

Materials I Need:

Legend:



= Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade



= Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade

Memory Work:

“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love.”
1 Corinthians 16:13, 14 (NIV)

Suggested Thematic Tracks:

① **Measure Up to God's Word**


- HOOK:** Building a Strong Church (*Activity*)
Do Everything in Love (*Room Decoration*)
Letters of Encouragement (*Activity*)
Correction in Love (*Discussion or Skit*)
Gobstoppin' Giving - Part 1 (*Activity*)
- LOOK:** Do Everything in Love (*Craft*)
Guess the Correction (*Activity*)
Gobstoppin' Giving - Part 2 (*Discussion/Activity*)
Correction Card Game (*Game*)
1 Corinthians Review (*Worksheet*)
Giving from the Heart (*Craft*)
- TOOK:** How Do We Measure Up? (*Discussion/Activity*)
Exchange Letters of Encouragement (*Activity*)
Pray for Our Church (*Prayer Time*)

➤ **Complementary Activities**



Hook:



① **Building a Strong Church (*Activity*).**  Tape signs to the sides of large building blocks, or bring different-sized boxes in from home, and write the phrases listed below on the sides. Instruct the students to build a strong church, using the blocks with the correct phrases on them. The correct phrases are:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Stop arguing | Get wise |
| Serve faithfully | Be pure |
| Devote yourself | Consider others |
| Stand up under temptation | Show submission |
| Do your part | Live by faith |

Once constructed, the students can add doors, windows, a cross, a bell, etc. to make it complete. Tell the students that these are the same words used by Paul to instruct the Corinthians in how to build a strong church in Corinth. If you leave this structure up while you tell the Bible Adventure, you can refer back to each piece and what it meant in the context of 1 Corinthians.

① **Do Everything in Love (Room Decoration).** 🎨, 🦋 Bring in four umbrellas and hang them from the ceiling with signs underneath. The umbrellas should say "LOVE" on them, and the signs that hang underneath should say: "Be on your guard"; "Stand firm in the faith"; "Be men of courage"; "Be strong." Tell the students that in today's memory verse Paul gives a final exhortation to the Corinthians which is to be covered in love. If you cannot come up with several umbrellas, make two-dimensional umbrellas and tape them to the walls instead.

① **Letters of Encouragement (Activity).** 🎨, 🦋 As the students enter the classroom, give them each a piece of the stationery from **1CO11.GF1**. Ask them to write an encouraging note to another classmate. Tell them that as they complete their study of 1 Corinthians, they will review what Paul told the Corinthians and how his words encouraged them in their faith. Talk with the students and give them suggestions as to how they might encourage another student in the class to strengthen his or her faith. These letters should remain anonymous and not for a specific student. This will assure that each student will receive a note from someone else. Give the students ideas to include in their letter based upon some of the things that Paul had included in his letter. (See 1 Corinthians 1:4-9). Have the students decorate or color the stationery as desired and either fold and seal with a sticker, or construct an envelope out of another piece of paper. Collect these and distribute them during the **TOOK** time.

① **Correction in Love (Discussion or Skit).** 🎨, 🦋 Discuss with the students how Paul's letter to the Corinthian church was a letter of correction to get them back on track. All of Paul's severe correction in this letter was done in love, and the Corinthians should have been convinced of his sincere affection for them. This idea can be reviewed with the students by either putting on a skit for them or talking with them about times when their parents have corrected their behaviors. Ask the students:

1. Have you ever been in trouble with your parents or teachers at school?
2. What did you do to get into trouble, and why was it important that you were reprimanded for this action?
3. What happens if your parents tell you not to run out into the street, and you forget and run into the street to chase after a baseball that was thrown too high for you to catch?
4. Why would your parents be very upset to know that you had done something that they asked you not to do?

Explain to them that our heavenly Father sets standards for His children just like our parents do for us. He wants us to remember and obey what He tells us because He loves us and wants what is best for us. This is the same with our parents. Paul's letter to the Corinthians was written to remind them of how they were not measuring up to the standards that God desired for them and to lovingly correct these wrong behaviors. That's just like what our parents do, too!

① **Gobstoppin' Giving - Part 1 (Activity).** 🎨, 🦋 Prepare sandwich bags for each student with varying amounts of wrapped candy pieces. Hand these out as the students enter the classroom, instructing them not to remove any candy from the bag until they are given further instructions. Sometime during the **HOOK** time (this activity would serve best by complementing other review activities), tell the students that the teachers want to honor and show appreciation to the people who put the craft materials together. In this token of appreciation, the class will create a thank you poster and include some candy (see the **LOOK** activity). Instruct the students to consider the candy over which they were put in charge. They are to pull out a portion of this candy to give as an offering to this cause; the remaining candy is for them to have during snack time. Have the students put on the table their offering next to their bag of remaining candy. As the lead teacher collects this offering, table by table, he or she should make a mental note of the various portions given by the students, especially as they relate to the number of candy pieces they had originally received. After the offering is collected, mention that we will hear some truth about giving in the last chapter of Paul's letter to the Corinthians. Do not comment on the giving of any student, and avoid debriefing this exercise until the **LOOK** activity.



