

# That All May Be One

## Theme

Jesus prays for his followers

## Object

This sermon uses a Russian Matryoshka doll, but there are many other possibilities. You could use boxes or cans of different sizes which could be nested. If you don't have any around the house, you can find them at a hobby store. These items should be decorated to make them more interesting to the children. If you don't want to use any of these ideas, you could use a box of crayons and show that all of the crayons go into the same box regardless of size or color.

## Scripture

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." John 17:20-23 (NIV)

This beautiful painted doll is called a Matryoshka. It came from Russia and it is made of wood which was painted by hand. These beautiful dolls have been popular in Russia for hundreds of years. They have become a symbol of the very finest Russian art and craftsmanship and are collected by people all over the world.

When you look at the Matryoshka, how many dolls do you see? That's right, when you look at the Matryoshka, all you see is one doll. Now, look what happens when I open the doll. There is another doll inside. Isn't that amazing? Now, you can probably guess what will happen if I open

the second doll. You guessed it! There is another doll inside! Most Matryoshkas have three to thirty dolls, one inside the other, but it is still only one Matryoshka!

I think that this Matryoshka doll can help us to understand a prayer that Jesus prayed for his followers. On the night he was betrayed, Jesus prayed "for all of those who would put their trust in him." In his prayer, Jesus said, "Father, I pray that they all may be one as you and I are one. Just as you are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us." Jesus wanted all of his followers to be one.

Just as the different dolls are nested one inside the other to make a Matryoshka, we who trust in Jesus must become one in Jesus to make up his Church. We may be different in the way we look and we may speak different languages. We may have different customs and traditions, but if we have put our trust in Jesus, he wants us to be one in him, just as he is one with the Father. We must put aside our differences and be united in him so that the world may know his love.

Dear Jesus, may we be united in our love for one another -- just as we are united in our love for you. Amen.

Interactive Group Activities  
by Carol Williams & Charles Kirkpatrick

**Sermon Title:** "We Are One" or "Jesus Prays for All Believers"

**Scripture Reading:** John 17:20-23

**RUN AS ONE:** Have all the children join hands (or divide the class into groups to join hands as ONE group, etc). Children will then run as ONE to the various places of the designated area as the teacher calls out the place such as RUN to the tree, run to the ball, run to the flower, etc, or places inside for the children to run to as the teacher has set up objects for the children to run to. IF the children let go of a hand or the hands get pulled apart, they must stop until they are UNITED with hands together first.

**NUMBER ONE BIBLE VERSE:** Give the children a large cut out of the number 1. (You may have the children cut it out themselves.) Then have the children write today's Bible verse inside the large number ONE cut out with very small letters and written in a continuous line. Add a string or ribbon for children to hang up when they go home.

**UNITY WORLD:** Print a picture of a world globe for each student. Give them a wide ribbon or a strip of paper that could write UNITY - SHOW GOD'S LOVE TO THE WORLD and tape it onto the world globe.

**UNITY AS "1":** The teacher will create a large number 1 as a "dot to dot" puzzle on a full 8 1/2 X 11 sheet of construction paper. Children trace it and then glue colorful yarn around the number. Children can trace or write UNITY at the bottom of the number. Attach a small magnet strip to the back so that the children can put on the refrigerator at home. ( Or attach a piece of yarn so it can be hung from the top.)

**UNITY BRACELET:** Provide various sizes and colors of beads for children to string together to make a bracelet. Discuss that people come in many different sizes and colors, but they are ONE in God's sight!

**UNITY POSTER:** Cut out many different shapes, sizes and colors from construction paper. Glue all the different shapes in random order to a large piece of paper. At the bottom of the poster, write "FATHER, MAKE US ONE" while discussing what UNITY means and showing God's Love in this way.

**#1 HAND PUPPET:** Make A very large "Number 1" hand out of poster board with a thumb and a very large pointer finger and 3 little 'bumps' as the other 3 fingers would be folded down. Write a big #1 on the large pointer finger and "Unity shows God's

Love" on the lower part of the hand. Decorate the drawing with with bright markers. Glue a craft stick to the back of the hand so the child use it as a hand puppet.

**JIGSAW PUZZLE BIBLE VERSE:** Craft stores will sometimes have a jigsaw puzzle that is just plain, so children could write out their Bible verse and decorate and make their OWN puzzle. If this is not available at your craft section of a store, then a small puzzle could be made of their own. It will look a little more unique if the teacher hands out an OVAL shape for the puzzle instead of the usual square or rectangle. For younger children, the teacher can write the Bible verse and let the children color the puzzle and then cut out and try to piece together as they learn the verse!

