

Activity	Notes
<p>SHARING</p> <p><i>We have been spending a few months finding out the answer to this question: How do I fit into God's family? Today you'll discover what are the key things God's family do together.. Let's talk about what families do together!</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHARE <i>highs, lows & buffalos</i> (buffalos being something weird or funny or strange that has happened lately). • Talk about SHARE questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>What are some of the activities that your family do every week?</i> ○ <i>What are some of the favourite things that you do together as a family?</i> <p><i>Being a part of a family means that we do things together. That we take care of each other, and that we can have fun together. In the Bible, we read how God's family spent time together. They showed God's love, and the Bible shows God's love, too!</i></p>	
<p>TALK ABOUT VIDEO - "What is the church" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rms6KePjIZ8</p> <p><i>We're learning about God's family being the church.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Do you think the church is the building or the people inside? Explain</i> ○ <i>What things did the early church people do together?</i> <p><i>The early church tried to live like Jesus. That means that they put others first.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Can you think of some examples.</i> <p><i>As people saw the early church trying to live like Jesus they wanted to live like Jesus too so they joined the early church.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>How can we live like Jesus?</i> <p><i>God's family tries to live like Jesus. That's not just for adult that is for all of us.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>How can you live like Jesus?</i> 	<p>Video in worship</p>
<p>GAME – Family together</p> <p><i>God's family work and share together.</i></p> <p><i>I am going to call out an activity and each group need to do this activity together.</i></p> <p><i>The church is a family so let's share food together</i></p> <p>Someone from your small group goes to collect the plate of biscuits and each group shares it.</p> <p><i>The church is a family let's read the bible together</i></p> <p>Someone from your small group reads from Acts 2:42-47</p> <p><i>The church is a family so let's share our money together</i></p> <p>Someone from your small group goes to collect the bag of money and each group shares it</p> <p><i>The church is a family so let's play together</i></p> <p>Someone from your small group goes to collect paper and pencils and each group shares it</p> <p><i>The church is a family so let's encourage each other.</i></p> <p>Someone from your small group goes to collect the hearts and write/draw encouragement for someone and give it to them</p> <p><i>The church is a family so let's pray together</i></p> <p>In small groups, encourage each other to pray together.</p> <p><i>God's family tries to live like Jesus. You just did a great job sharing, caring, playing, encouraging and praying together.</i></p> <p><i>Think about how many of these activities you do as a family?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Are there any others you would like to do? Talk about it with mum and dad. taking care of your friends!</i> 	<p>Play in large group</p> <p>Supplies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plates ○ Cups ○ Tissues ○ Crayons ○ First aid supplies ○ Other things that people might need
<p>DEEPER BIBLE – How Does God's Family work together? (Acts 2:42-47 & 4:36)</p>	<p>Lesson below</p>
<p>PRAY & BLESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for and with each other. Pray about your highs, lows and buffalos. • Ask God to help you follow him, and care for others • Bless each other. 	

DEEPER BIBLE – How Does God's Family work together?

In today's Bible story, God's family did things together. They listened to the apostles' teaching and had fellowship, they broke bread and prayed together, they took care of each other, and sharing what they had. Let's practice doing these things. Spend time at least three days this week sharing a meal, reading the bible, praying together and sharing stories of your day.

Read Acts 2:42

⁴² *The believers studied what the apostles taught. They shared their lives together. They ate and prayed together.*

- *One of the things people did in this verse is pray. Who's one person at our church you could pray for?*

Let's try it now! Find a partner. Ask them what they'd like you to pray for...and then pray together. Allow time. Prayer is a great way to care for each other. Let's find out another way.

Read Acts 2:45

⁴⁵ *They sold property and other things they owned. They gave to anyone who needed something.*

- *People sold things they had to share money with people in need. What's something you could do or sell to raise money? Maybe you've done something in the past. If so, share about that.*

Read Acts 2:46

⁴⁶ *Every day they met together in the temple courtyard. They ate meals together in their homes. Their hearts were glad and sincere.*

- *In this verse, people ate together with "joy and generosity." How can you spread joy at church?*

Let's try this one. Everyone put a frown on your face. We'll play Hot Potato again, but this time, we'll pass a smile! And once you start smiling, you can keep that smile on your face. Once everyone is frowning, smile at the person to your right. Then have them pass the smile to the next person, and so on. It's okay if they are silly; that's part of spreading joy!

Great job spreading joy! That's a great way to take care of each other. Let's see what else we can do to care for God's family.

Read Acts 4:36

³⁶ *Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"),*

We can assume that because Barnabas means "son of encouragement" that he did that.

- *What's one way you can be more encouraging when you're at church?*

Money is one thing that helps us take care of each other. But it's not the only thing we need! The church did sell their possessions, houses, and land to have money to share. But they also gave prayer, joy, and encouragement! That means you don't need money or stuff to take care of God's family. Even with empty hands, you can be an important part of how God's family takes care of each other.