Measure Up Incentive Memorization (Review). 🦋, 🦋 Check the students' memorization at the beginning of class as they come in, and award lesson buttons and wall-hangings as appropriate. Encourage hard work and success in memorizing the whole verse, making appropriate accommodations when necessary. Utilize this time of Scripture review to discuss the Biblical concepts with individual students. Shepherd the students' hearts toward a right attitude and motivation in memorization of God's truth.



Book:

Bible Adventure for 1st – 6th Grades –

Today we've reached the last chapter of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. After all the corrections he made concerning their beliefs and behavior, he ended by answering some questions they had asked earlier about collecting money to send to some poor believers in Jerusalem. The Corinthian church had heard about these Jewish Christians and how they suffered from great poverty. They had also heard about other churches taking up a collection to send money to them. The Corinthians wanted to know how they, too, could go about collecting an offering to send to their struggling brothers and sisters in the Lord. Paul responded by giving them some principles to follow regarding giving money to the church.

Paul instructed the Corinthians to set aside some money to give every week when they gathered for worship on Sunday. Each one of them was to give, whether rich or poor. Of course, the rich would be able to give more, but it is important to realize that the amount given isn't what matters. God cares most about the heart of the person giving—whether it is full of love and generosity. Next Paul instructed that, after the offering had been collected, they were to hand it over to wise and godly men who would be able to protect it and make sure the money was safely delivered to the people who needed it.

After answering their questions on giving, Paul explained why he would not be able to visit them right away. He wanted to wait until he could spend a long time with them and not have to just quickly pass through. However, he was sending Timothy to minister to them, and he told them to accept Timothy like they would accept Paul himself. Timothy worked alongside Paul in establishing churches, and Paul loved him like he would his very own son.

Paul concluded by urging the Corinthian believers to "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love" (16:13,14). This summed up all that he had taught them in his letter. They were to be on their guard against those who spoke the world's wisdom in their church. Instead of listening to man's foolishness, they were to stand firm in their faith in Jesus Christ. They were to hold fast to their belief in God's power to resurrect the dead. Among all the wickedness that was surrounding them, they were to be strong and courageous in the Lord. And most importantly, they were to do everything in love. Paul's final words spoke of his sincere love for them. In verse 24, he said, "My love to all of you in Christ Jesus. Amen." Even though Paul had to severely correct them, it was all done in love so that they could grow in the Lord and bring glory to God.

Now that we've reached the end of 1 Corinthians, let's take a quick look back at the entire letter and review what it was all about. Paul wrote this letter for three reasons in particular. First of all, the Corinthians had written him with some specific questions that they wanted him to answer. Paul spent the last part of his letter responding to these questions. Secondly, a lady named Chloe, and her household, had reported some concerns, specifically that the believers were arguing among themselves and dividing up into little groups. Paul spent the first six chapters correcting them in this serious matter. The third reason for the letter was that there were some people in the church who were attacking Paul's reputation and message. Paul had to set them straight so that the wonderful Gospel of Jesus Christ would not be questioned. In all these matters, Paul was concerned for the health of the church. The Corinthians were no longer clinging to Paul's teaching and, therefore, they were not using God's Word as their guide for living. Instead, they were fighting and valuing man's wisdom above God's. The Corinthians had wrong beliefs that led to wrong behavior, and this was causing serious problems in the church. In love, Paul wrote to correct them in their error.

In all, Paul made ten corrections throughout his letter. Paul dealt immediately with the divisions that were occurring in the church. He said, "I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought" (1:10). In other words, Paul said, "Stop arguing!"

Next, Paul basically told them to "Get wise!" The Corinthians were valuing the fancy-sounding wisdom of man and regarding God's wisdom as foolishness. Paul reminded them of how they had received the Gospel in the first place. It was not with important and elaborate-sounding words but rather by the power of the Holy Spirit. He declared in no uncertain terms that man's "wisdom" is no match for God's wisdom and those who are proud will be humbled.

In chapters 3 and 4, Paul corrected their view of the workers of God. Instead of measuring a Christian worker by his fine-sounding speech, they were to see a Christian leader as one who serves faithfully and humbly gives glory to God and not himself. To the Corinthians' shame, Paul compared the work of the apostles who were suffering for the sake of the Gospel with the "puffed-up" opinion that the Corinthians had of themselves.

In chapters 5 and 6, Paul said, "Be pure." They were to remove those people in the church who called themselves Christians, but refused to stop sinning. Paul instructed the Corinthians to practice church discipline so that evil would not work its way through the body of Christ like yeast works its way through a lump of dough. He also told each and every one of them to flee immorality and honor God with their bodies. Their bodies belonged to God because He had bought them with the price of Christ's precious blood.

