

Family Lesson 73

Principle: True fellowship of believers

Bible Character(s): Believers

Scripture Reference: Acts 2:42-47

1. Worship - Choose your favorite songs from the [Spotify playlist](#) found on the curriculum resource page. Have fun, sing loudly, and follow along with the motions!

2. Bible Lesson - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

Bible Lesson

Today, we will learn more about fellowship and the early church. We will see how we can grow closer and share life together as God intended. Our focus will be on unity, sharing, and how these things flow out of a heart that has been changed by Christ.

In our last lesson a few weeks ago, we celebrated Jesus' ascension into Heaven after his death and resurrection. Who did Jesus promise to leave with his disciples and all believers? (He promised to send the Holy Spirit to live inside believers.) If you have faith and trust in Jesus as your Savior, then you have the Holy Spirit living in you. What does the Holy Spirit do for believers? (The Holy Spirit gives us power, wisdom, direction, comfort, and helps us live a life that brings glory to God.) God continues to change us daily through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Today, we will continue studying in the book of Acts. We are going to see the believers come together to live their lives for God. Each believer receives gifts from the Holy Spirit so that they can worship God and tell others about Jesus' death and resurrection. God calls them to come together as a community, or church, to serve and worship him.

Let's begin in Acts 2 [NLT] to see how the early church comes together to serve Christ.

Acts 2:42

⁴² All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

If you had to describe what the church is, what would you say? (Allow responses.)

Let's take a closer look.

Help your child to understand what characterized the early church and what our church should look like. Show your child the [pictures of family and church buildings](#) (found on GCK Resource Page). Which pictures represent the church—the actual building or the pictures of people? Have your child list or draw activities that fit into the four main categories of fellowship that we experience and talk about in Camp Grace: praying, sharing, reading, eating.

The church building is not the church. Having a building to meet in is nice, but we, as believers, are the church. God lives within us through the Holy Spirit, and he calls us to pray, learn, fellowship, and live our lives together so that together, we can glorify God. We can do this through the things we have listed or drawn on our sheet.

Let's continue reading the Bible in Acts 2.

Acts 2:43

⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.

What is a sense of awe? (Allow responses.) Awe is an overwhelming feeling of amazement and fear produced by something that is powerful. Do you experience awe when you hear about God or what he has done for you or others? (Allow responses.) The believers in the early church saw God's power at work in their lives. They felt a sense of awe when they lived together in

community and fellowship. This is the way God created us to live. It is through community that we can come to know God better and love one another as God loves us. Let's read more in the Bible.

Acts 2:44-46

⁴⁴ And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— ⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Prayer

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close your family time. Ask your child to give a prayer request. We want to encourage children to pray for one another. Thank God for creating us to be in community with one another. Ask God to help us learn how to live together in true fellowship and community.

Activity

“Unity Chain and Unity is For Me” (found on GCK Resource Page)- the purpose of this activity is to create a chain reminding your child of the areas that bind the church together and for your child to see how they are to add to unity among the body.

Supplies:

Paper (assorted colors if available)

Worksheet – “Philippians 2:3” (found on [GCK Resource Page](#))

Tape/stapler

Cut each piece of paper into strips. On each strip, write one of the categories of fellowship: “Share Life,” “Pray,” “Share Meals,” and “Study God’s Word.” Use a stapler or tape to attach the strips and make a chain to decorate your home and serve as a reminder to be unified in Christ.

Acts 2:46 says that as the believers shared their lives and worshiped God together, their hearts were filled with great joy. This is what God wants for us as well. We are to be unified together in serving God. God created Christians to live together, in community, to bring glory to God. In Camp Grace, we learn from and study God’s Word and love each other by getting to know one another and encouraging one another.

Read Philippians 2:3 as a family. Using the worksheet, have your child write in a friend’s name in the first blank space where “others” would go and have them fill in their name for “yourselves” in the second blank space.

What does this verse mean? (Allow responses.) **It means we are to not be selfish, but love others more than we love ourselves. Like the early church, we are to care about each other, share cheerfully, and pray for one another.**

This verse explains the way the body of Christ was created to work. We are to think of others before we think of ourselves. We are to love one another and share our lives with each other. When we believe that Jesus died and rose again, we are given the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives us the strength and power to live in a loving way with each other. Living in community is not easy because we are all sinners. God gave us community to help us understand our sin and repent of it. He also created community so we can help others to see their sin, so they can repent of it. Loving one another can be difficult, but when we love others, we love God. We learn more about him as we experience life in the way God created us to live. When we live in community as God calls us to, we begin to look more like Jesus.

