

Jesus' Followers Share

Overview

Materials You'll Need

- crayons
- paint
- paintbrush
- large art quality paper
- newspaper



Scriptures

Acts 2:42-47

Bible Truth Objective(s)

Jesus' followers gladly showed their love to each other by sharing

Behavioral Objective(s)

To share the things they have with one another

Memory Verse

"But do not forget to do good, and to share."
(Heb 13:16)



Bible Knowledge

The Early Christians

The early Christians were strongly committed to the teachings of Christ. The apostles led the new believers in worship, teaching, and fellowship. Upon receiving the Holy Spirit, they were full of courage and understood that they had been given the responsibility of building up the church.

The believers devoted themselves to growing in their understanding of Christ by listening to the apostles' teachings and by regularly observing Holy Communion. The early Christians also met in the homes of other Christians, where they shared all they had. Sometimes they would share a simple meal. However, it was not uncommon for the Christians to sell their land or houses and give the money to the apostles. The apostles would then distribute these funds to meet the needs of other believers. The love of Christ could be seen in a very visible way in the lives of the early Christians. They demonstrated their love for one another in a self-sacrificial way.

The Bible points out several people who had sold their land and brought their money to the apostles. One was Barnabas (Acts 4:36, 37). The other was a couple named Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11). Barnabas was a man of excellent reputation. His motive for selling his land and then sharing his money was purely to serve God and His believers. Obviously his name became well-known for his act of generosity. Perhaps hearing of the recognition Barnabas received, Ananias and Sapphira decided to sell their land. However, they kept a portion of their money. Though they were not required to donate all that they had, they lied and said that they had given everything. They probably wanted everyone to think they had made a great sacrifice. When both the husband and wife were questioned, Peter rebuked them. He said that they had allowed Satan to fill their hearts and lied to the Holy Spirit. Ananias and Sapphira died on the spot. Although some have said that their end was especially harsh, it was to let the believers understand the seriousness of lying to God, especially since Ananias and Sapphira were Christians. The church was only in its infancy and it was important for the members to be united and pure in faith.



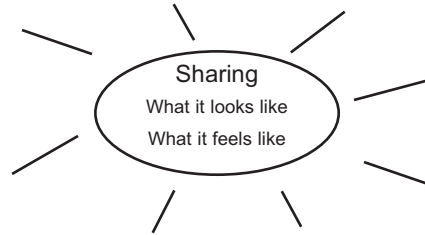
Understanding Your Students

Kindergartners are beginning to understand the concept of sharing. But let sharing come naturally rather than by force. If a student isn't really ready to share, maybe he simply hasn't reached that level of social readiness. Be patient with him, and very likely he'll outgrow the "mine only" stage before too long. In the meantime, try to establish a sharing atmosphere in your classroom so that when a student is developmentally ready, he'll be encouraged to share.

When you see a student sharing something, reinforce this behavior by praising him and telling him that he's doing just what Jesus wants him to do. Provide plenty of opportunities for the students to share things in a natural way. For instance, instead of handing out papers yourself, let volun-

teers help with this. They can also help distribute crayons or craft supplies.

Another way to teach your students to share is by having them list the ways they can share and help each other out in the class and out in the world. You can create a thought or web poster with the students like the one illustrated below:



Having the students come up with ideas themselves will give them the incentive to follow through. By seeing this thought or web poster on the wall around the room, your students will also be reminded of various ways to share with others whenever the opportunity arises.



Vocabulary

Preach

to tell others about Jesus and His salvation

Synagogue

a building, like a church, that Jewish people went to to worship God

Disciple

Jesus' student; someone who followed Jesus and learned from Him

Holy Spirit

the Spirit of God; Jesus promised to fill us with His Spirit



Before You Teach

"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42). This verse records the activities of the early Christian believers. Many were likely moved by the words of Peter and the apostles, and then were baptized. However, they would have been like infants in their faith. Therefore, the apostles spent a lot of their time training up these believers. They knew that ultimately, these believers were the ones who were going to lead the church.

