

## The Stories of Jesus

### Jesus big hope

John 17:20-21 I'm praying not only for them  
But also for those who will believe in me  
Because of them and their witness about me.  
The goal is for all of them to become one heart and mind--  
Just as you, Father, are in me and I in you,  
So they might be one heart and mind with us.  
Then the world might believe that you, in fact, sent me. The  
Message

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have  
come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John  
10:10 NIV

### Unity busters

#### **1. Disease of me**

Philippians 2:2-4... make my joy complete by being like-  
minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one  
mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit.  
Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not  
looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests  
of the others. NIV

#### **2. Majoring on Minors**

Matthew 22:37- Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with  
all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’<sup>[a]</sup>  
<sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the  
second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>40</sup> All the  
Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

“In essentials UNITY.  
In non-essentials LIBERTY.  
In all things CHARITY.”  
—St. Augustine

### 3. Being Judgmental

Matthew 7:1-5 “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. <sup>2</sup> For you will be treated as you treat others. NLT

#### Fundamentals of Unity.

Acts 11:19-23 Now those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen **traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch**, telling the message only to Jews. <sup>20</sup> Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. <sup>21</sup> The Lord’s hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. <sup>22</sup> News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. <sup>23</sup> **When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God**, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. NIV

#### 1. Everyone is welcome

Acts 11:23 When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God,

For God so loved the world...John 3:16

#### 2. Everyone is in process of being transformed so treat each other with grace.

Acts 11:25 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,<sup>26</sup> and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people.

...be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

**Ephesians 4:31** NLT

### **3. The hero of the story is always Jesus!**

Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ. Galatians 1:10

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”

<sup>14</sup> So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

<sup>15</sup> He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

<sup>17</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. Matthew 16:13-19 NKJV

When you were spiritually dead because of your sins and because you were not free from the power of your sinful self, God made you alive with Christ, and he forgave all our sins.<sup>14</sup> He canceled the debt, which listed all the rules we failed to follow. He took away that record with its rules and nailed it to the cross.<sup>15</sup> God stripped the spiritual rulers and powers of their authority. With the cross, he won the victory and showed the world that they were powerless. Colossians 2:13:15 NCV

I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. Revelations 1:18 NIV