

INTERACTIVE TEACHING/LEARNING GUIDE
Lesson 5

SESSION TITLE: “BEING OF THE SAME MIND WITH ONE ANOTHER”

FOCAL PASSAGE: (ROM. 15:5-6; JOHN 17:20-25)

I. Creating Interest in the Series (Hook)

Central Teaching/Learning Aim: To help the learner stay focused on Christ, building a unified community as an example to the world, bringing glory to God.

A. Share - the following quote:

On The O'Reilly Factor (1-16-03), Mel Gibson spoke about his upcoming movie about Christ's life:

“I think it's meant to just tell the truth. I want to be as truthful as possible. But, when you look at the reasons behind why Christ came, why He was crucified, He died for all mankind and He suffered for all mankind, so that, really, anybody who transgresses has to look at their own part or look at their own culpability. It's time to get back to a basic message, the message that was given. At this time, the world has gone nuts, I think. Christ spoke of faith, hope, love, and forgiveness. And these are things I think we need to be reminded of again. He forgave as He was tortured and killed. And we could do with a little of that behavior.”

Next - Show the trailer for the movie "The Passion of Christ".

Read – (Rom. 15:5-7)

State – To be of the same mind with fellow Christians we must focus on Christ. Today we will discuss how to stay focused on Christ and unified in community.

B. Optional Method –

Guide members through the following 4 points that make up a great group. These characteristics were outlined by the Drucker Foundation. How does our SGM stack up?

1. At the heart of every great group is a shared dream. All great groups believe they are on a mission from God--that they can change the world--make a dent in the universe. Do we believe that about our SGM?
2. They manage conflict by abandoning individual egos to the pursuit of the dream. Does the mission outweigh conflict in our SGM?
3. Great groups make strong leaders. You cannot have a great leader without a great group and vice versa. Are people stepping up to the plate in leadership in our SGM?
4. Great groups are the product of meticulous recruiting. Are people in the right places of service in our SGM? Does our SGM have good chemistry?

Read – (Rom. 15:5-7)

State – To be a unified body, an SGM must put their focus on Christ and His will, and look out for the interests of fellow members.

State – To be of the same mind with fellow Christians we must focus on Christ. Today we will discuss how to stay focused on Christ and unified in community.

C. Optional Method- Movie Clip “Drumline”

Start: 00:10:38

Stop: 00:13:10

Synopsis: The movie Drumline explores the maturation of a talented percussionist from Harlem who

receives a full-ride scholarship to Atlanta A&T University to play in the marching band. Early on Devon Miles (played by Nick Cannon) discovers that making the transition from hip-hop street drumming to the drumline of a university's celebrated marching band is more challenging than he expected.

Devon consistently deviates from the protocol outlined by Dr. Lee, the band director. He fails to read the band rulebook; he provokes a fight on the field at halftime, and he violates the philosophy of band unity by showing off.

One morning, before sunrise, the incoming freshmen band members are lined up like Army recruits on the University's football field. The returning band members observe from the sidelines. The freshmen are all wearing white t-shirts except for Devon who is in a black one. Dr. Lee addresses them like a boot camp sergeant. When a few stragglers arrive tardy, the director asks one of them to identify his roommate.

The embarrassed latecomer points to Devon.

Dr. Lee approaches Devon and asks him why his roommate was late. He responds that his roommate likely overslept. When the band director inquires why he didn't wake him, Devon flippantly answers, "I'm not his mother."

Dr. Lee, put off by Devon's smart mouth, repeats the dialogue he and Devon have just had loud enough for the entire band to hear. Then in military fashion he barks out, "Section leaders. What is our concept?"

The section leaders answer loudly in unison, "One band, one sound!"

Dr. Lee repeats the slogan: "One band, one sound!" and then continues to address the newcomers. "When one of us is late, we are all late. When one of us looks or sounds bad, we all look and sound bad."

Staring at the freshmen, he asks, "So, what's the concept?"

The freshman musicians' reply, "One band, one sound."

Dr. Lee continues, "Now I want ten laps from all those who are 'not their roommate's mama.'"

---Drumline (20th-Century Fox, 2002), rated PG-13, written by Tina Gordon Chism, directed by Charles Stone.