In chapter 7, Paul wrote to correct their beliefs on marriage. He emphasized that it is not more spiritual to be single than to be married or vice versa. Whether married or single, God has called everyone to be fully devoted to Him. To those who were married, Paul instructed them to also be devoted to their husbands or wives, always being ready to meet their needs.

In chapters 8 and 9, Paul corrected their selfishness by saying, "Consider others." The Corinthians had become proud of certain truths that they had learned from Paul about being free in Christ. They were using their freedoms as an excuse to participate in activities that were closely related to their old life of idolatry. They didn't care that they were causing weaker believers to stumble in their faith so Paul said, "Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak" (8:9). They were to think of the good of others before themselves.

Paul spoke to their immoral behavior in chapter 10 and urged them to stand firm when they were tempted to sin. They were to flee from the idol worship that was going on all around them and to look for God's way out in every temptation they faced.

The Corinthians behavior in their worship services needed to be corrected, as well. In chapter 11, Paul told the women to show submission to the men who had authority over them in church. He also told them how to celebrate the Lord's Supper in a way that honored God, instead of the sinful way they had been doing it.

In chapters 12-14, Paul continued to address the topic of their worship services, specifically in regard to spiritual gifts. He made it clear that all believers have been given spiritual gifts to be used to build up the body of Christ. And, no matter what the gift, it meant nothing if it was not done in love.

Finally, in chapter 15, Paul corrected their doubts about the resurrection of the dead. Without this central truth, the Gospel would be meaningless, and there would be no hope of salvation. Christians would be the greatest fools of all for suffering for Christ's name. However, because the resurrection **is** true, Christians can live radically obedient lives for God through the power of the risen Savior.

We consider Paul's letters in the New Testament as the Word of God because it was the Holy Spirit who told him what to say. The believers in the Corinthian church were not measuring up to his teachings because they were paying more attention to the fancy-sounding arguments of the people around them than they were to the truth. As a result, their beliefs and behavior were getting off track. Paul had to correct them by saying that they needed to live their lives according to God's Word. They were to measure what was right and wrong by what the Scriptures said. The same is true for us today. We know what to believe and how to behave because God has told us in His Word. As we read God's Word, our lives will be corrected. For the true Christian, obedience to this correction is not optional. How are you measuring up to God's Word?

Aim Questions

1. **What are some principles of Christian giving?** *(Each believer is to give regularly at church in proportion to his income and according to his heart.)*
2. **What did Paul include in his conclusion to the letter?** *(Plans and exhortations.)*
3. **Why did Paul write to the Corinthians?** *(They had written him with questions, Chloe's household reported divisions in the church, and some were attacking Paul's authority and message.)*
4. **Why did Paul correct the church in Corinth?** *(Because he loved the believers and wanted them to be healthy.)*
5. **How should we measure the rightness of our beliefs and behavior?** *(Correct our beliefs and behavior by the Word of God.)*
6. **Which of Paul's corrections apply to you most, and why?** *(Stop arguing; Get wise; Serve faithfully; Be pure; Devote yourself; Consider others; Stand up under temptation; Show submission; Do your part; Live by faith; Measure up.)*



Look:



① **Do Everything in Love (Craft).** 🧑, 🦋 Each student will need:

1CO11.GF2 Pg. 1 instruction sheet
1CO11.GF2 Pg. 2
coffee filter (optional)
chenille wire
yarn
coloring crayons or markers
glue or tape
scissors

Have the students follow the instructions on **1CO11.GF2 Pg. 1** to make the craft. Use this as a springboard for a review discussion covering the corrections that Paul made to the Corinthian church.




① **Guess the Correction (Activity).** 🧑, 🦋 Have the students form ten groups. Assign each group one of the corrections that Paul presented to the Corinthian Church. Each team must come up with a short skit which demonstrates one of these corrections to the other students. The object is to get the other groups to guess what has been acted out. Once the others guess, have the team presenting the correction say the memory verse from that lesson. For younger students, teachers can act out the correction and the students can guess.




① **Gobstoppin' Giving - Part 2 (Discussion/Activity).** 🧑, 🦋 Continue the HOOK activity on giving, with a general discussion. Do not make specific reference to individual students, but make general statements about what you saw. It may be appropriate to have had snack time beforehand to avoid the students' trying to give more candy out of compulsion or guilt. On the other hand, the teacher could use this opportunity to discuss the motivations in giving—not under compulsion but with a cheerful heart. Continue to review the principles of giving that Paul included in his letter to the Corinthians. This discussion should end with the construction of a large poster made out of butcher paper which shows appreciation for the behind-the-scene craft persons. The poster can have notes of thanks and pictures from all the students. Attach a pretty bag to the poster and fill it with the students' offerings.





① **Correction Card Game (Game).** 🧑, 🦋 Duplex copy **1CO11.GF3 Pg. 4** to the back of **1CO11.GF3 Pgs. 1-3**. Cut apart the cards, and shuffle and stack them facedown on the table. Have the students work in teams or as individuals. Be sure to time them to see how fast they can separate the cards with the corrections actually given to the Corinthians in Paul's first letter. The student who gets the most correct in the least amount of time is the winner. For the younger students, you can make duplicates of the cards and play a matching game.