This verse points to four specific areas the apostles focused on: doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. These areas are equally important for us today.

We must be familiar with the doctrines and word of God. Otherwise, how can we claim to know

Christ? How could we be effective preachers? Therefore, as the apostles encouraged the early believers, we should also be motivated to spend time on and study the word of God. The apostles also had fellowship with one another. This helped the early believers know and trust each other. We can see that the apostles did a wonderful job because the Christians were willing to open up their homes and share all that they had with each other. This is an excellent example for us to follow. The breaking of bread could have referred to Holy Communion. The True Jesus Church holds the sacrament of Holy Communion regularly to help us remember the death of Jesus Christ and all that He has done for our salvation. Lastly, the apostles encouraged all the believers to pray. That is the only way to truly communicate with God and build up one's faith. Let us also lead a life of prayer so that our faith can continue to grow.



Bible Story

The Disciples Receive Power From the Holy Spirit

A week before the lesson, ask all the students to bring in one of their favorite toys to class next week.

Good morning class I see that all of you are very excited today. You have brought in your favorite things and they are all very nice. (Depending on the size of the class, let each student introduce his own favorite thing.) God loves us so much that He has given us so many things in life. He gave us moms and dads. We know they love us because they bought all these wonderful things for us. If one day your friend asks you, "Your toy looks like fun, can I please borrow it?" what would you say? Would you share your favorite toy with this friend? (Allow students to share answers without passing judgment.)

Today we are going to hear a story about sharing. But before we start, let us all put away our toys so that we can listen to the story carefully. (Ask students to put away their toys in the back of the classroom where they cannot see or play with them.)

In the past few lessons, we talked about how Jesus died for us and how He came back to life on the third day. For forty days after Jesus came back to life, He taught the disciples many things about the heavenly kingdom. Just before Jesus went back to heaven, He told His disciples some very important things. Do you remember what they were?

First, Jesus told them to wait for the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem. Jesus knew that once He went back to heaven, His followers would need help and power to keep doing His work. He promised them the Holy Spirit, which is God's Spirit. He also commanded the disciples to tell everyone about Him. He wanted the disciples to tell others that Jesus loves them and wants them to be saved.

After Jesus went back to heaven, the disciples did just as Jesus told them to. They stayed in a city called Jerusalem and they prayed for the promised Holy Spirit.

The Disciples Preach

The disciples prayed every day, and about ten days after Jesus went back to heaven, He sent down the Holy Spirit just as He had promised. After they received the Holy Spirit, they began to tell others the good news about Jesus. They talked to many, many

people about Jesus so that everyone knew about Him. They would talk about Jesus on the streets and in people's homes. The disciples talked to the people about the things Jesus had told them, such as how they should pray and have faith in God. They probably told them that Jesus can take care of all their worries too. They shared all the wonderful things that Jesus did. Do you remember what Jesus did? (Allow time for the students to reflect and answer.) Jesus made blind people see, deaf people hear, and He healed many people who were sick. The disciples also talked about how Jesus died on the cross to save everyone. Many people heard this and believed in Jesus.

Because the disciples preached to many people about Jesus, many became followers of Jesus. They believed in what the disciples said and were baptized in Jesus' name. Remember there was one time that 3,000 people got baptized? That is a lot of people. And everyone who got baptized loved Jesus. They listened and obeyed all the teachings that the disciples taught them. They gathered in synagogues (which is like our church today) and at home. They listened and talked about the teachings of Jesus. They prayed and they had their meals; they did many things together. They were all happy because they could feel the love of Jesus. We can feel the love of Jesus today, and that is why we come to church. We come to church to sing hymns, to listen to the stories in the Bible, and to pray. These were all the things the believers did too.