**SNACK:** Have separate bowls containing Cheerios, goldfish crackers, M&M chocolate candy, small pretzels, almonds or other nuts (allergy alert!), raisins, dried cranberries, or some other dried fruit. Give each child a resealable plastic bag and let them make their own trail mix. Discuss how all of the different items are brought together to make ONE delicious snack.

**Song: "Jesus Loves the Little Children"**

[Words and Music \(PDF\)](#)

[Piano Accompaniment \(MP3\)](#)

### **About Carol Williams**

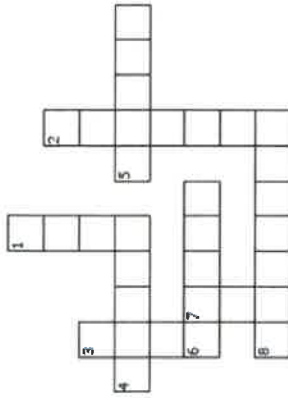
Carol and her husband have served churches in Illinois, Minnesota, Mississippi, Michigan, and Indiana. Carol loves to work with children so you will find her teaching in Junior Church and children's Sunday School. She also has clowning ministry in which she is known as Bubbles tc (the clown).

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# Crossword Puzzle



## ACROSS

4. Joined together as a group; the state of being in agreement
5. Great admiration, honor and praise
6. The earth and its inhabitants
8. A written or spoken statement

## DOWN

1. To speak to God
2. To think that something is true or correct
3. To be acquainted with someone or something
7. A single thing; to be undivided

pray	message	glory	know
believe	world	unity	one



# Children's Worship Bulletin

## Jesus Prays for All Believers

John 17:20-26

# Word Search

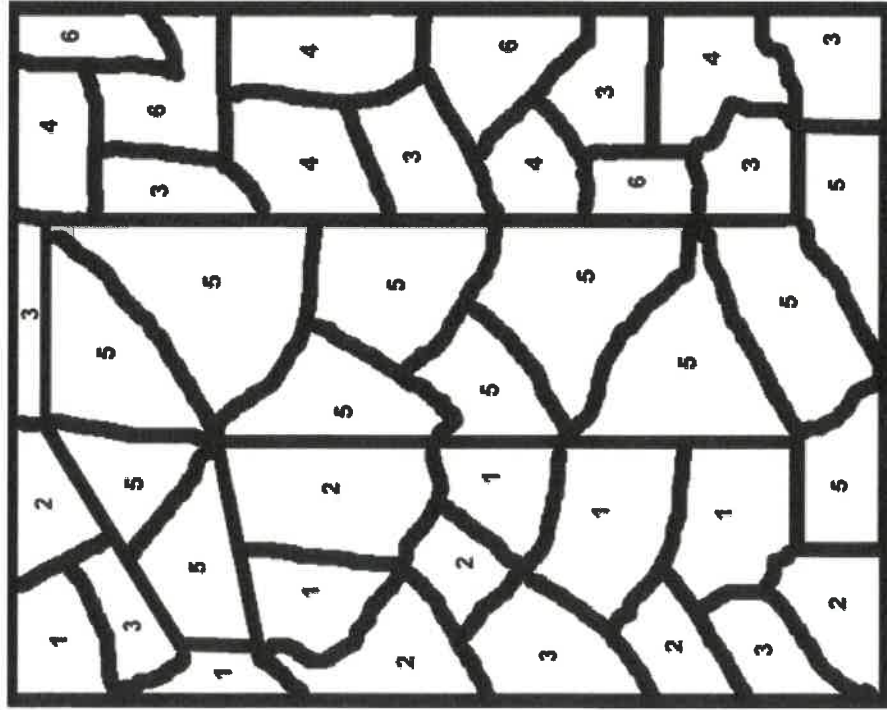
H P R A Y E R M B A J K D O Y  
 C O M P L E T E K B E V U F C  
 U F J M R X J E L L Y M P A P  
 V N A T W X G O O G W B T T O  
 Y U I V A A S N V H A L O N E  
 F K Z T S E S E R B E A E N  
 W B H S Y S S Z D P E Y D B B  
 O C E O K F B E O U L B S G F  
 R M T A L S O Q U U I S R K Z  
 L Z U H Z P O Y B T E Z Y N O  
 D D J D E Y G N Y J V T L O C  
 I T E B R M G B M Q E K F W F  
 H D Z O E Q O O J V Z M G L M  
 L I L M S I H T L P F Z L C X  
 R G Q H E O J B G S B A Y C W

KNOW	GLORY	ALL	MESSAGE	THEM
ALONE	COMPLETE	BELIEVE	SENT	UNITY
LOVED	PRAYER	ONE	ALSO	WORLD

# Color by Number

Use the following colors to reveal the subject.

