

Panic Lesson 3



YOUTH GROUP UNITY

Anything to photocopy? No

Here are the parts of this lesson:

- ◆ **Passing Out Compliments** *affirmation exercise; need paper and pencils*
- ◆ **Four Pictures of Unity** *Bible study on analogies of believers from 1 Peter 1:22-2:10*

MIXER



PASSING OUT COMPLIMENTS

Have the group sit in a circle and give out a sheet of paper and a pencil to each person. Instruct everyone to write his or her name at the top, and then pass it to the person on the right. Now have everyone write down one thing he or she appreciates about the person whose name appears at the top. Then pass the sheets to the right again and repeat the procedure. Sheets should go around the circle in this way until they reach their owners again.

Now go around the circle and ask each person three questions:

1. Which was the funniest comment on your sheet?
2. Which was the most heartwarming?
3. Which surprised you the most?

Next, have people voluntarily tell something they wrote on another person's paper, speaking directly to that person. When everyone who wants to has had a chance to give a compliment directly, talk about how they feel when they're openly praised this way (good, awkward, proud, embarrassed). Ask how long it's been since group members received a compliment face-to-face, and if it's been a while, talk about what keeps us from praising one another. End by reading 1 Thessalonians 5:8-15 together. *Phil Nelson*

BIBLE STUDY



FOUR PICTURES OF UNITY

Every youth group struggles to maintain relationships characterized by harmony and mutual concern. It's all too easy for young people to pick at petty differences, and without warning those small problems can become devastating schisms within the group.

This Bible study is intended to help young people identify the aspects of living in God's family that are shared by all. By recognizing the kind of unity God desires for his people, they can take steps to restore that harmony and heal any breaks that may have occurred.

These four pictures identified by the Apostle Peter in 1 Peter 1:22-2:10 are outlined by Warren W. Wiersbe in his book, *Be Hopeful* (Victor, 1982). Use the following questions to talk with your group about the need for unity:

Children of the Same Family (1:22-2:3)

1. How did we become children in the same family?
2. What brought about our new birth?
3. How is the Word described? What do you think this means? How important is the Word to God's family?
4. According to Peter, how should "brothers" treat each other?
5. Can we disagree with each other and still have "sincere love" for each other?
6. How was the Word "preached" to you?
7. Describe how children in God's family are like "newborn babies." Do we ever leave this stage? How? Do some remain spiritual "babies?" Why? What's the result when babies won't grow up?

Stone in the Same Building (2:4-8)

1. What is Jesus called in this passage?
2. What are we called? What's the difference between Jesus and us in this building?
3. How was Jesus treated? What's the result? What does that say to us, who are part of the same building?
4. What are some characteristics of a stone? How do these apply to the Christian?
5. Why is it valuable to have different kinds of stone when you're building? How does this principle apply to our group?

Priests in the Same Temple (2:9)

1. What are the privileges of priests?
2. What are the responsibilities of priests?
3. How do other people view priests? Is this good or bad?
4. How should priests live in relation to other priests?
5. How should priests live in relation to other people?

Citizens of the Same Nation (2:9-10)

1. How are these citizens described?
2. What does "a people belonging to God" mean?
3. How does the ownership of something increase its value? Give some examples. Now apply that truth to the Christian who is "owned" by God.
4. Where should Christians find their source of self-worth? Where do we usually try to find it?
5. What "nation" are we a part of? Where is this nation located?
6. Read Philippians 3:20. What insight does this verse add to the words of Peter?
7. What is our responsibility to each other as citizens of God's nation? What happens when citizens fight each other?
8. What is our responsibility to other people?

Conclude your Bible study by reviewing the reasons Peter outlines for maintaining harmony and unity in your group. If time permits or need demands, briefly discuss any problems that have been dividing the group. Ask group members to resolve that they will make an effort to heal wounds and promote harmony. Ask for specific ways they can accomplish these goals. If group members can verbalize their decisions, encourage them to do so. Close your study with prayer. *Doug Newhouse*

