

Incorrect Labels

TOPIC: *Acceptance*

SCRIPTURE: *Romans 15:5-7*

SUPPLIES: *self-stick labels, poster boards*

Before the game, print the following sentences on self-stick labels, with one word on each label. The order of the words should be mixed up so the phrases can't be easily identified. You'll need one complete set of labels for each team.

- Together everyone achieves more.
- Table the label; accept me for me.
- There's no "I" in "team."
- You're nobody until somebody loves you.

Have teenagers form teams of five to eight. Have each team line up in single file. Give the first person in each line poster board, and give the last person in each line a set of printed labels.

Explain that each set of labels contains four complete sentences when put together correctly. On "go," the last person in each row should begin peeling off one label at a time and sending it to the front of the line. With the help of his or her team, the first person must put each word in the correct spot on the poster board to complete the four sentences. The first team to do so wins. If no team gets all four sentences correct, award points to the team with the most correct.

DISCUSSION

- How do you feel when others don't include you?
- How well do the phrases on these poster boards address the issue of acceptance in real life?
- What does it mean to be a team?
- As Christians, what should we do to be more accepting of others?

OPENING: SONG (find a song appropriate to your class and to forgiveness)

READING: Psalm 32

*How blessed are those whose offense is forgiven,
whose sin blotted out.
How blessed are those to whom Yahweh imputes no guilt,
Whose spirit harbors no deceit.*

TEACHER:

To prepare ourselves to better continue the journey to wholeness as a person and to better appreciate the gift of life and of God and of people, let us call to mind the times we have been selfish or have sinned.

(Have the students take turns reading the following petitions)

PETITIONS:

Response: *I am sorry Lord.*

1. For the many times we did not seek to discover God in others.
2. For the lack of confidence and trust in God.
3. For failing to see God in others.
4. For the times we have been afraid to show our religious convictions.
5. For the gifts and talents we have failed to cultivate.
6. For the times we have refused to help those in need.
7. For a lack of responsibility concerning our actions.
8. For having spoken untruthfully about others.
9. For the times we might have disregarded human love.
10. For the times we have taken our parents and family for granted.
11. For the times we have ridiculed those who act according to their convictions.
12. For the times we have been the cause of ill feelings between others.
13. For the times we have been afraid to show our true feelings for others.
14. For discriminating against others because of race, religion, or nationality.
15. For the times we have not listened to others.

Feel free to add your own petitions.

READING: Psalm 32

*I made my sin know to you,
did not conceal my guilt.
I said, I shall confess my offense to Yahweh.
And you, for your part, took away my guilt,
forgave my sin.*

CLOSING: God forgive this lack of love in our lives as you do often forgive it in those who are close to you. Help us today and everyday to live your presence in our lives so that we may be reminders of you to those around us. Give us the strength to love until it hurts and then to keep loving so that we may be one even as you are one with your Son, Jesus and the Spirit, Amen.

SONG