

The Gospel Project for Adults, Spring 2018
Interactive Teaching Tips for Adults, Session 2

Introduction: *Help your group members connect with the major theme.*

Read the following African proverb to your class: “When there is no enemy within, the enemies outside cannot hurt you.” Ask them to comment on it and to think of the last time they saw a united church resist an attack from without.

Part 1: *Check for application using the “Think-Pair-Share” technique.*

Ask a volunteer to read the following reflection:

During the Christmas season, my wife and I attended a presentation of Handel’s “Messiah.” In addition to being touched with the fine production of this stirring music, we were also moved by something else. After the first section, the primary conductor stepped down and handed the baton to another man who had directed this annual production for many years.

We noticed no change. For both conductors, the quality of the music remained high. It made me think. What if some musicians had said, “We like the first guy better. Let’s not do our best for this one.” It would have ruined the majestic music. Instead, the musicians worked equally hard for both.

It should be that way in the church. We should give our best effort for the work of the Lord no matter who is our leader, provided of course that he is following God. But in many congregations there’s a tendency to follow one leader over another, dividing their allegiance while damaging the effectiveness of the church.

Paul pleaded with the Corinthians to avoid divisions based on personalities. That advice still applies today. As we serve God, we need to realize that we can’t have harmony until we’re completely in tune with Christ.

Think-Pair-Share: Ask the question “How does keeping in tune with Christ keep harmony in the church?” Say something like the following to instruct your group: “**Think** for 30 seconds about this. Now I want you to discuss this in **pairs** with a person on your left or right who is not your spouse.” (Pause for 60 seconds.) Call on 3-4 pairs to **share** one idea.

[Source: Dave Branon, “Finding Harmony,” Our Daily Bread, December 10, 1995, <https://odb.org/1995/12/10/finding-harmony>.]

Part 2: Stimulate your group with a musical example.

Frank Sinatra is internationally known for his musical ability. One of his most famous songs was “My Way.” Write the following verse on the board from that song:

For what is a man, what has he got
If not himself, then he has naught.
To say the things he truly feels;
And not the words of one who kneels.
The record shows I took the blows
And did it my way

Ask your group members to comment on the sentiment in this verse, especially lines 4 and 5.

[Note: As an alternative, you can play the song for your group. If you choose to use this option, the song is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1t8kAbUg4t4> (4 minutes, 36 seconds).]

Conclusion: Challenge through a moment of conviction.

“Pride comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall” (Prov. 16:18). The root cause of a lack of unity in Corinth was pride; they thought too highly of themselves and their opinions, which caused them to devalue God’s Word. Ask your group to spend a few minutes examining their own view of both themselves and God. Exhort them to confess sin, if necessary. The goal of this exercise is to follow the admonition of John the Baptist: “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30).

Teaching Tip of the Week

Students need to know more than just what a text says and means; they need to know how to apply it in their lives. The goal of our instruction should not primarily be to cover the lesson (information) but to change lives (transformation). It is the teacher's responsibility to help the student. Prayerfully look at 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and Colossians 1:28-29 and ask God to help you to balance your giving of information with your guiding toward application.