 ① **1 Corinthians Review (Worksheet).** 🎨, 🦋 Have the students match the pictures and phrases on the bottom with the verses on the top. These pictures and verses are the same that were used in the incentive, so the students should be familiar with them. Be sure to have several extra Bibles handy for those who did not bring one, **1CO11.GF4**

 ① **Giving from the Heart (Craft).** 🎨, 🦋 Each student will need:
1CO11.GF5
small milk carton
scissors
glue
decorations - glitter, paper, stickers, etc.

Explain to the students that Paul gave instructions to the church on the manner in which to give back to God from what He has provided. As the students assemble this simple craft, review his instructions to the Corinthian church and talk about how it applies to us today. Have them use a small (individual) milk carton and decorate it as desired. They can cover it with hearts that they construct themselves or use those provided on **1CO11.GF5**. Have them cut a small slit in the top of the carton, large enough to fit coins through. Encourage the students to take this home and use it to set money aside to give to the church.


 ➤ **Aim Questions (Worksheet).** 🎨 Have the students answer the Aim Questions about today's Bible Adventure, **1CO11.GF6**.


 ➤ **Passage Review Questions (Worksheet).** 🎨, 🦋 This booklet contains many questions from the Scripture passage covered in today's lesson. Students may work on them in class and complete them during the week at home, **1CO11.GF7**.

 ➤ **1 Corinthians 16:13, 14 (Memory Verse Song).** 🎨 Words and music for today's memory verse are available upon request from Children's Ministry.



Took:

 ① **How Do We Measure Up? (Discussion/Activity).** 🎨, 🦋 Hang a globe or picture of the world on one side of the whiteboard and a Bible or picture of Christ on the other. Center the discussion around highlighting the differences between the "wisdom" of the world vs. the wisdom of God. Explain to the students that the believers in the Corinthian church were not measuring up to Paul's apostolic teachings. They were doing this by paying more attention to the fancy-sounding arguments of the people around them and setting their own standards. Review the points covered in this letter to the Corinthian church as Paul attempted to correct their wrong beliefs and behaviors. Make this an interactive activity by writing the ideas that the students give to you on pieces of paper and allowing a student to paste them to the board under the correct list.

 ① **Exchange Letters of Encouragement (Activity).** 🎨, 🦋 These are the letters that were written during the HOOK portion of the morning. Pass them out to the students. Once the letters have been read, it might be nice to give the students an opportunity to write a note of encouragement to a missionary. Explain to them that as our missionaries share the Gospel in the world, we must encourage them to be on guard, stand firm in the faith, be of good courage, remain strong, and continue to serve out of love for others. Have the students tell the missionaries that they are thankful for their faithfulness in preaching the Gospel just as Paul did, no matter what the cost.



① **Pray for Our Church (Prayer Time).** 🐛, 🦋 Pray with the students for strength and unity within our own church body. Paul's correction to the Corinthian church could, in many ways, be applied to churches in our day. List specifically what should be prayed for before starting. Some students may want to copy some of the prayer ideas down so that they can continue to pray throughout the week for these same things. Specific ideas for prayer:

