

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing an important series of studies on Oneness in Christ. Our topic today: Unity and Broken Relationships.

**1. John Mark—healing a broken relationship**

- a) Who was John Mark? Acts 12:12, Colossians 4:10
- b) After witnessing the remarkable deliverance of Peter, what was John Mark's next adventure? Acts 12:25, 13:4-5
- c) Why did John Mark decide to leave Paul and Barnabas near the beginning of their first missionary journey and return to Jerusalem Acts 13:13 (see also Acts 13:6-12)
- d) How did John Mark's early departure affect the apostle Paul's attitude toward this young missionary in training? Acts 15:36-40
- e) How did Paul's attitude toward John Mark reflect the grace of God shown to him on the Damascus Road?
- f) What evidence is there in Scripture that Paul's attitude toward John Mark changed, and that their broken relationship was restored? Colossians 4:10-11, 2 Timothy 4:11
- g) What might have brought about the healing of this broken relationship?
- h) Share a time when an awareness of God's grace and unfailing love led to healing of a broken relationship.

**2. Onesimus—from runaway slave to spiritual son**

- a) Philemon 1-7 Who was Philemon?

- b) Philemon 8-12 Who was Onesimus?
- c) Philemon 13-18 What transformation had taken place in Onesimus and what appeal did Paul make to Philemon?
- d) How did this story end? Colossians 4:9
- e) What other passages of Scripture help us to understand the gift of forgiveness? Luke 23:33-34, Matthew 18:21-35, Colossians 3:12-17
- f) Share a time when you struggled with extending forgiveness to someone who had hurt you. How did your story end?

**3. Corinth—from division to collaboration**

- a) What divisions were present in the church in Corinth? 1 Corinthians 3:5-11
- b) What steps did Jesus recommend when desiring to resolve a conflict in the church? Matthew 18:15-17
- c) How does the Holy Spirit bring unity in the church in the midst of our differences of personality and ability? 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 12-27
- d) How can we learn to identify our spiritual gifts and use them, not in competition but in collaboration with others in the church?
- e) Share an experience using your spiritual gifts to build up the Body of Christ.

