

*Outline for Sabbath School Teachers with ideas for group discussion inspired by the Teachers' Edition of the Sabbath School Lesson prepared by the General Conference SS ministry.*

**Lesson n.05**    **27 October – 02 November 2018**

**Title:**            **The Experience (and model) of Unity in the Early Church**

**Key texts:**        ***Acts 1:12-14; 2:5-13, 42-47; 4:32-37; 5:1-11; Revelation 14:12; 2 Corinthians 9:8-15.***

**A. Themes to Explore:**

1. The condition for unity was and is having points in common that are clear, strong and can be shared.
2. Humility, confession, repentance, the collective search for Christ, prayer, listening and passion for God's Word.
3. The first 120 disciples did not limit themselves to the search for internal unity, but worked hard in proclaiming Jesus.
4. "Communion" is a key word that describes those disciples that built unity by sharing meals, prayer, the Word and generosity.

**B. Learning Objectives**

- Know:**            Understand that unity is built by sharing that which we have received, starting with the fruit of the Spirit
- Feel:**             Understand the link between devotion to God and love for your neighbor. "He who loves God, loves his brother also".
- Do:**                Become protagonists in building brotherhood, unity and willingness to help each other.

**C. Other possible questions for deeper study, debate, sharing and testimony**

1. **Why is this lesson important to me? (Motivate);**
  - 1a. Why did the descent of the Spirit happen at Pentecost? What acts and lessons were celebrated in that feast?
2. **What else is there still to learn from God's Word? (Explore);**
  - 2a. Read Acts 1:14. What factors, which had been reason for division, became instead the ground for unity and growth?
3. **How can I practice what I've learned from God's Word? (Apply);**
  - 3a. What acts characteristic of the communal life of the first disciples can become strong points for our unity?
4. **How can I communicate and apply what I've learned from God's Word? (Create).**
  - 4a. In the light of the testimony of the early Christians, what do we have in common that is to be shared?

Translator: Cathy Bertolini