

TAKE A MOMENT

Using these or similar words, invite the children to take a few moments for silent reflection:

I invite you to pause for a moment. You may close your eyes ... Reflect on the communities to which you belong ... your family ... your class ... your school ... your parish ... your sports club ... your music group ... Think about how it feels

when you are with the other members of these communities ... sharing with them your talents and abilities ... and especially enjoying one another's company ... Think how good it feels to be included, to be united ... Quietly, say thank you to God for all the communities to which you belong. When you are ready, open your eyes.

SACRED SCRIPTURE

THE UNITY OF CHRISTIANS

Explain to the children that Christians are one family – the family of God. All Christians are united in their belief that there is one God, whose Son, Jesus, lived among us on earth and rose from the dead. While Christians may belong to different church families, all Christians believe that God sent the Holy Spirit to be with us to guide us on our journey to our common home in heaven.

Ask the children if they can remember what St Paul wrote in his letter to the Corinthians about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Then tell them that St Paul also wrote to another group of Christians in the city of Ephesus, the Ephesians, and he spoke to them about how Christians are united. We will now listen to a statement from that letter.

The Unity of Christians (Eph 4:5-6)

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism; there is one God and Father of all people, who is Lord of all, works through all, and is in all.



After you have read the Scripture passage, check the children's understanding using these or similar questions:

- What are the three things that St Paul tells us unite all Christians? (one Lord, one faith, one baptism; in other words, all Christians are followers of Jesus; all Christians believe in one God, and all Christians are baptised.)

- How does God work 'in all'? (by giving us the Holy Spirit to guide us)
- Does God want all of us to work in the same way doing the same things?
- How do you think God is working in you?
- St Paul tells us that God is 'Father of all people'. How does God care for us? How does God show us that we are all unique and that he loves each one of us?

Then dig deeper using questions such as:

- How does God work 'through all'? (by giving us grace, or help, to do what he asks of us)

Refer the children to page 68 of their book.

Teacher Tip:

There is a map entitled 'Bible Lands in New Testament Times' on page 1988 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*, which shows the location of these two cities.

INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY

PLACES ST PAUL VISITED

Invite the children to look at the map that shows two of the places St Paul visited. Ask the children to name the two cities and enter the names into the text boxes. Correct answers will reveal a map of all the places visited by St Paul.