State – "One band, one sound!" That is the concept of our SGM. As we stay focused on Christ, we will come together and accomplish great things for the Lord.

BOOK Getting Into the Word

- A. Utilize - the Discussion Guide to examine the scripture.**

LOOK Getting the Word into Life

- A. Distribute the handout;** *"The Qualities of a Dream Team"* and have members discuss. (Note: This would be an excellent group discussion.)

TOOK Conclusion

IV. Conclusion (Took)

- A. Close with a concentrated prayer time focusing on the unity of your SGM. Pray for members to grow in accountability. Pray for inactive members that they can be reclaimed. Pray for God to protect your unity and that He would use your SGM to make an impact in the world.

B. Optional Method

Share – the following illustration:

I made the critical mistake of attending my grandparent's small country church on a Wednesday night one time. Little did I know but it was a "business meeting" night. I was trapped near the front since my grandparents always sat on the second row. The main topic of discussion was what type of church van to purchase---Ford, Chevy, or Dodge.

The discussion turned into more of a debate about the quality of different brands of vans. Some were Ford men, some Chevy, etc. The meeting went for 45 minutes when the choices had finally been narrowed down to two, Ford or Dodge. There was a large man in overalls that had stayed quiet the entire time. When he stood to speak everyone became quiet and listened. Here is what he said. "I looked up Dodge in the dictionary before I came tonight. It said 'to be avoided'." Then he sat down. They voted to buy the Ford and the meeting was over. I left thinking what the Lord must have thought about that meeting. How ridiculous to spend time in His house arguing about a van. I vowed to myself to never waste time in a business meeting arguing over unimportant subject matters that did not bring glory to God.

May our church and your SGM stay focused on Christ and show a unified example to a lost world.
(*Carter Shotwell 1/20/04*)

Close - in prayer for unity in your SGM.

DISCUSSION GUIDE
(Teacher's Copy)

1. What is the literal meaning of the phrase "to mind the same thing" in (Rom. 15:5)?
It means to think, commit to, and do the will of God.

2. What is the overall purpose of man doing God's will? (vs.6)
Through living for Christ we will bring glory to God and be a witness to others.

3. What is God's will for your life?

4. How well are you living out His plan?

5. Outline the characteristics of unity outlined in (John 17:20-25):

- a. **(vs. 20-21a) Those who believe should be one (unified).**
- b. **(vs. 21) We are to dwell in Christ.**
- c. **(vs. 22) We share in the glory of Christ.**
- d. **(vs. 23) We are to be examples of unity to the world.**
- e. **(vs. 24-25) Dwelling in Christ should impact the world.**

6. How well do you believe the "church" in general is doing living "as one" as an example to the world?

7. How well is your church doing?

8. How well Christians respond to trials is a great testimony to a watching world.
What does (Heb. 12:7-12) teach about trials and the unity of the Body?

Discipline (trials) may not seem joyful at the time, but we will come out stronger.
We are to help one another through trials.

9. How can we guard the unity of our SGM according to (Heb. 12:13-15)?

- a. **Walk the straight and narrow.**
- b. **When one strays, restore them.**
- c. **Pursue peace.**
- d. **Help others on their spiritual journey.**
- e. **Handle conflict immediately.**

THE QUALITIES OF A DREAM TEAM

What kind of member am I? Evaluate yourself in light of the following characteristics?

The Team Members Care for One Another

Teams that don't bond can't build.

Do I really care for others in my SGM?

How do I express concern?

The Team Members Know What Is Important

Team members must know what it means to score.

Do I know what the purpose of Lake Pointe and my SGM is?

The Team Members Communicate With One Another

Open communication among teammates increases productivity.

Do I keep in touch with other members during the week?

If not, how could I build a relationship with some?

The Team Members Grow Together

Growth within a team is much like growth within a marriage.

Am I involved in accountability with anyone in my SGM?

If not, how can I get involved?

There Is a Team Fit

Attitudes of partnership and trust are essential.

Is there a sense of shared responsibility in my SGM?

Am I contributing in any way?

The Team Members Place Their Individual Rights Beneath the Best Interest Of the Team

Individualism wins trophies, but teamwork wins pennants.

