

CHURCH SCHOOL LESSONS

MAY 3, 2020

I have to be honest with you, this week's lesson is going to be challenging. You are going to have to use your imagination and work with the others in your home. We are going to learn about some of the very early Christian communities. What do you think the early Christians shared with their communities? Do you think it is hard to share what you have with others? In the early Christian communities they shared everything that they had so nobody went without something they needed and everyone had what they needed. Our Bible story is about the first people who followed Jesus. When they joined the Christian community, they shared their money with the entire group. That way everyone had enough. Turn in your Bible to Acts 4. Acts is one of the most interesting books in the Bible because it tells us how the first Christians lived and spread the good news about Jesus. It is full of adventures and surprises. Let's see how the first Christians chose to use their money. Read Acts 4:32-37.

How is the community described in this story like our modern-day communities? How is it different than our communities today? Do you think one is better than the other? Which one would you like to be part of?

I know that some of the children reading this lesson have brothers or sisters, so I am going to ask you to do something little different. I want each of you to draw a picture that illustrates the Bible story. Now change pictures with your brother or sister and add something to their illustration. Keep changing pictures until all of you have added something to each picture. Now each of you should have your own picture. I know that you could have done the illustration just fine by yourself, but look how much fun it is to work together and use all of our creative minds. The result is always more interesting and unique.

With the Holy Spirit filling the people and the community, Jesus' followers grew closer and more people joined them. Eventually, thousands of people became followers of Jesus. As the group grew they had to work together even more. One of the reasons the early Christians lived together so well was that they were encouraging to one another. Our Bible story tells us about one man who was nicknamed Barnabas, which means "one who encourages." Now it is our turn to encourage people in our community. I want you make a card to send to someone you would like to encourage. Here are some things you can use on your pictures.



You may send your card to anyone you would like. If you can't think of someone to encourage think about someone in your community like a police officer or a person on the ambulance or maybe someone working in the hospital or a nursing facility or maybe someone in the grocery store or a teacher.

We haven't talked much about memory verses but the memory verse for this section is from Acts 2:4. It says "They were ALL filled with the Holy Spirit." One of the remarkable things about this verse is that God filled them all with the Holy Spirit. Even though society considered adults more important than kids, men more important than women and rich people

more important than poor people, the Holy Spirit did not discriminate. That is important for us to remember. They were ALL filled with the Holy Spirit, no matter whether they were adult or child, man or woman, rich or poor. All were filled with the Holy Spirit.

In the older elementary class before we began this time of separation we were working on learning the books of the Bible. We had been working on the Old Testament and we were supposed to start working on the New Testament when we had to stop gathering. Because we have been doing our lessons online rather than in the classroom, we haven't been doing that. This week I am going to try and create the Bible Library that we were working on. It will not look the same as a library shelf, but I hope you can see the different categories of books in the Library.

INSTRUCTION

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

HISTORY

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

POETRY

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs

PROPHETS

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

GOSPELS

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

We've learned that the Old Testament contains the history of God's people before Jesus was born. The New Testament contains the story of God's people from the time that Jesus was born. The first four books in the New Testament are called the Gospels, which means "good news." They tell the good news of Jesus' love for us. We have four Gospel books, each written by a different disciple of Jesus: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Gospels are some of the most important – and most interesting—books in the Bible.

Next week we will learn about another section in the New Testament

Let's finish with a prayer. Heavenly Father, be with us as we remember to share all that we have so everyone has what they need. Keep us mindful of all those who are working in the stores and hospitals and other places in our communities. Keep us safe until the time that we are able to safely gather together. Be with each of us as we go about our daily schedules in these troubling times. In Jesus name. Amen.