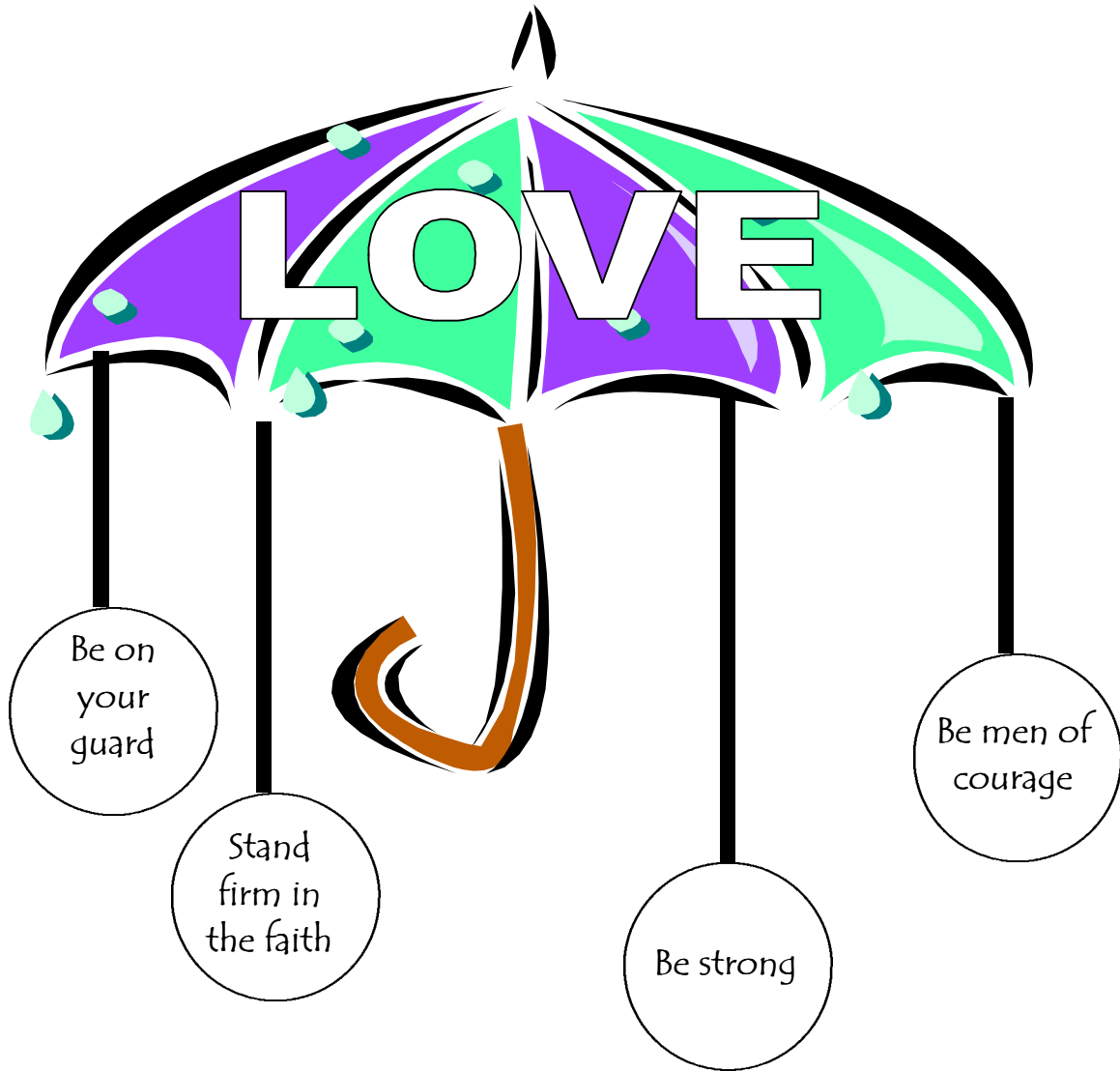
- That God's grace will help our church to measure up to the standards in God's Word.
- That the elders and congregation would be perfectly united in mind and thought.
- That we would trust in God's wisdom revealed through His Word and the Holy Spirit.
- That our leaders would serve faithfully.
- That the whole church and its people would be pure.
- That husbands and wives would be devoted to one another and that singles would be focused upon serving Christ.
- That we would consider others and not be selfish.
- That we would stand up under temptations to disobey God.
- That we would submit to the authorities God has placed over us.
