

NEW BELIEVERS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: ACTS 2:42-47



The STORY

Read about the first church in Acts 2:42-47

Please note: The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- How did God bless the early church? (God poured out His Spirit on the early church to give them faith. He continued to perform wonders through the apostles which brought a sense wonder and awe to the people and helped them to understand that God was with them.)
- How did their joy-filled lives affect those around them? (Verse 47 tells us that God continued to add to their number. So, as they lived lives joyfully dedicated to God and one another, people must have seen and asked why they were doing what they were doing. John 13:35 tells us, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.")
- What were the people selling? (The people were selling their possessions, that is, their things.)
Ask the children what possessions they own.

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: a multitude of joy-filled people sharing all they have. Engage the children by asking:

- Why were the people so happy? (The people were filled with joy because they finally believed in Jesus and realized their sins were forgiven.)
- What did the people do in response to being forgiven? (They shared their things, prayed and worshipped the Lord together.)
- Was anything more important than the church to them? (No, in the early days of their new life in Christ, nothing was more important than God and His church.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS**While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:**

• The early church was excited about church and made fellowship their top priority. What kinds of things try to come in to steal away our love for the church? (Just about anything can become more important than God. We can love television more than God or a football game or maybe even our sleep and not want to get up for church.)

• Why do you think the early church was so filled with joy? (Their joy came from the Spirit of God showing them the Gospel in a way that they understood they were forgiven because of Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection back to life. They finally realized Jesus was the king they were looking for.)

• Do people feel this same joy today? (Yes, often when people first realize that Jesus is truly God they are filled with the same joy.)

You might recall for the children your conversion if it has that element of joy or ask another helper to share.

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

The behavior of the early church is the fruit of the Gospel. These people were transformed from mockers of Christ, some of them participated in the crucifixion. Some were the very ones who yelled "Crucify Him!" And yet now, they are selling their possessions to share with other Christians who have need.

The Gospel takes our worldly focus and turns our gaze heavenward. These people went from God-haters to worshippers. Only the Spirit of God can change hearts this way. The Gospel continued to transform lives as each day more new converts were added.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY**BE A DOER OF THE WORD**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.