Jesus' Followers Share Their Belongings

These people who loved Jesus also loved each other. Jesus taught them to show love by sharing. If someone was hungry, they shared their food. They probably shared things like bread, milk, figs, and fruits. They shared because they didn't want anyone to be hungry.

When someone was cold and needed clothes, the believers shared too. They might have shared wool from their sheep, leather to make sandals, and cotton for making shirts and coats.

The believers might have also shared other things such as fish nets, saws, and pottery bowls or olive oil for cooking and lighting lamps. They shared many different things to help people in different areas. Some might have needed help at home and some might have needed help at their jobs.

Sometimes there would be believers who needed money. Some of the followers of Jesus who owned fields sold them and gave the money to Jesus' disciples. The disciples used the money to buy the things that the people needed. Because the believers shared everything they had, everyone had enough food and clothes, and they were happy because they were like a big family.

One person the Bible talks about is Barnabas. Barnabas saw that the believers needed help. So he sold his land and gave all of the money to the disciples. Then the disciples shared that money with people who really needed help. Isn't that wonderful?

Many other people saw how Jesus' followers showed love to each other. They saw how Jesus' followers were happy.

They probably said, "Just look at those people who love Jesus. They share everything and they are so happy "

Many people wanted to know why Jesus' followers were so happy. So Jesus' followers told them all about Jesus and how much He loved all people. Jesus wanted them to be saved and be a part of the big family, too. And do you know what happened?

More and more people came to believe in Jesus and became a part of God's family.

The People See the Love of Jesus

We are also the believers of Jesus, and we need to love each other. We can share just as the believers shared a long time ago. What are the things we can share with others? (Let students respond.) If someone is hungry, we can share our food. If someone needs clothes, we can share our clothes. If someone needs a place to sleep, we can invite him or her to stay with us. We can also share our toys, books, pens, and coloring pencils with others when they forget to bring them to class.

Do you know why Jesus wants us to share? When we share, others can see how much love we have. And then they may want to come to church and believe in Jesus too. When we share with others who are already believers, we are showing God's love, just as God commanded us to do. That's why even though it isn't always easy to share things, especially the things we really love, it is important for us to try our best. This makes Jesus happy and it also makes the people around us happy.



Check For Understanding

1. **What did Jesus' disciples do after Jesus was taken up into heaven?** (They stayed in a city called Jerusalem just as Jesus told them to and they prayed for the promised Holy Spirit.)
2. **What did Jesus' disciples do after they received Holy Spirit?** (They were filled with power and told many people about Jesus.)
3. **How did Jesus' followers show love for each other?** (They shared everything, such as food, clothes, and tools. They did many things together too. They prayed, learned the words of Jesus, and ate together.)
4. **What did other people do when they saw Jesus' followers sharing everything?** (They

wanted to know why they were happy and so full of love. They came to believe in Jesus and became a part of God's family.)

5. **What was the name of the person who sold his land and gave all the money to the disciples so that they could share it with people in need?** (Barnabas.)
6. **Jesus' followers were happy to share. They loved Jesus and they also loved each other. We can be like them and help one another by sharing. What are some of the things we can share?** (Allow students to answer. Encourage them to take real action by sharing one thing this week, whether at home or at school. They will need to be as specific as possible so that they can be made more accountable.)



Life Application Story

A Cheerful Giver

"What are you doing, Mom?" Juan asked as he watched his mom put old clothes into cardboard boxes.

"I am packing away some of the clothes that Ricky and you have grown out of. Then we can give these clothes to those who need them," Mrs. Lopez replied.

"Give them away? To whom? Who needs these clothes, Mom? Why can't they buy them from the stores?" Juan asked curiously.

Mrs. Lopez turned around and sat Juan down on the carpet with her.

"Well, Juan, we are very blessed. We have food to eat to help us grow, clothes to keep us warm on a cold winter's day, and a nice house we can come home to each day. But there are many people in this world who are not as fortunate. That means they don't have as much as we do. There are people who have no money to buy food or clothes, and there are also many children who have lost their moms and dads, so they can't buy clothes from the stores."