- That we would all do our part in serving the church body.
- That we would live by faith in Christ and His resurrection.



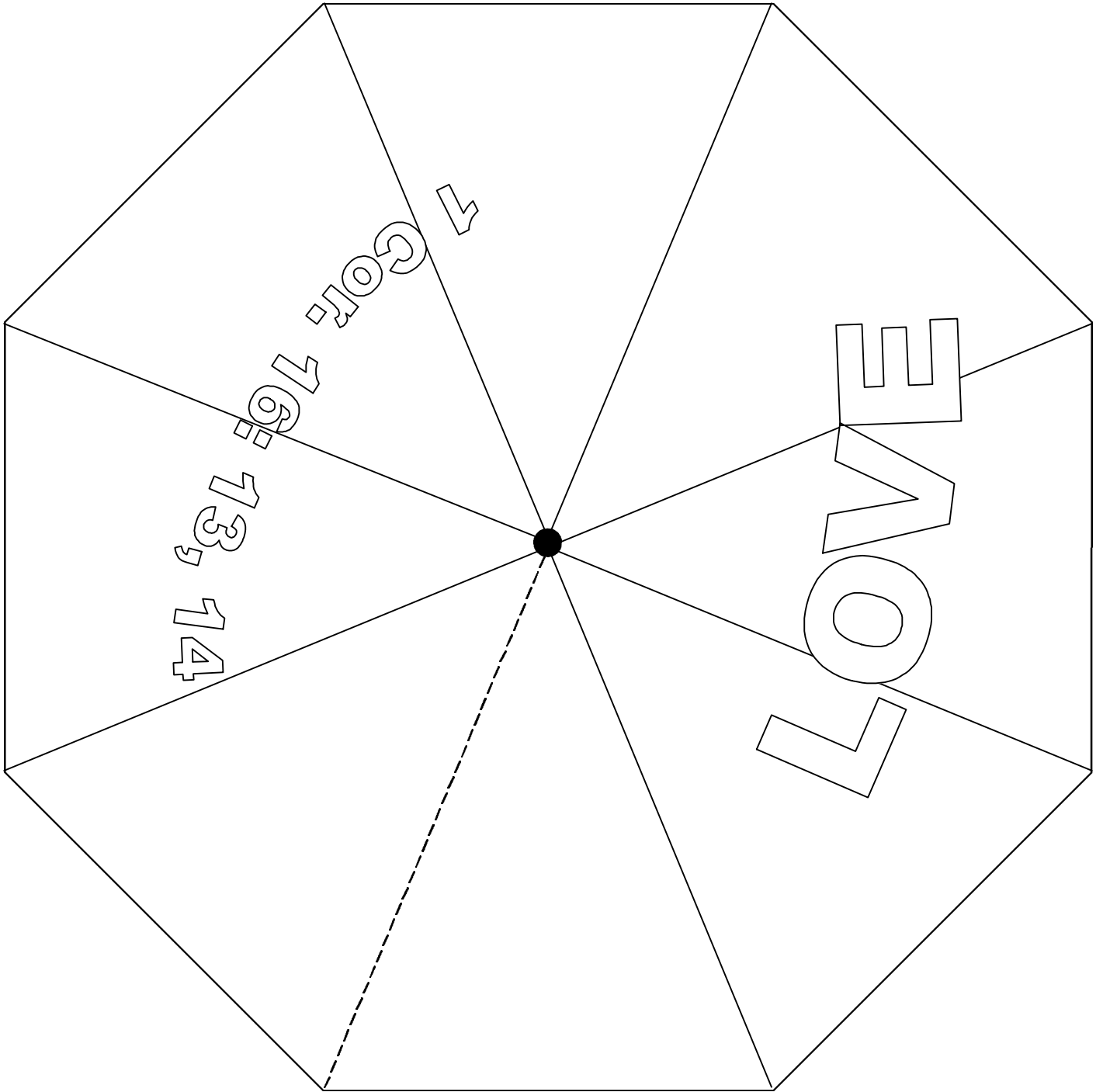
➤ **1 Corinthians "Measure Up" Take-Home (Incentive).** 🐛, 🦋 Review today's verse and lesson theme one last time. Test their memory of past lesson themes and verses as time permits. With this final lesson in 1 Corinthians, encourage the students to have their memory verses memorized and ready for the next HOOK time so that they can earn their final button and take home their "Measure Up" wall hanging. Challenge the students to remember their verses long-term.

