

# Loving God's family



**Bible verses:**  
Ephesians 4:10-16



**Aim:**  
To explore the idea of unity and its importance in the world



**Today's fruit:**  
Peace



## Memory verse

**'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.'**

(Ephesians 4:32 NIV)



## Start it

Before the session, hide an envelope with the words 'Very Important Letter' on the front. Perhaps address the letter to your church/group. Ask them to search for your important letter and use this as a prop throughout this and future sessions.

Today we are going to hear about a very important letter. In the Bible there are important letters that were written to the Church when it was brand new.



## Share it

Share a child-friendly version of Ephesians 4:12-13 (eg Biblegateway.com ERV/EASY) or watch the following clip.

**God's story: books of the Bible: Ephesians** by Crossroads Kids' Club (stop at 1:31 'Jesus rescued all of them.)

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- What is a letter?
- Who might send a letter?
- What might a letter be about?
- Have you ever received a letter – or a card? How did it make you feel?
- The book in the Bible called Ephesians was actually a ... what? (hold up envelope!)
- Can you remember who wrote the letter? His name starts with a 'P'.
- Can you remember anything important from the letter? What was Paul writing his letter about?

Remind the children that:

- Paul was writing to a church or a group of people who followed Jesus.
- Paul's letter can still help us today.
- The two different groups of people sometimes disagreed on how to follow Jesus.
- No matter how different people are, through Jesus they can have unity! (Remind them what unity means or ask if they remember.)



## Sing It

**'Together' (songs for school)** by Worship for Everyone (2:43)

**'Be kind and compassionate'** by Slugs and Bugs (3:05)



## Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- With folded paper, make the holding hands paper people. Add names to paper people (or groups) of people in your church you could pray for.
- Work together to build something using bricks or similar. Reflect on the importance of working together as a team. This could be done in pairs, threes or one big group.
- Create a picture or painting together. You could include elements like handprints or hand cutouts to help create the scene/ image, eg the petals of flowers, the fur of an animal or feathers on a bird.
- Play games that reinforce working together as a group, eg
  - > Pass objects like hula hoops, balloons or – very tricky – a long piece of uncooked spaghetti!
  - > Untie a human knot – start by holding hands in a circle, then all or some of the group use one hand to hold a hand across from them. Can they then untangle the knot without breaking the connection?
  - > Play music and dance, but when the music stops they have to, as a group using their bodies, make: a circle, a triangle, the number three, the letter Y, a flower ...