

# MOMENTUM YOUTH BIBLE STUDY SERIES

THE CHRONICLES OF JENIAH & URIAH  
#14 - UNITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST  
IT'S A TEAM GAME





“**S**top shooting the ball!” Coach yelled. It was a long walk to the bench as the coach called a timeout to get his team to regroup. The coach looked at Eleazar square in the eye and said, “We play as a team. Just because you are open doesn’t mean that you have to take every shot. We are going to work the ball around so that everyone has an opportunity to participate in the play. After that, if you are open, shoot it. Do you understand?” Coach asked. They all nodded in agreement as they ran out on the court to finish the game.

The fourth quarter was exciting as both teams competed hard, but Eleazar and Uriah's team was able to pull out the win. The coach talked to the boys in the locker room and asked, "What happened when you played together?" "The defense couldn't figure us out and we got great shots," Eleazar said ashamedly. "Exactly! I learned a long time ago that you can go faster as an individual, but you can go further as a team. When you worked together to get a good shot, the entire team benefited. When we play selfish, it impacts the morale and energy of the team. Unity is essential for success. That's a lesson you can apply to sports, business, home and even church," Coach said.

"Church?" The boys said with a snicker. "How does unity make a difference in a church?"

"I'm glad you asked," coach said with a grin, pulling up his Bible app on his phone. "Sit down for a few minutes and I'll show you."

1) "What does the Bible say about God's people working together?" Uriah asked.

Psalms 133:1 - "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_!"

2) "Have you ever noticed how Jesus commissioned his disciples before He went back to heaven?"

Matthew 28:19, 20 - "Therefore go and make \_\_\_\_\_ of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...."

3) “Ok, but how does that relate to unity?” Eleazar inquired. “A part of that teaching is to learn how to work in harmony with each other. It is a key identifying marker for the non-believer that we are God’s disciples,” Coach said.

John 17:20-23 “I pray also for those who will believe in me... that all of them may be \_\_\_\_\_, 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... so that they may be brought to complete \_\_\_\_\_. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

4) “But coach, what does this have to do with basketball?” Eleazar asked. “Great question! The idea came from the apostle Paul in his book to the church at Rome.

Romans 12:4-5 - “For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member \_\_\_\_\_ to all the others.”

5) “Not everyone has the same role, but together we make a powerful unit. In fact, we are bound together by love, which is an example of a beautiful body... Or team!” he said smiling at Eleazar.

Colossians 3:11 “Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.”

6) “If you continue reading we can see what that looks like in a church.” Coach said. Colossians 3:12-14 “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which \_\_\_\_\_ them all together in perfect \_\_\_\_\_.”

7) “Oh!” Uriah exclaimed. “So our job in the church is to be like the church in Ephesus where Paul said...”

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace... <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4:3,6

“Exactly! Just as we learned in the game, it’s not always easy to work together on the court and definitely not in church” Coach said. “That’s where God’s spirit comes in. He works in all of His followers to grow the church in the knowledge of Christ and in love for one another. In doing so, the world can see Jesus.”