

Just Get Along

By Frieda Nossaman

for use as

STEP 1 **Lesson 10****Focus:**

Christians should seek to get along even when they disagree.

Lesson 10**Bible Basis:**

Romans 14:1-6, 13-15, 19

Lesson 10**Memory Verse:**

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.
—Romans 14:19

Students will discuss how people can get along even when they disagree.

Materials:

- Whiteboard and marker
- Internet access

Begin your lesson by asking: **Why is it important for people to “get along?”**

Encourage students to give their answers. If you are meeting in person, write the answers students provide on the board. If you are meeting online, put the answers on a document and share your screen. After all of the answers have been documented, read them aloud. Next ask students to think about which of these suggestions would work with your own Sunday school group.

People have needed to adapt to a lot of different situations over the past few months. They’ve had to spend more time at home and not been able to be in school, gyms, and other places. Even as places open up, other places close because of the rate of infection. And whether it’s getting along with family members you have been spending a lot of time with, missing friends, or simply being isolated, it might seem like it takes a little more effort to get along with others—especially when we disagree with them.

Let’s take a look at two girls who get along so well they seem like sisters.

Share the following video with your students [3:03]:

Title: “Soul Sisters” on vacation in Fairhope

Source: YouTube.com

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MmRg96mAT1o>

Short Description: The story of a pair of six-year-old girls who see themselves as twins.

Discuss the video with the following questions:

➤ **These two girls seem to have such an innocent friendship. How do you think a relationship that promotes friendship, love, and kindness helps the girls get along? (Answers will vary.)**

➤ **According to the girls’ mothers, the girls do fight—just like twin siblings do. How do you think the girls deal with disagreement? How might the foundation of their friendship of “I like you because I like you” help with this?** (Invite discussion.)

➤ **Sometimes friends have to agree to disagree. Let’s take a look at our group. How might we in this group agree to disagree in order to keep the peace during our discussions and get along?** (Answers will vary. Invite discussion.)

Getting along with others when you don’t always agree is difficult. Yet, Christians are called to seek to get along even when they don’t agree. In today’s study, we’ll look at this concept further.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher’s guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

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STEP 4 

Lesson 10**Focus:**

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Romans 14:1-6,
13-15, 19

Lesson 10**Memory Verse:**

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—Romans 14:19

Materials:

- Bibles
- Paper
- Pencils/pens
- Whiteboard and marker

Before this step, ask students to have a Bible, paper, and a pen or pencil available for this part of the lesson. If you are meeting together, write the Romans 14:19 verse on the whiteboard. Or, ask students to find the verse in their Bibles. Ask students to write down the verse along with one way they can personally “make every effort to do what leads to peace.”

After a few minutes, invite volunteers to share what they wrote down.

Christians don’t always agree on everything! Surprised? Well, we are Christians, but we are also human, and getting along with others isn’t easy. The word “effort” is used in today’s memory verse.

- **Why do you think it takes effort to get along?** (Invite interaction.)
- **In the first Scripture passage, Romans 14:1-6, we learned about getting along with those whose faith is weak. Who might those people be?** (Answers will vary. Invite students to contemplate [no names, just generally] who their weaker brothers and sisters in Christ might be. For example, a new Christian, a younger sibling, a friend who lives in a non-Christian home, etc.)
- **In the second Scripture passage, Romans 14:13-15, 19, we studied how Christians can live in ways that aren’t “stumbling blocks” to others. What might be a stumbling block in the life of a middle schooler?** (Invite discussion.)
- **What opportunities do you have this week to get along with another Christian believer?** (Encourage every student to come up with one practical way they can encourage another believer or reconcile if they have had a disagreement. If possible, have volunteers share the opportunities they think they may have with another student in the group.)

Getting along with other Christians isn't easy, but it is possible with God's help. The overall theme we looked at today is found in the word, "effort." Effort means: trying our best!

Before closing today's lesson, ask students to think again of the opportunity they came up with earlier in the discussion about their potential to get along with another believer. Encourage them to follow through with whatever it takes to get along with him or her this week.

Close in prayer, thanking Jesus for helping us live in harmony with other believers in spite of the effort that it takes. Remind students of the eternal blessings that come as all Christians will share in the glory of heaven together...where there will be no more tears or sadness.

Be sure to text or email teens throughout the week. Encourage them to take the time and effort into getting along with others—even if they disagree with them.

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