Let's put this into practice. Pick one idea we talked about that you can commit to doing this week. Tell a partner your choice. Allow time for kids to share. Thanks for sharing! This week, try out your idea. You'll get to be part of how God's family takes care of each other.

Supplies:
• Bibles

<p>PRAY – for the Church</p> <p><i>Today we learned that God's family try to live like Jesus. When you believe in Jesus, you're part of God's family! In today's Bible story, one way God's family tried to live like Jesus was by praying.</i></p> <p>Lead kids to pray for each other, praying for the person sitting next to them. Saying: <i>Lord, I pray for NAME, please help me to be their friend and to help them when they need it.</i></p> <p><i>Pray: God, thank you for your family! Help us take good care of each other. In Jesus' name, amen.</i></p>	
<p>Activity</p> <p><u>Leaders/Helpers/Parents Dig In</u></p> <p>Read: Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-37</p> <p>In This Passage: The church is just beginning, and they live as a very close-knit family. They eat together, share all their possessions, and make sure everyone has what they need. They're full of joy, praise, and encouragement!</p> <p>Bible Point: God's family try to live like Jesus.</p> <p>Summary Verse: "Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself" (Ephesians 2:20).</p> <p>You'll Be Teaching: God's family try to live like Jesus. It didn't take long for the church to have arguments and division. A look at Paul's letters will tell you that. But here, at the very beginning, we have the perfect picture of what God's family should be like. Use this lesson to encourage kids to strive for this kind of community, where we're looking out for each other's needs.</p> <p>Think About: What's the best example of community you've experienced in God's family?</p> <p>Pray: That your children's ministry—and your church as a whole—could grow to be more and more like the church in Acts 2.</p> <p>Quick Tip: As a leader, you have a lot to do. But don't let busyness cause you to overlook needs in your own group. Are there kids who have discipline issues because they feel unloved and overlooked at home? Are there kids who struggle to pay attention because they missed breakfast and they're hungry? Are usually boisterous children quiet because they're struggling with hardships and need prayer? Be the one who sees and cares for the needs in your community.</p>	<p>Notes</p> <p>Read before lesson in preparation</p>
<p>FAMILY TOGETHER TIME</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set a five-minute timer. 2. Send everyone on a hunt around your house, finding things to give away to help someone in need. 3. After five minutes, have everyone return with whatever they found. 4. Work together to choose what from the pile you can give away—and who could use it. 	

BIBLE DISCOVERY – The Church Builds Community (Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-37)

Today we're learning that God's family tries to live like Jesus. First let's see what happens when we try to take care of only ourselves.

1. Separate into groups and give each group a pile of puzzle pieces.
2. Ask each group to put their puzzle together without leaving their group.
3. Allow time for groups to try to work independently of each other.
 - *What's so hard about trying to put your puzzle together?*

You know, our puzzle activity reminds me of the church in the Bible book of Acts. There were some people who didn't have everything they needed, just like you didn't have all the pieces you needed. But they discovered that if they put what they had together, everyone had what they needed!

Some people had food to share. Point out one set of pieces.

Some people had land they could sell. Point out another set of pieces.

Other people had money to give. Point out another set of pieces.

There are other things people need, too. The Bible doesn't talk about people sharing clothes, but that's definitely a need we have! What other needs might people have? Before, each of your groups had just one part of the things we need. But no one had everything they need! So let's see what happened when God's family took care of each other.

Read Acts 2:42-47

The Fellowship of the Believers

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Awesome! Everyone shared everything they had so everyone had everything they need. Let's do that, too! Have groups bring all their puzzle pieces to the centre of the room and put the puzzle together as they share all their pieces.

- *What was the difference between working separate and everyone sharing what they had?*
- *Why do you think people often try to keep what they have instead of sharing?*

A lot of times, people tend to focus on themselves. We want to keep everything we have for ourselves to make sure we have what we need. But when you did that with the puzzle pieces, you didn't have what you needed. You only had some things. When we shared, we could make sure everyone was taken care of. That's what happened in the early church. They showed us how God's family tried to live like Jesus and take care of each other.

1. Hand out a piece of paper and a pen to each child.
 - *I want you to think now about what you have that you could share?*
2. It doesn't have to be something they have with them right now. It could be a physical item, such as a game they could bring to church to play with others as kids arrive or a shirt, they outgrew that they could share with someone who's the right size for that shirt. Or it could be a talent, such as colouring or baking.
3. If they want to write more than one thing, great!
4. When finished writing, they'll bring their pieces to you and make a big pile in front of you.

Wow! We all have something to share. Let's spread out our pieces and see what we could do with all these things. Spread out the pieces, reading each one. Have kids stand around the pieces and look for combinations of things they could use together. For example, maybe one person has a collection of art supplies to share, and another person said they're good at drawing. Kids can also get creative, such as combining the shirt with the talent of drawing so they could give a card to someone along with the shirt. Or maybe several people wrote articles of clothing, and you could talk about having a clothing drive to help people in need.

Supplies:

- Bible
- small jigsaw puzzle (20-50 pieces)
- pens
- paper

Prep:

- Split the pieces of your jigsaw puzzle into four piles.