Do Everything In Love

At the conclusion of his first letter, Paul's words to the Corinthians encourage them to do four things under the covering of love. As you complete this craft, review specifically these encouragements in relation to his corrections to the believers.



1. Construct your craft using the umbrella from **1CO11.GF2 Pg. 2** or a coffee filter.
2. Decorate the word LOVE and verse with glitter glue or coloring crayons.
3. If using a coffee filter as the umbrella, write the word love and the verse onto it.
4. Bend the wire to make a curve at the top and bottom for a handle.
5. Use glue or tape to secure the wire inside the umbrella.
6. Attach the circles to the umbrella using different colors of yarn. Secure with glue or tape.
7. This umbrella can be hung by the curved wire at the top.



Be on your guard

Stand firm in the faith

Be strong

Be men of courage

Stop Arguing



1 Cor. 1:10

Get Wise



1 Cor. 2:5

Serve Faithfully



1 Cor. 4:2

Stand Up Under Temptation



1 Cor. 10:13b

Be Pure



1 Cor. 6:20

Devote Yourself



1 Cor. 7:7b

Consider Others

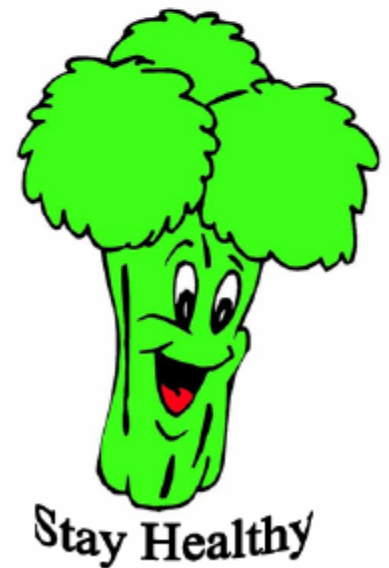


1 Cor. 8:9

Live by Faith



1 Cor. 15:17



Exercise



Daily



Be A Good Sport

Be A Good Student



salute



Your Authorities

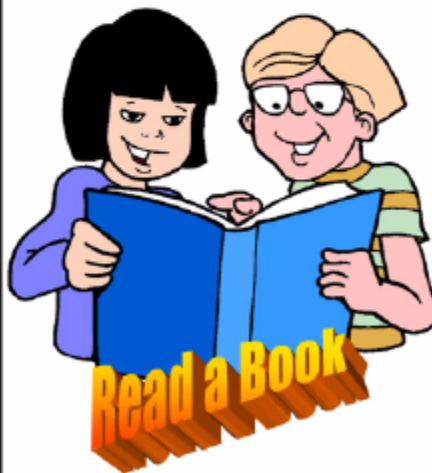


Eat With Two Hands

Never Take Off



Your shoes



Read a Book



PULL UP YOUR SOCKS

Correction
Card
Game

Correction
Card
Game

Correction
Card
Game

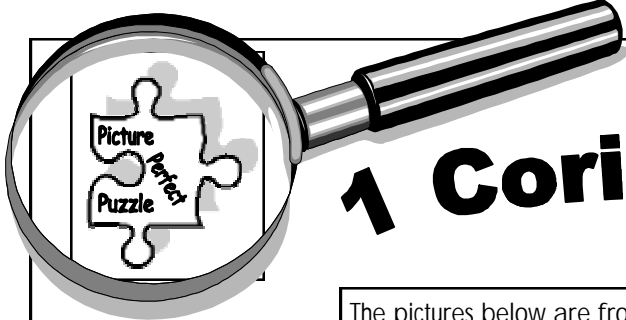
Correction
Card
Game

Correction
Card
Game

Correction
Card
Game

Correction
Card
Game

Correction
Card
Game



1 Corinthians Review

The pictures below are from the 1 Corinithian Button Incentive. Match the picture and phrase at the bottom of the worksheet with the chapter and verse at the top. You can refer to your Bible or your teacher for some help. The first one is done for you.

1:1-17

10

1:18-2-:16

11

3-4

12-14

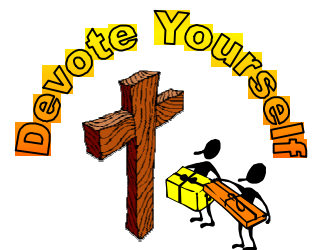
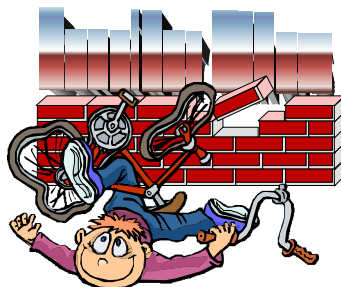
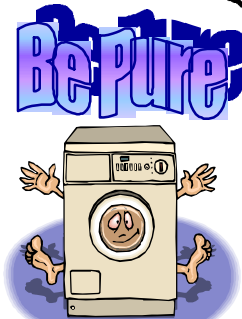
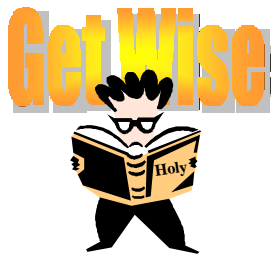
5-6

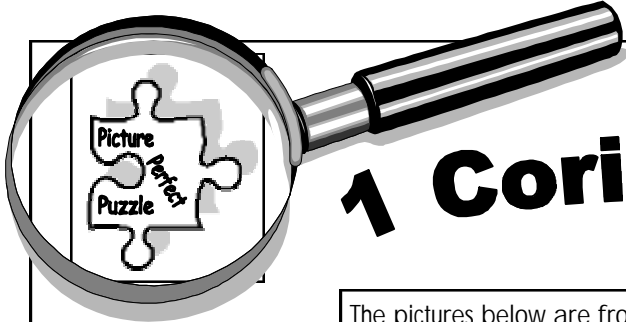
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7

16

8-9





1 Corinthians Review

The pictures below are from the 1 Corinthian Button Incentive. Match the picture and phrase at the bottom of the worksheet with the chapter and verse at the top. You can refer to your Bible or your teacher for some help. The first one is done for you.

1:1-17

10

1:18-2-:16

11

3-4

12-14

5-6

15

7

16

8-9



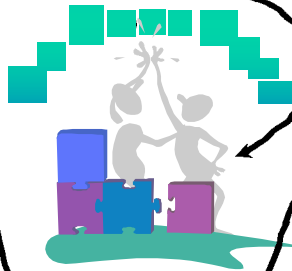
Show Submission



Get Wise



Live by Faith



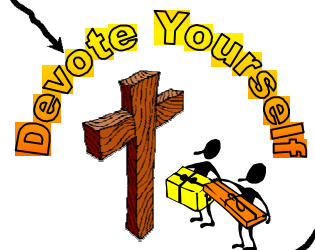
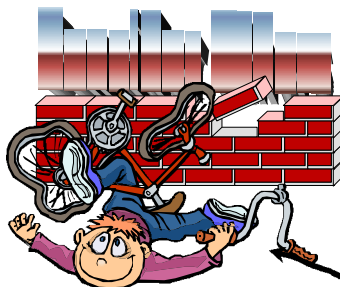
Be Pure



Measure Up!



