

# Ordinary Time, Proper 7

*All of you are one in Christ Jesus.*—Galatians 3:28 NRSV

## Explore

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poster board or paper, markers, construction paper, scissors, glue, tape, glitter

### We Are One

Instruct students to create something that reflects their class as one. If the class is small, extend the challenge to reflect the congregation as one. As they question the instructions, ask a few guiding questions.

- What binds the group together as one?
- What is the corporate mission of the class or congregation?
- How are the diversities of individuals reflected among the whole?
- If you could give your class or congregation personality traits, what would they be?
- If your class or congregation was an animal or a plant, what would it be?

## Extract

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Discuss the final product. How does it reflect the idea that, “We Are One”?

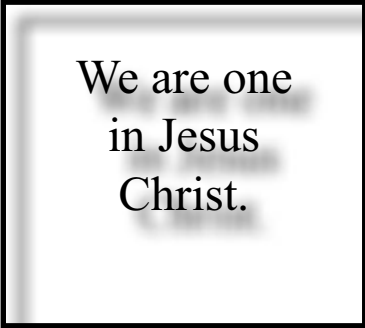
Bible, Doctrine and Covenants

### All the Same in Jesus Christ

Read together Galatians 3:18–19, 24–29. Concentrate on verses 26–29.

“You were all baptized into Christ, and so you were all clothed with Christ. This means that you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. In Christ, there is no difference between Jew and Greek, slave and free person, male and female. You are all the same in Christ Jesus. You belong to Christ, so you are Abraham’s descendants. You will inherit all of God’s blessings because of the promise God made to Abraham.”

—Galatians 3:26–29 The Youth Bible



We are one  
in Jesus  
Christ.

Galatians 3:18–19,  
24–29  
Doctrine and  
Covenants  
119:8b

How is your “We Are One” class or congregation illustration like Paul’s illustration in Galatians? How might the diversities mentioned in the scripture have contributed to divisions between the Gentiles and Jewish Christians? What is the importance of Paul’s illustration in your life today?

Read together Doctrine and Covenants 119:8b. We often uphold the ministry of people actively engaged in church work and community work because they are doing God’s work. But this verse describes the work as something entrusted to all. If all are one in the body of Christ, and God’s work is entrusted to all, where do you see yourself?

**Experience**

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**The Web of One**

ball of yarn

Toss a ball of yarn to one of the students while holding onto the end. Then have him or her take hold of the yarn and toss the ball to another person. For small classes, toss back and forth several times, grabbing and holding at points along the way with both hands. You can even wrap the yarn around chairs, under books, or on doorknobs to extend the effect of the web. After the web of yarn is created, ask individuals to respond to instructions.

- Lean back to tighten tension on the web.
- Lean forward to loosen tension on the web.
- Stand up or sit down.
- Raise your hand.
- Wave with the connected hand.
- Step inside the web.
- Pull the web.
- Shake the web.

Discuss the results of the actions created by individuals within the one-web system. How did the actions of individuals affect the whole? If all are one, how is this activity like the body of Christ? How have actions or events you have experienced or observed affected the body of Christ? your congregation? your youth group? your school? Remember, the cause-and-effect scenario goes both ways: actions can result in negative reactions, but actions—good and bad—can also bring about positive, growing situations. If all are one, what difference does your action make?

**Expand**

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**Strength of Many**

A house raising event is a great example of how much can be accomplished when people choose to work together. One person brings one set of gifts and talents. No matter how hard or how long he or she works, there will always be some things he or she cannot do. But when many come together and work as one, the gifts and blessings multiply, and the things that can be accomplished are endless. To help teens understand the power of this concept, arrange for them to participate in a workday together. Try to find something that is more than cleaning, dusting, raking, or mowing. Schedule something that requires learning from and leaning on the skills of others. Rebuilding a park; helping build a Habitat for Humanity house; painting, winterizing, and repairing houses are a few possibilities.

For a slightly different spin, try a “Trading Spaces” room remodel between classes or families at church. Whatever you do, as you stop for breaks and as you work, reinforce the skills each individual brings to the mix and the ways all can learn from one another.

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**Lectionary scriptures**—1 Kings 19:1–15a; Psalm 42 and 43; Galatians 3:23–29; Luke 8:26–39/8:26–40 IV