Do I practice the "Golden Rule" in my SGM?

How can I be a giver and not a taker?

Each Team Member Plays a Special Role

Personal talents and gifts are needed for specific roles.

Am I using my God-given gifts to serve others?

How can I get involved?

An Effective Team Has a Good Bench

Every team member needs a twin.

Am I mentoring a younger Christian?

Am I being mentored by a more mature Christian?

The Team Members Know Exactly Where the Team Stands

Team members need organizational sense.

Do I know if all the needs of my SGM are being met?

How can I find out?

The Team Members Are Willing to Pay the Price

Each person must have the conviction that the cause is worth the price.

Do I really believe in the cause enough to give my time, gifts, and resources?

--Adapted from John Maxwell's "Developing the Leaders Around You"

Word for the Week

"ACCEPTING ONE ANOTHER"

Rom. 15:7; Rom 14:1-4, 21

Monday - Read Romans 15:1-7

- How did you or do you currently deal with conflict among your siblings? If you are the older sibling, does it affect your responsibility or attitude toward the younger? Why or why not? Does Rom 15:1 address this issue? The word for "bear" means "to be able to bear up under especially trying or oppressive circumstances."
- It is often in family or other close relationships that we are most "burdened." Spend five minutes in prayer talking to God about any burden that is on your heart.
- How do Rom 15:1 and Rom 15:7 relate in how you should respond to that burden? How does that make you feel? Spend some time writing down your thoughts.

Tuesday - Read Romans 15:1-7

- In Rom 15:7, "to accept" carries the idea of extending a welcome to someone, especially another believer, into one's home or circle of influence.
- Are there any relationships in your life in which you have not applied Rom 15:1-7?
- What are some steps you can take in order make this teaching a reality in your life?
- How should Christ's acceptance of you impact your response (Rom 15:17b)?

Wednesday - Read Romans 14:1-4

- In what areas are some believers weak in their ability to determine the correct course of action? In what areas are you weak?
- From your knowledge of the Jewish dietary laws and regulations regarding the Sabbath, how do you think unity between the Jews and Gentiles was impacted in the church at Rome? These differences were "disputable" or "unclear" as far as moral instruction.
- Make a list of some "disputable" issues that you have discussed in recent days. Did it lead to improper thoughts or actions? In what ways should you respond differently?

Thursday - Read Romans 14:5-18

- What should your actions be in response to someone with whom you might have a disagreement (Rom 14:4, 13)?
- Make a plan of principles that will guide you in responding to some of the differences of opinion you may experience in the future.
- Ask the Lord to help you respond accordingly.
- Share this plan with a close friend and ask him or her to help hold you accountable to it.

Friday - Read Romans 14:19-21

- Have you ever tripped while walking or running? Did someone cause your fall? Did your knees, elbows, or head get bruised and scraped? How long did it take you to heal? On the spiritual side, what do you think Paul means by the words "stumble" and "fall" in verses 20-21? How would this affect a person's ability to experience community or "heal" spiritually?
- Ask the Lord to give you a tender heart toward areas in your life that you may need to give up in order to prevent any believer from falling?
- Are you willing to give up that freedom? Why or why not?

REAL LIFE
“Being of the Same Mind with One Another”
Romans 15:5-6; John 17:20-25

(Exegetical . . . What it meant to the Romans/Believers back THEN)
THE MEANS BY WHICH THE WORLD WOULD REALIZE GOD’S GLORY,
REVEALED IN THE INCARNATION OF JESUS CHRIST,
WAS BY THE COMMUNITY BEING OF ONE MIND WITH ONE ANOTHER.