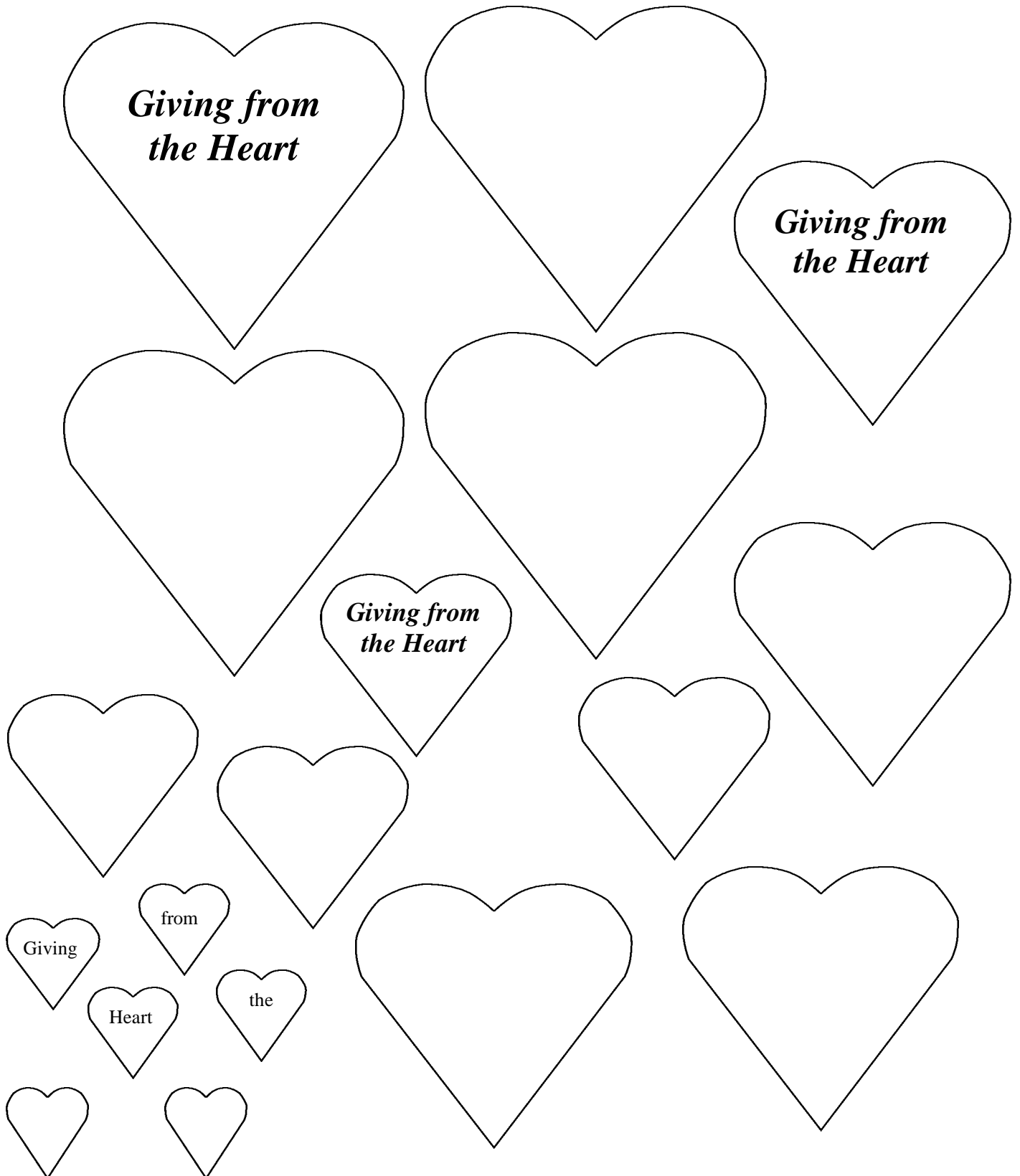
Stop Arguing



Devote Yourself

Giving from the Heart

Use these hearts, if desired, to decorate your "giving carton" made from a small milk carton.
Cut a slot in the top so that you can save some money to give to the work of the church.



Aim Questions

Answer the following questions about today's Bible Adventure.

1. What are some principles of Christian giving?
2. What did Paul include in his conclusion to the letter?
3. Why did Paul write to the Corinthians?
4. Why did Paul correct the church in Corinth?
5. How should we measure the rightness of our beliefs and behavior?
6. Which of Paul's corrections apply to you most, and why?

Believers must measure up to the standards in God's Word by carefully examining the Scriptures so that we will know what God desires of us. Our beliefs and behavior must be measured and corrected by the Scriptures.



*"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love."
1 Corinthians 16:13,14*

Passage Review Questions
1 Corinthians 16

What does Paul address here? (16:1)

What group of churches does Paul mention? (16:1)

What did Paul tell the churches to do? (16:2)

What did Paul say would happen next? (16:3, 4)

Through what place does Paul say that he will be traveling?
(16:5)

How long does Paul say that he may stay with them? (16:6)

Did Paul desire a short time with the Corinthians or a longer period of time? (16:7)

Why was Paul planning to stay longer at Ephesus? (16:8, 9)

What person does Paul mention here? (16:10, 11)

What does he have to say about Timothy? (16:10, 11)

Who does Paul mention here? (16:12)

What does he have to say about Apollos? (16:12)

What exhortation does Paul give the Corinthians? (16:13, 14)

Who were the first converts in Achaia? (16:15)

What does Paul have to say about the men in verse 17? (16:17, 18)

List all of the people who sent their greetings to the Corinthian believers. (16:19, 20)