"If they cannot buy any food or clothes, how do they live?" Juan asked.

"Well, these people receive help in different ways. The government helps them by providing for their daily needs, such as food. And if a person really has no place to sleep, then they will also give him a temporary place to stay in. But life is still difficult for these people; they probably don't have money to buy a jacket, and they don't have money to buy books or toys," Mrs. Lopez explained.

"Wow, that sounds terrible," Juan said.

"Yes, it is. That's why we do what we can to help. That is what Jesus taught us to do. We should help and share what we have. Remember every Thanksgiving, there is a food drive in your brother's school?" asked Mrs. Lopez.

"Yes, my school had one this year too. And we counted the cans we brought in. I remember Alice had the most cans. She had, like, forty " Juan said excitedly.

"Well, those food drives are to help the people who don't have enough money to buy more food. When we donate those cans of food, they

are given out to families who need them so that they will have food to eat and not go hungry. So you see, there are many ways we can help by sharing what we have."

Juan was a little bit more excited now. His mind was racing. He was thinking about what he could do to share and help others in need.

"You know, Juan, it's just like the story we heard in kindergarten class a few weeks ago. The believers shared everything so that no one would be in need of anything," Mrs. Lopez continued to say.

"Does that mean I can share my toys and books?" Juan asked.

"Of course you can. If you find anything you would like to give, we can pack it away in these boxes together," Mrs. Lopez offered.

"Okay. Wait for me "

Juan got up and ran to his bedroom. He looked at all the books on his bookshelf, and he started to pick out the ones that he had finished reading. He also picked out some toys that he didn't play with as much. He brought them all back to the living room where his mom was. Together they put away the toys and the books into a cardboard box.

"Look at how much stuff we have We are very blessed, aren't we, Mom?" Juan said as they taped up the last box.

"Yes, we are indeed. God has given us so much," Mrs. Lopez replied. "But we should not forget that God gives us so much so that we can share with others."

"Now I know. God gives us so much so that we can share with others " said Juan. "Can we do this again soon? It feels good to share with others "

"Sure we can I am sure God would like that," Mrs. Lopez replied.

Questions to Think About

1. **Why was Mrs. Lopez packing away old clothes?** (To give them away to those who needed them.)
2. **What did Juan want to share with others?** (His books and toys.)
3. **What can we do when God blesses us with many things?** (Share the blessings with others.)
4. **What do you have that you can share with others?** (Allow students to answer.)
5. **Is it easy or hard to share?** (Allow students to answer.)



Activity 1

What Did the Believers Share?

Look at the believers standing in the middle. Circle the things they shared with others. Cross out the things they did not share.



Activity 2

What Can You Share?

Draw yourself in the middle of the page. Then draw lines to the things you can share with others.



Activity 3

I Can Share □

Today's lesson is about the importance of sharing. Help the students remember this concept with some crayon art.

Materials:

