

# SUPPLEMENTARY WEB RESOURCE 3



## PUBLICITY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL SIMULATION OF 1 CORINTHIANS

*This sample dialogue can be presented at the beginning or end of a worship service a couple weeks before the next Sunday school quarter. Make appropriate changes to fit your date and context. This can be adjusted so only one person makes the announcement. For stronger effect, wear a Roman costume. If possible, arrange to have several slides from the “A Visit to Ancient Corinth” slide presentation (available at [www.HeraldPress.com/CreatingAScene](http://www.HeraldPress.com/CreatingAScene)) projected in front of the church during the announcement.*

**Narrator:** In two weeks, on [date], the [fall, winter, spring] quarter of Sunday school classes will begin. The following is a plug for one of these classes:

Once upon a time—during the fifties of the 1st century, a woman named Chloe was the leader of a house church in Corinth. But she was very upset because, like some churches today, her church was splitting apart. There were those who said there is only one true apostle, and that’s Paul. The wealthier, more educated people said, “Nah, Paul’s just a poor tentmaker who can’t even speak well. We follow Apollos, the teacher of wisdom.” The Jewish believers said, “Paul’s too liberal. Peter follows the law and he is our leader forever!” And the charismatic group of slaves said, “You’re all wrong. We should be following Christ alone!”

So Chloe sent two people—

**Erastus:** Wait a minute! Since I came here today to represent those of Apollos, let me explain why we like what he teaches. Besides preaching Christ, Apollos brings to us all the wisdom of Alexandria in Egypt. Those of us who are educated understand his proverbs and his theology, and even his jokes. He builds on and improves what Paul used to teach. He preaches the baptism of Jesus so persuasively that even a few of my friends and co-workers have come to believe.

**Narrator:** Well, as I was saying, things were getting so hot that Chloe sent two people from her household across the sea to Ephesus to tell Paul about the church fight in Corinth. So Paul wrote a letter to try to straighten things out.

You all have a copy of that letter lying around your house.

So I would like to invite as many of you as possible to visit ancient Corinth during Sunday school hour for the next quarter. Come and help us reenact Chloe’s house church and respond to Paul’s letter. When he wrote it, it was not Scripture, so we are free to argue and disagree with him. The Corinthian believers themselves did not agree with many things that Paul said. So we will become those squabbling believers from different social classes and persuasions.

One reason to choose 1 Corinthians is because it’s such a juicy letter that deals with issues that are still current—topics like economic inequality, lawyers and lawsuits, good and bad sex, marriage, different worship styles, role of women, food, and who gets to eat with whom at meals.

This simulation has been tried before. That’s why Erastus is actually here in the flesh to say a little more about his experience as one of the followers of Apollos.

**Erastus:** Now I know that Christians like Jesus, but some of them think Paul is an old reactionary. Some people call him “Grumpy-Pants Paul!” Come to this class to find out if that’s true. You can even try it out for the first two sessions. We’ll have a PowerPoint picture introduction to ancient Corinth and a readers’ theater. If you stick with it, we’ll begin the role-play in [month], and you’ll receive a book with all the info you need to play your part.

**Narrator:** I’ve heard good reports from people who have participated in such a class before. For them it was not only a lot of fun, but a deeply spiritual experience as well.