- I. The PURPOSE for God Granting The Romans “To Mind the same thing among One Another” Following The Standard of Christ Jesus, as Paul Prayed, was that, Together, They Might Glorify God With One Voice, (Romans 15:5-6).
- A. The Content of Paul’s Prayer for the Romans was that the God of endurance and encouragement would Grant them “To Mind the same thing among One Another” following the Standard of Christ Jesus, (5).
NOTE: Taking the phrase “following the standard of Christ Jesus” in the context of the life of Christ as referred to in verse 3, and in light of the parallel passage in John 17, we may interpret “to mind the same thing” as a reference to thinking/committing to/doing the will (plan and purpose) of God.
- B. The Purpose for God Granting the Romans “To Mind the same thing among One Another” following the standard of Christ Jesus was that, together, they might Glorify God with unity, (6).
NOTE: The purpose of the community thinking/committing to/doing the will (plan and purpose) of God together and in unity was so that God would be glorified. The church, living in unity through the life God grants and in submission to His plan and purpose, testifies to a watching world the reality of God’s glory.
- II. The PURPOSE of the Unity (being one in life, plan, and purpose) of the Church (believers) with God the Father and God the Son, as Christ prayed, was so that the world might Grasp the truth of the Incarnation (God with us and for us), (John 17:20-25).
- A. The Recipients of Jesus Christ’s Request of the Father were not the disciples/apostles only, but all who would Believe in Him through their (the apostles’) message/preaching, (20).
- B. The Purpose of Jesus Christ’s Request was that all who believe might Be one (unified in life, plan, and purpose) as He and the Father were one (unified in life, plan, and purpose), (21a).
- C. The Purpose of all who believe Being one (unified in life, plan, and purpose with Jesus Christ and God the Father) was so that the world might Believe that God had Sent Jesus into the world (that God, the Second Person of the Trinity, had become man, Jesus, in the miracle and grace of the incarnation), (21b).
- D. The Purpose of Christ Giving glory to those who believe, as the Father had Given glory to Christ, was so that believers might Be one (of the same mind) as the Father and the Son were one (in life, plan, and purpose), (22).
- E. The Purpose for which the Father was one with Christ and Christ was one with believers was so that believers might be Perfected in unity (one with God’s life, plan, and purpose), (23a).
- F. The Purpose for which believers were being Perfected in unity was so that the world might Believe that God had Sent Jesus into the world and that God Loved them as He Loved Christ, (23b).
- G. The Purpose for which Jesus Christ Desired that those whom the Father had Given Him might Be with Him was so that they might See His glory, Given in Love before the beginning of creation, (24).
- H. Jesus’ Conclusion regarding His disciples/apostles/believers was that, although the world did not Know the Father, the Son Had Known the Father and believers Knew that God had Sent Jesus into the world, (25).
NOTE: The repetitions (20-21, 22-23, 24-25) in Jesus’ prayer emphasize His desire for the church to live as one (in unity with each other by the life God gave and according to His plan and purpose). The purpose (or goal) of such unity was so that the world might grasp that God the Father had sent God the Son into the world. If the world could grasp the reality of the incarnation they could come to glorify God in their belief and community lifestyle of unity. The unity of the church would provide the most compelling apologetic of the truth of the gospel.

(Theological . . . What it means to believers ALWAYS)
MEMBERS OF THE MASTER PLANNED COMMUNITY
IMPACT GOD’S WORLD BY
HAVING THE SAME MIND WITH ONE ANOTHER.

(Pedagogical . . . What it means for us NOW)
HAVE THE SAME MIND WITH ONE ANOTHER.

- I. The world does not Glorify God, (Romans 1:21-25).
 - A. The world glories in ideas, things, people.
 - B. The world does not glorify God.
- II. The world does not Grasp God's Love, (John 1:10-11).
 - A. The world does not grasp the Incarnation.
(The eternal God became a man to die in our place.)
 - B. The world does not grasp God's love for them.
(He sent His Son to die in our place.)
 - C. The world does not grasp God's plan for them.
(He will glorify them as He has glorified Christ.)
- III. When God's Master-Planned Community Lives with One Mind/In Unity . . .
(“so that” signals purpose with result)
 - A. . . . the World will Glorify God, (Romans 15:5-6).
 - B. . . . the World will Grasp God's Love, (John 17:20-25).
- IV. Therefore, HAVE THE SAME MIND WITH ONE ANOTHER.
 - A. In Essentials “be of the same mind” in Unity.
(Doctrine, love, purpose)
 - B. In Non-essential “be of the same mind” in Liberty.
(Tradition, preference, style)
 - C. In All things “be of the same mind” in Charity.
 - D. Show the world God's Love and Glory! (cp. Acts 2:46-7; 4:32-3)