show respect for and unity with diverse groups? List examples (some suggestions have been made for you).

Category	Show of respect
The elderly	
Women	
Children	Mentor a child
Handicapped	
Specific ethnic groups	
Animals	Volunteer at an animal shelter
The earth	
Those of other faiths	