

2026 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

“There is one body and one spirit, just as you were called to the hope of your calling.” (*Ephesians 4:4*)

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The 2026 international and Canadian WPCU resources are available to download at:

www.weekofprayer.ca (English)

www.semainedepriere.ca (French)

We encourage you to be creative in your use of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity resources! For example, you may wish to alter the ecumenical worship service to better suit the context of your community, or you may draw inspiration from the WPCU materials to create something entirely new. Communities should also feel free to use the WPCU materials not only during the traditional Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-25 in the northern hemisphere), but throughout the year, to pray for Christian unity and to foster ecumenical fellowship, hospitality, and service.

Ephesians 4:1-13

4 I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: ⁴there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.^[a]

⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it is said, “When he ascended on high, he made captivity itself a captive;^[b]

he gave gifts to his people.”

⁹(When it says, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended^[c] into the lower parts of the earth?^[d] ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity,^[e] to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Activity Connections:

One body, one Spirit, one hope; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all. We have been given different gifts and equipped “for building up the body of Christ” until there

is “unity of the faith”. These activities invite recognition that we are joined as one and yet we are different. To “come to the unity”, we must use our varied gifts and work together.

Paper People Chain Activity:

Use a template to make a chain of paper people, join the single person to the chain, and decorate the people.

Preparation:

Materials required:

- Precut 8.5" x 11" paper in half so that it is 4.25" x 11"
- Print people template on different colour of paper from the first (1 per person doing the activity)
- Scissors
- Crayons, Coloured pencils, Markers
- Glue sticks, tape, paper clips, brads, string, ribbon

Template: copy the template picture to the right and adjust to the size that fits the paper you are using for the people chain

How To Make a People Chain

Fold a strip of paper in half and then half again. Now fold in half. (Size of finished folds should be about the size of the template.)

Put the template on top of the folded paper and cut around to make the paper chain. Only cut on the black lines for head, arm and leg – not on the body side on the folded edge. Now there are 4 in the chain and one separate (the template).

How to include the lone person with the chain? Use the supplies on the table to join and have all in the chain. Colour and decorate the people in the chain.

Talk About:

There is one body and one Spirit. We are different but all are to be “building up the body of Christ” and be in unity. How do we do this? How do we be in unity when we are different?

Question: How can invite others to be in this unity?

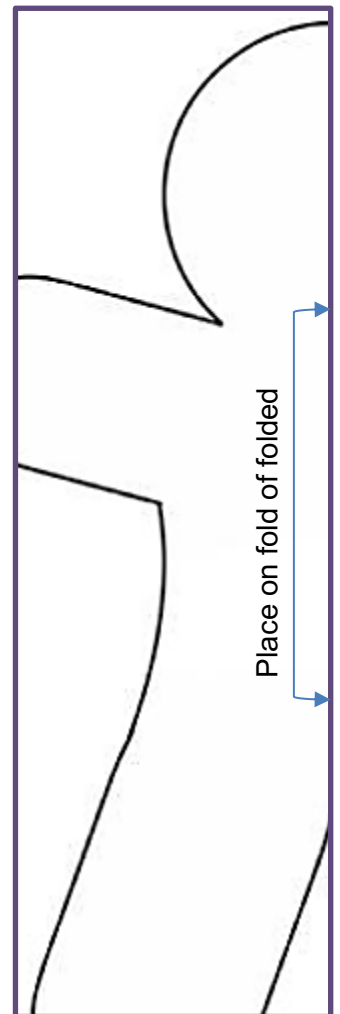


Figure 1 Template



Human Knots Game Activity

This is a fun and simple game for a minimum of 5 players and can be played up to 20. The more players, the more complex the activity. So large groups can be divided to make more knots. 8-10 is the ideal. We start by creating a human knot with the objective of untangling the knot without breaking the chain.

1. Everyone stands in a circle and steps to the centre.
2. Reaching left hands out in front, grab hold of a person's hand on the other side of the circle. DO NOT HOLD the hands of your immediate neighbour.
3. Now put your right hand in and reach across the circle for a DIFFERENT person's hand.
4. When everyone is holding hands with 2 other people, and not the persons beside them, the group will be in a tight human knot! Try stepping back, if possible, to begin to untangle.
5. Now untangle! Working together, being gentle (no tugging or yanking), untangle the knot by ducking under hands, stepping over hands, twisting or turning, squeeze through gaps, or similar to help each other. DO NOT LET GO OF HANDS to do this!
6. As the knot untangles, a circle will form, and people may be facing in or out of the circle. And is finished when all are in one large circle.

Talk About:

The only way to finish this game, to successfully untangle the human knot, is for the players to work together, listen to each other, and try different approaches to solve the problem. Acting in *unison* will not solve the problem. We can “come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God” as individuals working together.

Question: what does Paul mean by “unity”?



Activity: Lego Challenge

On the internet there are lots of Lego Challenges to use as an activity where individuals take on different roles to achieve a common objective: build the required Lego structure. For older youth, choose a more complicated challenge with more rules.

Here's a simple version based on

<https://frugalfun4boys.com/lego-copycat-cooperative-game/> that can be used for everyone:



- 1) Preparation:
 - a) Decide 3 locations: a Building Station for each team, a Model Station that only can be seen by one person from each team (the Model Expert) and where the model Lego is, and a location between the 2 where the Model Expert and Messenger meet.
 - b) Build a simple Lego structure with about 20 pieces of Lego and place this at the “Model Station”.
 - c) Prepare 1 building kit for each team with the same pieces as in the model. The kit is located at the “building station” for each team.
- 2) Divide into groups of 3 and assign one role to each team member: a Builder, a Model Expert, or a Messenger.
 - a) Builder: This is the person who can touch the bricks and build the model. They are located at the Building Station with the bricks in the kit and cannot leave this spot.
 - b) Model Expert: The Model Expert can go back and forth between the model and the Messenger but cannot go to the building station or see the model the team is building.
 - c) Messenger: The messenger can go back and forth from the building station to meet the Model Expert as many times as needed and cannot see the Model.
- 3) When the Challenge starts, the Model Expert studies the Model and goes to the Messenger to give information about the model that the Messenger then gives to the Builder. The Builder builds a copy of the model using the information provided. The Messenger returns to the Model Expert for more information. The Model Expert can visit the Model Station as often as necessary.
- 4) The Challenge ends when a team has completed their copy of the model. For multiple teams, the other teams can continue to build, or the Challenge can end.
- 5) See how closely the copy matched the model.

Talk About:

The only way to finish this game, to successfully copy the model, is for the players to work together, to clearly communicate and to listen to the other player and try different approaches to solve the problem. This Challenge demonstrates how different roles (“some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers”¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry”) are needed and must work together for the common goal.

Question: what roles do we play in building the unity Paul writes about?