



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 3: United

Suggested Week of Use: June 16, 2024

Core Passage: Acts 2:41-47

News Story Summary

On March 26, a massive cargo ship crashed into a support column of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, Maryland. The collision created a 1.6-mile-long collapse and caused vehicles and people to fall into the Patapsco River. In the aftermath of the disaster, federal, state, and local leaders combined human resources and equipment to clear portions of the blocked channel and provide a smaller, passable channel for ships and cargo. Those unified efforts have continued with the hope of reopening the full shipping channel sometime in June.

For more about this story, search “Baltimore bridge teamwork”

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, hang a large piece of paper on a focal wall (or use a dry erase board). As adults arrive, give them markers and encourage them to write the name of their favorite team of all time on the paper. Encourage them to think broader than sports teams. Say: *It could be a team at your workplace, a mission trip team from church, or even the yearbook staff you were on in high school.* After several minutes, read some of the answers and ask various adults to explain why that particular team was so significant to them. Share the story of the people and agencies working as a team with a unified purpose to respond to the Baltimore bridge collapse. Ask: *How do you create unity as a team?* Record responses on a blank section of the paper. Say: *Today we will examine what unity looked like in the early church.* Open in prayer.

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, turn over the large sheet of paper to provide a clean writing space. Remind the group about the people and organizations who responded to the bridge disaster. Ask: *What unified them? What character traits were necessary for them to remain unified?* Record answers on the paper. Direct adults to think about the unity of the people in Acts 2. Ask: *What character traits were necessary for them to remain unified?* Write answers on the paper. Provide some quiet time for adults to ask God which of these traits He most wants to develop in their lives so they can be unified with other believers in your church. Say: *Today, we will close the study by praying silently about the trait that God has spoken to us about. Then I will end our time with a prayer.* Again, provide a few quiet moments. Close by praying that each person in the group will allow God the freedom to mold and shape them so they can work with other believers to advance His kingdom.