- 1 - blue
- 2 - yellow
- 3 - green
- 4 - orange
- 5 - red
- 6 - purple



I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you.  
John 17:21a (NLT)

# Color Me!



Jesus Prays for All Believers

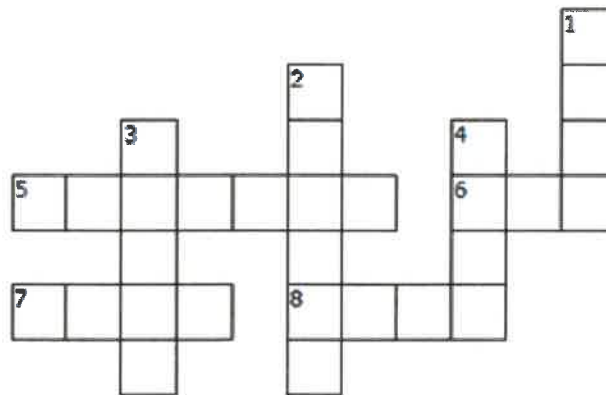
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# Jesus Prays for His Disciples



I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.  
John 17:9 (NIV)

This puzzle is based on John 17:6-11 (NIV)



## ACROSS

- 5. To keep from being injured or harmed
- 6. To be a single unit, object, or living being
- 7. A combination of letters that represents a thought or idea
- 8. To speak to God

## DOWN

- 1. To place in the hands of someone
- 2. To receive something
- 3. That which belongs to you
- 4. Deserving special respect or reverence; worthy of worship

PRAY	GIVE	HOLY	PROTECT
ACCEPT	YOURS	WORD	ONE



# Jesus Prays for His Disciples



Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.

"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have \_\_\_\_\_ your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the \_\_\_\_\_ you gave me and they \_\_\_\_\_ them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I \_\_\_\_\_ for them. I am not praying for the \_\_\_\_\_, but for those you have \_\_\_\_\_ me, for they are yours. All I have is \_\_\_\_\_, and all you have is \_\_\_\_\_. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, \_\_\_\_\_ them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be \_\_\_\_\_ as we are one.

John 17:6-11

accepted  
given

mine  
obeyed

one  
pray

protect  
words

world  
yours

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# Jesus Prays for His Disciples



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B L X K A Z F F A T H E R X P  
 G L S S M Y O U R S E N J R E  
 M O K E E C P T N D A B A P R  
 I N C T D G W I E G A V E M X  
 N G V M P O A Y T G X X W R E  
 E E Y J N M E A N V D B V K P  
 E R K K E B W I C C H O L Y L  
 I C U R O H H O A C L R J X R  
 S S E N T T P H R M E D T C W  
 G L O R Y O T R Y D P P N O H  
 P W A R N C I D O D U R T M L  
 W O E A Y Y L Q A T I W A E Z  
 V V W O Q R R B E V E B L Y D  
 E T F E O S Y W I K I C S W V  
 A T T W R J Y R G I X P T I X

POWER	GLORY	ACCEPTED	WORD	YOURS
EVERYTHING	KNOW	PRAY	MINE	GAVE
PROTECT	OBEYED	HOLY	NAME	SENT
LONGER	FATHER	COME	WORLD	REMAIN

# Jesus Prays for All Believers



THAT ALL  
MAY BE  
ONE

"May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." John 17:23 (NIV)

Unscramble the letters and write the word correctly in the space provided.

1. NYITU \_\_\_\_\_
2. EON \_\_\_\_\_
3. PRRYEA \_\_\_\_\_
4. MLTECEOP \_\_\_\_\_
5. DVEOL \_\_\_\_\_
6. VBEILEE \_\_\_\_\_
7. RWDLO \_\_\_\_\_
8. LONAE \_\_\_\_\_
9. YLOGR \_\_\_\_\_
10. SASMEG \_\_\_\_\_

prayer	believe	world	one	unity
alone	message	glory	complete	loved



My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.

John 17:20-21 (NIV)

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**Jesus prays for his disciples.**

**John 17:6-19**

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