1. crayons
2. paint
3. paintbrush
4. large art quality paper
5. newspaper

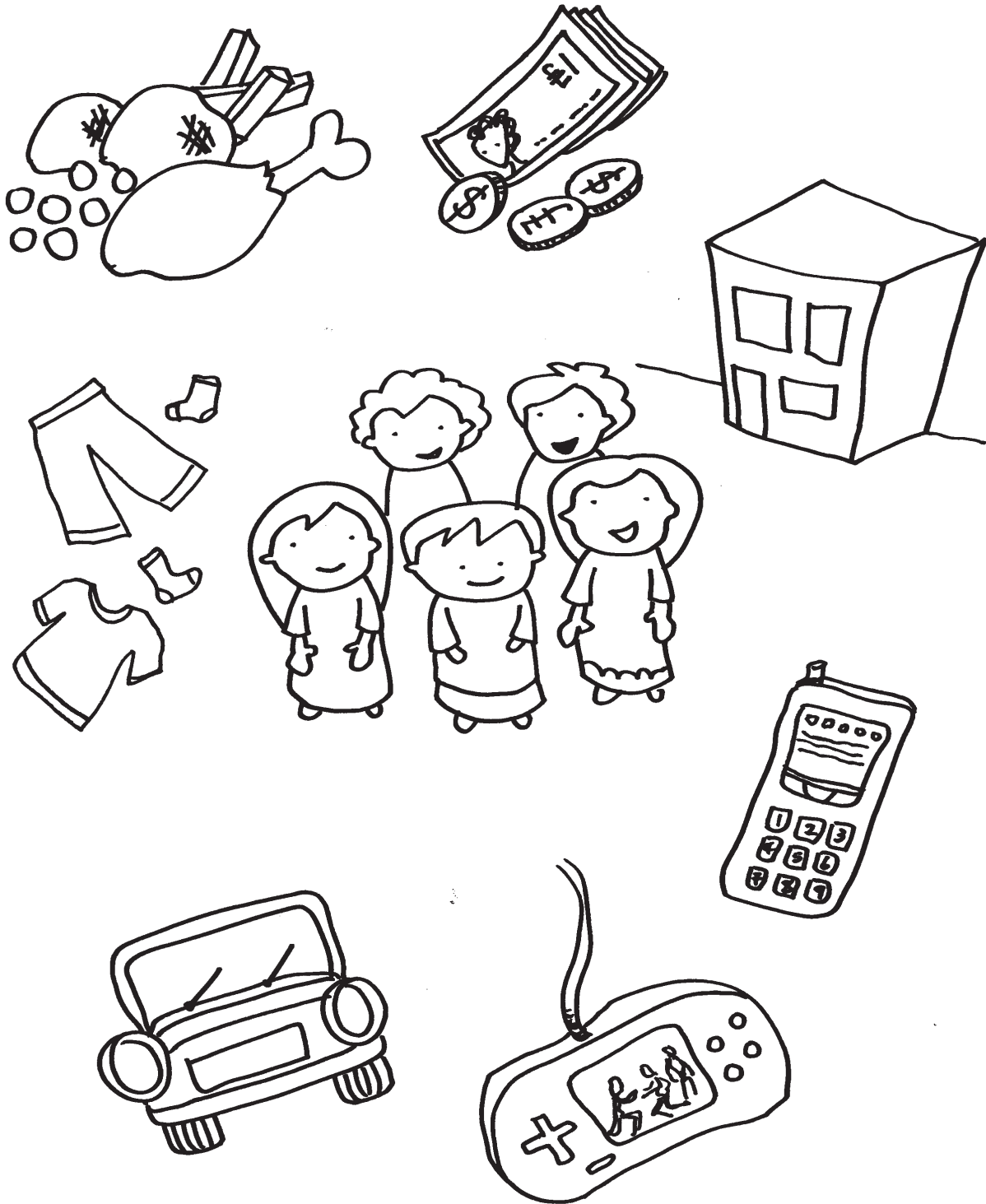
Directions:

1. Cover the table tops with newspaper.
2. Provide each student with one piece of art paper.
3. Help them write "I can share" on the paper with crayons only. The students can decorate the paper with items they can share. But remember to draw using crayons only.
4. Once the students are done, have them select one paint color.
5. Have them dip their brush into the paint and paint over their picture. The paint will only stain the areas of the paper that have not been touched by the crayons.
6. Hang their pictures in class or have them bring it home to put on their fridge. Either way, remind the students about the importance of sharing.

Activity 5:1

What Did the Believers Share?

Look at the believers standing in the middle.
Circle the things they shared with others. Cross out the things they did not share.



Activity 5.2

What Can You Share?

Draw yourself in the middle of the page.
Then draw lines to the things you can share with others.

